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## Week 4: You Asked For It: How would Jesus interact with the LGBTQ+ community?

### How Does Jesus Interact with Us?

- Jesus loved us first - while we were still ungodly and powerless.
  - Romans 5:8 (NIV) "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- Jesus invites us into relationship and purpose.
  - Matthew 4:19 (ESV) "And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
    - I'm calling you to follow me... to surrender to Jesus's authority
    - I'm calling you to be changed by me... to surrender to Jesus's heart surgery...
    - I'm calling you to my mission... surrender to Jesus's purpose for your life...

### How Did Jesus Interact with the Woman Caught in Adultery?

- Where did these people get this idea of stoning a woman caught in adultery?
  - Leviticus 20:10 (NIV) "If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death."
    - Deuteronomy 22:24 (NIV) "You shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death."
  - Penalty for sin is death in three ways: 1) relational death, 2) physical death, and 3) separation from God for eternity
    - Romans 6:23a (NIV) "For the wages of sin is death [...]"
- Is there something wrong with the Law? No.
  - Psalms 19:7 NKJV "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul"
  - Matthew 5:17 (NIV) "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."
- Then what is the purpose of the law?
  - Galatians 3:24 (ESV) "So the law became our guardian to lead us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith."
- Review how Jesus interacts with someone living in sexual sin.
  - Jesus is full of grace and truth (John 1:14).
  - He tells the woman to stop committing adultery, and He forgives her.
  - This is a wonderful picture of John 3:17: "God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (Gotquestion.org)

John 8:11 (ESV) "And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.'"

### How would Jesus interact with the LGBTQ+ community?

- #1 Make sure you act in humility - we all struggle with sin.
- #2 Make sure you are not acting as though one sin on the list is worse than the others.
  - 1 Timothy 1:8-11 (NIV)
- #3 Make the distinction between dealing with a Christian and a non-Christian.
  - There are believers with homosexual attractions who deliberately choose not to act upon those attractions because they have surrendered to the Lord.
    - A temptation is not a sin, and, most often, we don't choose what we are tempted by.
      - Note: A bird flying over your head versus a bird making a nest in your hair.
    - Every human has broken attractions, and we still have these as believers; however, because of the Holy Spirit, I no longer have to give in to them... I have the power to say "No" and choose righteousness.
      - Example: A friend of mine who loves Jesus, has homosexual attractions, and still chooses to live in holy sexuality.
    - What is holy sexuality?
      - Holy sexuality is chastity in singleness or faithfulness in marriage as God defines it - between one man and one woman.
        - Marriage is between a male and a female: Genesis 2:20-25
    - So how do you interact with him?
      - Like you would any saint... see him as a saint - a brother in Christ.
      - Invite him into your home and encourage him as he serves in ministry.
    - Your identity is not defined by your sexual attractions nor by your sin.
      - The world wants to make what you do your identity. Reject that.
      - 2 Corinthians 6:9-11 (ESV) Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men

who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- What about people in the LGBTQ+ community that neither love nor follow Jesus?
  - Pursue them with love and the gospel as you would any unbeliever.
    - An unbeliever's greatest need is not trying harder and better behavior, but faith in Jesus because without Jesus, we neither have the desire nor the power to live righteously.
  - Don't high-center on people's sexual sin.
    - Ask yourself: What is the root issue? Answer: A need to 1) surrender leadership to Jesus, 2) be changed by Jesus, and 3) be on mission with Jesus.
  - What does that look like?
    - "I love you no matter what" "You don't love me." "Yes, I do and in time I'll prove it to you"... when need arises, be there... at the hospital or in a crisis.
    - Engage! Pursue!
      - *Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV)* "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."
- What if you are here right now and have same-sex attraction?
  - Welcome... I'm glad you are here. Like all of us - your biggest need is to surrender to Jesus.
  - Jesus's invitation in Matthew 4:19 is for you too.
  - Resist temptation and live holy.
    - *1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)* "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."
  - Every believer needs help, so get help from another believer. Tell someone. It's time to be totally honest even if that honesty has some ugliness in it.

## Conclusion:

- Pray for your own heart. And then pray for anyone you know.
- Engage! Show your love over the long haul by being full of grace and truth even when rejected.
- Learn more: <https://www.reallifeministries.com/yuan>
- If you would like to contact me (Titus), you can at [tleger@reallifeministries.com](mailto:tleger@reallifeministries.com).
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## Questions for Life Group

- **Icebreaker:** What was one good thing that happened to you this last week?
- **Questions:**
  - Reread the story in John 8:1-11. What stood out from the way Jesus interacted with the adulterous woman?
  - Can you make any connections/ applications from this story to your own life?
  - Why is it important that we not act as though one sin on the list in 1 Tim. 1:8-11 is worse than the others?
    - (Note: Different sins do have different consequences. See 1 Corinthians 6:18.)
  - Do you have questions about this topic that weren't addressed?
  - Reread 2 Corinthians 6:9-11. What do we learn from this passage?
  - When anyone is living in sin, what is the root issue?
    - Now that you identified the root issue, what is your part in showing and sharing with them the gospel?

**Tips and Resources:** *Holy Sexuality* by Christopher Yuan, *Loveology* by John Mark Comer

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