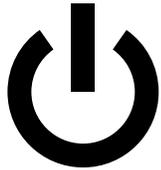


Title: Q & A Panel on Sexuality **Key Verses:** Gen. 1-3; Matt. 5:27-30; 1 Cor. 6:9-20

Speakers: Jeff Bogue, Eric Miller, Dave & Carly Nicodemus, Esther Pacheco

Summary: Our sexually confused culture requires kind and critical thinking.



Power Up: Take a moment to prepare

The panelists open by sharing their personal experiences engaging with our sexually confused culture. How have you engaged the sexual confusion?



Replay: Take some time to watch

Note the five core questions the panel addressed (full questions are listed on the reverse side): **1)** Why does God press so hard against sexual sins? **2)** If God is genderless, are His image-bearers genderless? **3)** What is LGBTQ+ and are there LGBTQ+ Christians? **4)** What does *gender fluidity* mean and how do we talk about it with friends? **5)** If *gender dysphoria* is a mental illness, does that mean anyone with a mental illness can't be saved?



Comment: Take some time to talk

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-19. *What makes sexual sin different? How do you explain the church's obsession with preaching against it?*

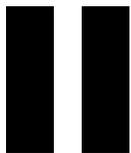
Read Genesis 1:26-30. *What does this text teach about God?*

Humans? Why is it important to recognize God is Spirit (John 4:24)?

What does sin (see Genesis 3) have to do with our sexual confusion?

What does belonging have to do with the rise of LGBTQ+ community? How can the church be a more inviting place without sacrificing truth?

"Be thinkers...to deal with the questions on a correct premise," Jeff says. *Why does this matter? What faulty premises does he expose? What "blanket statements" do people use in these discussions? Why?*



Pause: Take a moment to pray

Thank God for the gift of sexuality. Ask Him for clarity of thinking and compassion as we relate to those different than us. Ask Him for resolve to live pure lives that reflect His perfect design.



Take Action: Take a step forward

God does not ask us to change another person's sexual orientation. He does ask us to show love, confess sins, and bear the burdens of others. Set a time to meet with a friend or family member you know struggling with sexual orientation. Ask him or her about the journey. Pray with him or her.

Bonus Features | Additional Notes and Quotes from Sexuality Panel

QUESTION 1: *Why does it seem like God presses so hard against sexual sins (and not as hard on other sins) and yet Jesus never speaks about homosexuality?*

Bogue: The Bible talks more about greed and godlessness than homosexuality. The Bible does say sexual sin is different than other sins because ... they sin against themselves... God destroyed [people and places] in the Old Testament not because there were gay people there, but because they had hardened their heart against God.

Dave Nicodemus: [Sexual sin] is idolatry. We turn away from Him and give sex priority.

QUESTION 2: *Since God is genderless and I am created in the image of God, why can't I be genderless [this comes from a recent social media campaign #genderless]?*

Carly Nicodemus: It goes back to Scripture. He created male and female. He did not create anyone anywhere between... Sin has messed up every aspect of our world, including how God originally created us to be."

Dave Nicodemus: Sin is pervasive, in every way. It has actually marred ... our genetics.

QUESTION 3: *What is LGBTQ+? Do people who decide to identify with LGBTQ+ negate their faith? If God created me with homosexual desires, but I fight and abstain from them throughout my life, will I have a reward in heaven my straight friends don't have?*

Esther Pacheco: [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, +] is a place for people to belong. It's why it has formed. They have felt alone and different... Our hope is the youth group is a place to belong...

Carly Nicodemus: I wish as a church we celebrated people coming out of the closet of their sin in terms of feeling the freedom to confess to [our] brothers and sisters [our struggles].

Dave Nicodemus: "The opposite of homosexuality is not heterosexuality. It's holiness' (quoting C. Yuan). The temptation, the attraction, are not sins. It's what you do with them."

QUESTION 5: *It seems to be scientifically proven fact that someone who is transgender suffers from something called gender dysphoria. If being transgender is a mental illness, does that mean anyone with a mental illness can't be saved?*

Jeff Bogue: You're not born with dysphoria. You've been traumatized...

You have to be thinkers... You have to deal with these questions on a correct premise. "God is gender neutral." First deal with the premise. God is Spirit. He's not a gender because he's not us. He's something different... To understand sexuality, I have to understand what God created... There aren't multiple genders. It's physically impossible... [Gay marriage] doesn't exist. God is the institutor of marriage. He declared it and clarified it in the New Testament. Gay people getting a legal piece of paper in court is not marriage in God's eyes... People will get you on a conversation that's two or three points down the line and the whole premise is wrong.