

A photograph of a man, a woman, and a young girl looking up at a dramatic sunset sky with orange and blue clouds. The man is on the left, the woman is in the middle, and the girl is on the right, all looking upwards with expressions of wonder.

QUESTIONS YOU HAVE

BUT ARE AFRAID TO ASK

Questions You Have (But Are Afraid to Ask)
How Should Christians understand LGBTQIA+ Issues?
Matthew 19:3–6

We all have questions. Whether you consider yourself a Christian or not, you have questions about faith, science, culture, and ultimately your own life. We are discussing these questions at home, at work, with friends, and online. Why shouldn't we discuss these questions with our church family? The Scriptures, because of the Holy Spirit, are living and active, able to speak to questions asked 2,000 years later. So, can a Christian lose their salvation?

Christians can affirm the God-given design for gender and sexuality *and* the God-given dignity of every human being.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Matthew 19:3–6

3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?” 4 He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

- Chances are we all are a bit uncomfortable to talk about this topic. Begin by acknowledging why or why not this particular topic might make you uncomfortable.
- Do you know anyone who is a part of the LGBTQIA+ community? If so, what is your relationship like with them?
- While Jesus is discussing divorce in Matthew 19, it's important to acknowledge where Jesus turns to address divorce. What book does he turn to and what does this tell you about what you thought about the book? (HINT: It's the first one!)
- Why is Genesis, especially chapters 1–3, so important when discussing sexuality and gender?
- In Matthew 19, what does Jesus affirm about sexuality and gender? Why does it matter so much that Jesus affirms this?
- While Jesus affirms our sexed bodies as male or female determine a great deal about our identity, it's important to acknowledge gender stereotypes as well. Can gender stereotypes be good or helpful? If so, how? How can they also be unhelpful?
- Look at Genesis 2:15–23. What is the significance of sexual difference in marriage according to the creation account?
- How is the LGBTQIA+ community marginalized? Knowing that Jesus hung out with the marginalized, how might he engage this community if he were here?
- How do you need to change to better be like Jesus to the LGBTQIA+ community?
- Pastor Dustin challenged us with this truth: Christians can affirm the God-given design for gender and sexuality *and* the God-given dignity of every human being. How do we practically do this in our everyday lives as well as a church?
- Close your time praying for those who are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community. Pray that they would be drawn to Christ and his church. For Vintage Church, pray that the LGBTQIA+ community can experience truth, love, and community here.