



BRAVE CHURCH
TACKLING TOUGH TOPICS
TOGETHER

Chapter 6 - Sexual Orientation

Opening Prayer

God who made the heavens

(reach toward the sky)

God who made the earth below

(reach toward your toes)

God who made me

(hands to heart)

And my neighbors near and far

(stretch to the right, stretch to the left)

Help me to know that it is your light

(reach toward the sky)

And it is your peace

(reach toward your toes)

That ground me

(hands to heart)

In this community.

(stretch to the right, stretch to the left)

Amen

(hands folded together)

Covenant Rules

RULE 1

We will accept conflict and commit to the way of kindness.

RULE 2

We will take responsibility for how our own words are received.

RULE 3

We will ask permission before we challenge someone's views on a subject.

RULE 4

We will show respect for one another and graciously receive feedback if someone feels disrespected.

RULE 5

We will use 'I' instead of 'you' statements. We will not accuse or attack."

RULE 6

Give everyone who wants to speak an opportunity to do so.



**SLIDES FROM WEEK 1
(9/29/2022)**

What Are the Different Types of Sexuality?

LGBTQIA+ is an inclusive term that includes people of all sexual identities and gender identities.

The “+” refers to members of other LGBTQIA+ communities and allies. LGBTQIA+ stands for:

- **Lesbian** – those who identify as lesbian are usually women who feel sexual and romantic attraction toward other women. Some nonbinary people may also identify as lesbians.
- **Gay** – a person who identifies as gay typically only feels sexual attraction toward people of the same gender. Socially, people use this term to refer to men who are romantically and sexually attracted to men. However, those in the community use it as an umbrella term.
- **Bisexual** – a person who identifies as bisexual can be of any gender. Bisexuality means that a person feels attraction toward their own gender and other genders or toward anyone regardless of their gender.
- **Transgender** – an umbrella term used to describe people whose true gender identity does not “match” the sex or gender they were assigned at birth. This may include individuals who identify as non-binary—an umbrella term, and this may mean respecting the ways they choose to identify themselves.
- **Questioning or queer** – people of all sexualities under the LGBTQIA+ umbrella may also identify as queer. It is not a good idea for people outside of these communities to use this term.
- **Intersex** – a person who is born with a combination of male and female biological traits.
- **Asexual** – an umbrella term that encompasses a broad spectrum of sexual orientations. Some people may experience no sexual or romantic attraction toward anyone, while others may experience varying degrees of sexual or romantic attraction toward people. Those who identify with this orientation do not have to abstain from sex to be asexual.

List of 58 Gender Options

As reported by ABC News (13 February 2014)

Agender	FTM	Trans*	Transgender Female
Androgyne	Gender Fluid	Trans Female	Transgender Male
Androgynous	Gender Nonconforming	Trans* Female	Transgender Man
Bigender	Gender Questioning	Trans Male	Transgender Person
Cis	Gender Variant	Trans* Male	Transgender Woman
Cisgender	Genderqueer	Trans Man	Transmasculine
Cis Female	Intersex	Trans* Man	Transsexual
Cis Male	Male to Female	Trans Person	Transsexual Female
Cis Man	MTF	Trans* Person	Transsexual Male
Cis Woman	Neither	Trans Woman	Transsexual Man
Cisgender Female	Neutrois	Trans* Woman	Transsexual Person
Cisgender Male	Non-binary	Transfeminine	Transsexual Woman
Cisgender Man	Other	Transgender	Two-Spirit
Cisgender Woman	Pangender		
Female to Male	Trans		

Biblical Passages Addressing Sexuality

Genesis 19:1-10

.....Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.....

Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13

Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.

If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

Romans 1:26-27

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

I Corinthians 6:9

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men .

1 Timothy 1:9-10

We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.

Discussion Questions

- How do you make sense of the different interpretations of the Bible on homosexuality?
- How might these passages shape our conversation about sexual orientation and gender identity?
- What guides you most?
- What do you struggle with?

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever felt like you didn't fit in with your community, school, church? What was it like? What did you learn from it?
- Have you ever thought that God might love you less because of some central part of your identity?
- Have you thought that your interpretation of the Bible was unpermitted or devalued by your faith community?"



**SLIDES FROM WEEK 2
(10/6/2022)**

Topics for Week 2 October 6

A wrap up of the Biblical interpretation

Sexual identity or gender—a lifestyle choice or just who you are ordained by God. God created us all in God’s own image (Genesis 1:27). What does that mean?

The PCUSA stance regarding LGBTQIA issues, including the position of Grace Church.

“We Choose Welcome” on Grace’s sign out front. “He” or “She” or “They”—the right pronoun.

Biblical Interpretation – PC(USA)

- Read the scripture!!!
- Read in context – genre, author, reader, time
- Read within broad Biblical context – Bible study, themes
- Hear through the voices of the church through the centuries
- Put it into practice

Rule of Love

How does this passage help the reader (you, us) better fulfill Scripture's highest law to 'Love your Lord with all your heart, your soul, your mind, and your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself?'

Issues PC(USA) Faced Addressing LGBTQIA Issues (civil rights, same-sex marriage, ordination)

- Interpreting scripture/differing interpretations
- LGBTQIA+ is not a “lifestyle choice” or something to “cure”
- What are we called to do as followers/disciples of Christ?
- Respecting differing views while finding ways to be more inclusive, welcoming

Where Are We Now as Presbyterians?

- People of faith may differ on the issue
- Decisions on ordination, same-gender marriage will be left to each congregation
- Faith, religious liberty cannot be used to discriminate against anyone simply because of who they are
- Apologizes for previous unwelcoming stance on LGBTQ parishioners and states the church will welcome, lift up, and fight for the human rights of all people created in the eyes of God.

GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

www.gracepresby.org

“WE CHOOSE WELCOME”

7434 BATH ST



In Summary

How do we be the welcoming, inclusive, supportive community for people facing these rollbacks to their rights and impact their lives?

Topics We Weren't Able to Get to Either Week

Recent and ongoing attempts to roll back right for the LGBTQIA+ community

The Virginia governor's decree on transgender students in schools; what names can be used

Tennessee and Florida attempts to define hormone treatments/gender therapies as child abuse

National Laws for Same-Sex Relationships

- Nearly 200 hundred countries
- 70 countries criminalize same-sex relations and punish people who openly identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer
- 26 nations penalize offenders with prison sentences ranging from ten years to life
- 7 countries impose the death penalty
- 29 countries have legalized same-sex marriages, including the United States
- The number of Americans who favor allowing same-sex marriages increased to 62 percent in 2017 and has now leveled off
- 80 percent of Americans who are religiously unaffiliated favor same-sex marriage
- 66 percent of white mainline Protestants support same-sex marriage in 2019
- 61 percent of white mainline Catholics support same-sex marriage in 2019
- 29 percent of white evangelical Protestants support same-sex marriage in 2019