

IMAGO DEI: "God's Answer to Today's Issues"

"LGBTQ+ PAIN & BELONGING, Romans 1:18-32; Pastor Logan Beardsley

LGBTQ+ PAIN:

"Even though it's not good to be alone, my sexual orientation excludes my spiritual belonging."

GOD'S ANSWER:

"We are a belonging people! We _____ people without _____ sin, believing Jesus is our way to belonging."

WHY?

1. When we drift from this conviction, we exchange the _____ of the Creator for the _____ of the created. (*Rom 1:21-27*)

2. Any _____ behavior outside of Biblical marriage is a _____ drift from our Creator. (*Lev 18:22, 20:13; 1 Cor 6:9-11; 1 Tim 1:10*)

HOW?

1. Make _____ to Jesus your way of living. (*Rom 1:16; Rom 8:1*)

2. Make _____ people your way of loving. (*1 Cor 13:4-7*)

References: (1) Heidelberg Catechism Q&A1, (2) People to be loved, Preston Sprinkle, (3) Single Gay Christian, Gregory Coles, (4) The Gospel Comes with a House Key, Rosario Butterfield, (5) Great Lakes Catechism on Marriage and Sexuality.

Answer Key: accept, affirming, design, desires, sexual, sinful, belonging, befriending.

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1. Who do you know that loves people radically different than themselves? How do they do that?

2. Share one insight from the sermon or Imago Dei Reading Plan?

3. Read Genesis 1:26-28. Because God has created us in His image, He has a right to define us. How are we to live in submission to this?

4. Some modern vocabulary regarding the LGBTQ is not included in the Bible. Yet there are truths in the Bible about the gay lifestyle. Read the following verses and discuss these truths:
 - Leviticus 20:13

 - 1 Corinthians 6:9

 - 1 Timothy 1:8-11

→ These passages do not condemn only the sin of homosexuality, but many sins. Why is this sin more harshly judged than others, in the church today?

5. Read Romans 1:21-27. After reading this passage what did the people exchange the truth about God for?
 - How is living the LGBTQ lifestyle like and unlike other sins?

 - How can we lovingly respond to those who choose the LGBTQ lifestyle?

6. LGBTQ people often feel judged and rejected by the church. Read the following passages and discuss what impact these truths might have on us?
 - Matthew 25:32-40

 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

7. What specific ways can we invite LGBTQ folks into God's loving community?

Pray for each other!