

Further Answers to Questions Intolerance and Love

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By Ryan Jorgenson

- **In regards to your answer about the media asking about homosexuality, would you say that if they changed their questions to ask about other sins, that the church would give them the same answer that God views all sins the same way and condemn them all, not just homosexuality?**

I apologize if I do not answer this the way you desire as I struggled understanding the question. If media would ask Christians God's view of other sins, not just homosexuality, then Christians should give whatever God says about those sins as well. The reason some in society think Christians are such haters of those within LGBTQ activities is because they think it's all we talk about. But as I said in the Q&A, it is actually because that is mostly all media asks Christians about. We are simply answering what is being asked of us.

All sin is sin and one sin separates one from eternal life with Christ. On the other hand, some sins are a deeper depravity than others and will be given greater punishment in Hell if one does not repent and give their life to Christ. Homosexuality is one of those more "depraved" sins according to Romans 1:26-27. But, if someone comes to Jesus, absolute forgiveness is given and there is no longer any condemnation (Romans 8:1).

For further study on the idea some sins are worse than others, study these articles

Article: [Are all sins equal to God?](#)

Article: [Will there be degrees of judgement in hell?](#)

- **On the topic of sharing the gospel with non-believers, my neighbors (non-believers) have two adorable children who I've had a good relationship with until I made them two gift bags for a road trip. They had gospel tracts, Christian books, etc. Ever since then they will not let them talk to me and it breaks my heart. What do I do? I do pray for them & still say Hi.**

Allow Jesus' words to encourage you.

John 15:19-20 - "19 'If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. 20 'Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also."

It sounds like your neighbors are not only non-Christians, but even opposed to hearing the Gospel nor having their children hear it. That is sad indeed but does happen. I barely knew my Jehovah's Witness cousins growing up because my parents tried to share the Gospel with my aunt and uncle and they kept their children away from us. Again, Jesus said these things would happen at times. He said He came not to bring peace but division even among family (Matt 10:34-39). Not that we want it, but others may choose to divide because of Jesus in us and that we are sharing the Gospel.

First, be encouraged that you have done what Jesus has called you to do and He is happy with your obedience. Second, keep praying for God to grant them repentance and faith (2 Tim 2:24-26; Eph 2:8-9). Third, be very careful not to engage the children directly because the parents clearly are not ok with it. Focus your ministry on the parents. Fourth, keep modeling to them your life as one who is being changed by

the living Jesus they reject. Make their unbelief harder to not believe as they watch Jesus in you. Fifth, look for practical ways to show them love. Ideas could include baking sweets and dropping off, offering to help them if you see them working on a project, simple waves, hellos and smiles, etc.

It's frustrating when people limit our acts of love towards them. But again, they did the same to Jesus. Jesus was willing to sadly let the rich young ruler walk away. Sometimes we need to do so as well. In your situation, you can still love on them, just in limited ways. You never know when God will open some new doors. Just do what you can to make them know your door is open when they are ready.

- **What is the best way to handle a teen still living at home who is in a homosexual relationship?**

I am sorry to hear of your child's choices in this matter. But be encouraged the Lord is plenty powerful enough to change their heart to seek Him and repent of these things!

God has called parents to raise their children with authority He has given them until they leave the home. This is clearly assumed and upheld throughout the Bible. This means you are to continue raising your child and meet their physical and spiritual needs as best you can, regardless of their decisions in this situation. But part of God's call to raise their children and provide for their needs includes providing spiritual protection for them and all living in the household. That includes keeping active sin out of the home. For your teen, you cannot force him/her to change, but you can expect that he/she keep any all sin, including this one, out of the home. You want to protect your other family members from being influenced by their unrepentant sin, like yeast spreads through dough (1 Cor 5).

Growing up I had a sibling who ran hard into sin in their teenage years. I am very thankful God used my parents to protect me and my other sibling from their sins and influence in my life. I would watch my parents weep over my wayward sibling but they would not tolerate his/her sin in our home at the same time. At one point, they were looking into sending him/her to a juvenile home because they wouldn't change and would try to bring their sin home. Thankfully my sibling changed enough that they didn't need to and later became a follower of Christ!

One question I have is whether your teen professes to follow Christ. If they do not, then the Gospel is the main conversation you should be lovingly having with them. If they ask what you or God thinks about homosexuality, definitely share those Scriptures with them because they need to know the truth but focus on the Gospel as that is where obedience and change starts.

If your teen does profess Christ, then bring them through the church discipline process for their good. Meet one-on-one, sharing the Scriptures about this sin. Call them to the lordship of Christ. If they do not repent, bring in another believer outside your home who may know of their decisions and who is godly. A Sr High leader or our Sr High Pastor, etc. If they do not repent, ask an Elder to also meet with you with your teen, having the same conversation. Throughout it all, hopefully they will repent. But understand that because of God's call for you to raise them until they leave the home, you will need to continue to interact with them even if they continue to be unrepentant. Make sure to always reaffirm your love for them. And never stop praying that God would grant them repentance.

Parenting can be one of the greatest joys in life, but also one of the greatest hardships. Honor God in all these things and rest assured He is in control of your teen.

- **This is not a question but a follow up to some comments I have heard said regarding the point in the sermon that we as God's people should call sin "sin" when asked. Some have said "Well, no one asks me about something using the word "sin", so I do not tell them."**

Allow me to clarify. Of course, many non-christians will not use the word "sin" when asking about an activity. The idea is that whenever someone asks you your opinion or God's opinion (should always be the same) about an activity, we should tell them what God's opinion is from Scripture. If God calls it a sin, then we call it a sin, whether or not they used the word or not. That is love for them. How can people possibly repent and be forgiven and blessed if they are not told something they are doing is a sin? Jesus did it all the time and those who had an ear to hear were blessed while others hated Him for it. May it be the same for us.

- **Another "objection" to intolerant love is the idea that Jesus was called a "friend of sinners". How does that fit into being intolerant of sin?**

I'll allow a respected pastor and theologian Kevin DeYoung to answer this in [this article](#). Please read and make sure you are not misunderstanding what Jesus was doing so that you can also live as Jesus lived.

Article: [Jesus, Friend of Sinners: But How?](#)