

LGBT Statements We Have Heard and Our Thoughts

We offer this to you in the hope that you will better understand our hearts and beliefs. We don't seek to convince you that we are right; we only want to help you understand our perspective, just as we also hope to better understand your perspective through this conversation. We will say up front that the basis for our beliefs comes from God's Word. We believe that numerous Scriptures speak against immorality and homosexuality for only two genders; we have not found any supporting LGBT lifestyle preferences. We will not use the Bible as the sole basis nor inundate you with Scripture. You may disagree with what we say, but at least you will better understand what we believe and, more importantly, why we believe what we believe. We also hope this is just the beginning of our conversations, not a one-and-done.

This is our objective: "Come now, and let us reason together..." (Isaiah 1:18a)

We have heard the following statements on various occasions and have provided our perspective on each to help you understand us.

1. Tolerance (love) requires approval (affirmation)

What do you mean by tolerance? Tolerance should mean that you can believe what you want, and I can believe what I want (agree to disagree), but not demand or force others to agree with us.

Do you consider yourself a tolerant (loving) person? If yes, do you approve of our position? If you don't, then by your own definition, doesn't that mean that anyone who disagrees with us is not a tolerant (loving) person? Is it right if you expect us to approve of (affirm) your position? Is it right if we expect you to approve of (affirm) ours?

Tolerance does not mean putting someone in jail or taking away their children if they speak out against the homosexual lifestyle or use the "correct" pronouns (e.g., CA and other governments).

LGBT Statements We Have Heard and Our Thoughts

2. Love is Love?

We are not really sure what this is supposed to mean, but we don't think any one believes this non-statement. If it's supposed to mean that you can love who you want and we can love who we want, then loving a child or sister/brother in that way would be okay; therefore, this cannot be true. All love has some bounds. A loving parent will not allow their child to do anything they know to be harmful or dangerous to them and their development. Parents teach children there are limits and how to deal with them, not affirm every choice they make.

3. You are forcing your morality on us!

By insisting that we affirm your choices, are you not trying to force your morality on us? Why is it okay for you to do so, but not us?

What do you mean by "morality"? On what basis do you define morality? By what standard do you define what you support as being "good" and ours as being "bad"? For us, we define it by what the Scriptures say - it's not our morality, it's God's. We do not claim to be the moral arbiters of the universe – we believe that God is, and as such, He knows far better than we do. We believe that love does not tell you what you want to hear; authentic love tells you what you need to hear. Thomas Sowell (American economist, author and social commentator) put it this way: "When you want to help people, you tell them the truth. When you want to help yourself, you tell them what they want to hear."

4. You are engaging in hate speech against us

Is that true? We don't believe that disagreement equals hate. Do you disagree with us? If so, by your definition, doesn't that mean you hate us? Hate tries to

LGBT Statements We Have Heard and Our Thoughts

intentionally do harm to the other person; we don't believe either of us want that. Love tries to help people see and understand truth for the other person's well-being. We understand first-hand that we, every person alive, are all broken in different ways and in need of true love, peace, forgiveness and joy. Our heart's desire is to share the love and peace that we have experienced and believe that only Jesus can provide.

5. You are discriminating against us/trying to take way our rights!

Is that true? In what way are we discriminating against you or taking away your God-given rights? In what way are we treating you as anything other than a human being – not on the basis of what you do privately – but on the basis that you are a fellow human being made in the image of God. You should have no fewer, but also no more rights than us. In fact, you have the same human rights as we do. We simply don't believe either of us should have more rights simply because of sexual preferences.

6. You are trying to prevent us from loving who we want!

In what way are we preventing you from doing anything you want to do in the privacy of your own home? What you do in the privacy of your own home is between you and God. What we object to is forcing those behaviors into the public realm in the name of tolerance or inclusion. We only ask that you act with discretion in the public view as we aim to do with our own love lives.

7. You are trying to ban books!

We don't believe that opposing inappropriate children's and youth books or materials in public libraries and public schools purchased with public tax dollars

LGBT Statements We Have Heard and Our Thoughts

is banning books. Anyone who wants to get them can still do so at books stores or over the internet. We believe it is the right and responsibility of the parents alone – not government or special interest groups – to decide what is appropriate for their children. If you want to purchase and show those materials to your children, you are free to do so if you use your own money.

Do you approve of de-transitioning and orientation therapy books and materials in the library? Do you approve of books or materials in the library that catalog and describe the physical and psychological harm of the LGBT behaviors? If you oppose them, by your definition, aren't you trying to ban books?

8. You are not letting us be us!

We believe that you are free to do what you want with whom you want, as long as it does not promote or flaunt it in public. We are just as opposed to heterosexuals who flaunt their sexuality in public. The city of Arlington does not allow that either – they outlaw anyone under 18 from sexually oriented business and prevent them from being located near schools, etc.

We believe that God has given each of us the free will and responsibility to decide for ourselves. If that is your choice, we don't oppose that choice as long as it is done privately.

Many of us see your community as centered, ultimately, around sexual preferences. We believe sexual modesty in public is prudent, healthy and societally important, especially when it comes to children.

9. Why are you opposed to drag shows and “pride” parades?

We believe that flaunting sexuality in public by anyone is harmful. Children

LGBT Statements We Have Heard and Our Thoughts

should be allowed to be children, retaining the innocence of youth, and not be subjected to adult themes before the appropriate time. We believe that parents should have the sole right and discretion to teach their children what, when and how they choose. Sexualizing and confusing children before they can really understand is not in the best interest of children or society.

Consider this analogy: If a child knows how to count and understands basic math (e.g., $2 + 2 = 4$) and someone teaches them that $2 + 2 = 5$ (yes, there are some who advocate teaching that $2 + 2$ does not necessarily equal 4), doesn't that confuse them by defying reality? Similarly, doesn't a child seeing a man in a dress pretending to be a woman confuse them? Why subject children to this confusion? Life can be confusing enough without artificially and intentionally introducing confusion.

While we don't believe that everyone in the LGBT community wants to indoctrinate or groom children or are pedophiles, the truth is that there is a significant group of vocal activists who do. It is true that some have paraded nude in front of children in the NYC "pride" parade, as well as some who have chanted "we are coming for your kids". That should appall the LGBT community just as much as the Christian community. Those activists subscribe to what I call the "Ronald McDonald Strategy". McDonald's was the first to introduce the Ronald McDonald clown and Happy Meals – they knew that if they could get the children on their side, they would most often have them on their side as adults.

10. Why are you opposed to a "pride month" proclamation?

We simply don't believe that the government should be picking sides on ANY

LGBT Statements We Have Heard and Our Thoughts

socially divisive issue. We don't believe it is appropriate to advocate for parades and proclamations in favor of heterosexual relationships, so advocating for them in favor of homosexual relationships is just as inappropriate. Anything that the government proclaims or sponsors is viewed as promoting or encouraging it. We believe the city should focus on unifying proclamations and sponsorships, not those things which are so contentious. Would you accept a proclamation advancing the pro-life cause / against abortion? Would you support a proclamation from a conservative government in support of heterosexual marriage? We believe that avoiding socially divisive topics allows the city to focus on those things which the majority of the city deems important to our unity.

11. You are bullying us and your hateful words are leading to an increased risk of suicide.

We believe that telling the truth is neither bullying nor hateful; it is lovingly trying to help people understand the truth, even if unpopular. Feelings are not necessarily true and often don't match reality. Which is a more effective method to reduce confusion and increase clarity resulting in improved mental health: trying to force reality to be consistent with feelings (beliefs) or helping people to align feelings (beliefs) with reality? Which helps the person more: to acknowledge the reality that $2 + 2 = 4$ or try to convince them to believe $2 + 2 = 5$, going against reality? We believe that truth aligned with reality is the best cure for mental confusion, while beliefs based on feelings or beliefs that are in opposition to reality (truth) lead to mental confusion.

As followers of Christ, we believe that all people are made in the image of God.

LGBT Statements We Have Heard and Our Thoughts

What this means is that God has imprinted His nature and character on each of us so that God's moral character is evident to each person (Romans 1:20). When what we want to do (our behaviors and preferences) goes against that evident morality, be it through homosexuality, adultery, lying, stealing, etc., human nature attempts to manufacture reasons to justify our desires. We believe that rationalization is often the first sign of denying truth. At its core, it is trying to deceive ourselves into thinking that if we can get others to agree with us, we must be right; therefore, our behavior must be okay. No one wants to feel alone in their beliefs. We believe that denying or trying to suppress reality is a life-long endeavor which is never successful just as a ball pushed under the surface of the water will not stay there without being held there. We believe that going against God's morality, which most everyone knows is right, is a significant factor in negative mental wellness and mental confusion. Conversely, aligning our thoughts and behaviors according to God's character and morality leads to far greater mental wellness, peace of mind, and overall happiness.

12. I was born this way

We believe that every person was born with a tendency toward various unhealthy behaviors: some towards lying, stealing, pornography, same-sex attraction, drinking, etc. We believe that we are called to resist these feelings and urges and live a moral life. Feelings can change daily; truth and reality are constant. It doesn't mean it's easy, but it is right to do so in order to be who we are meant to be in Christ. We believe that we were "fearfully and wonderfully made," and we are not a mistake. We believe that there are only two genders, male and female,

LGBT Statements We Have Heard and Our Thoughts

according to our biology and DNA at the time of conception. In recent testimony before Congress, a doctor stated that about 85% of all gender dysphoria cases resolve themselves according to their biological sex by age 18.

Thank you for reading this through to the end. We hope it helps you to understand our perspective and beliefs better, even if you disagree with us. We love and often pray for members of your community. It is precisely because of the love of Jesus for every one of us and His sacrifice for us that we have hope and reconciliation to God, not through our righteousness (we have none and are all in need of a Savior), but through the free gift of God based on faith in Him.