

Reason #4: The Church Hates Gay People

Luke 15:1-2

Introduction Questions:

- 1) Jesus drew in all kinds of people, like the tax collectors and sinners, while the Pharisees watched and muttered. In light of the sermon message, are you more like Jesus, or more like the Pharisees? Give examples to support your answer.
- 2) Share with your group one thing that was personally challenging and/or one thing that was personally convicting for you to hear in this sermon.
- 3) When Pastor Dave introduced Art Pereira as a “gay ministry director”, what was your first reaction? Did your understanding change as a result of the message, and if so, how?

“Digging Deeper:”

- 4) **Read Luke 15:1-2.** What was/is it about Jesus that draws people in? What do you make of the contrast between how he pursues sinners, and how the Pharisees judge? Why do you think we, even as Christians, can be so quick to judge and avoid those who are LGBTQ+?
- 5) **Read John 1:14.** Jesus was the perfect balance of grace and truth. Which of these do you lead with? Why? How do you balance the two?
- 6) Pastor Dave shared ways we, as Christ-followers, have caused harm to LGBTQ+ people:
 - **our inconsistency:** we excuse things such as pride, materialism, anger, etc., while clearly calling out sexual issues.
 - **our hypocrisy:** we tell LGBTQ+ people that following Jesus will involve big sacrifice, but fail to tell heterosexual people (and ourselves) the same thing.
 - **our ignorance:** we communicate an unrealistic hope that God would change someone’s sexual orientation, and we lead people to believe that’s the goal

Do you agree with Pastor Dave’s statement(s)? Did this message personally convict you in any way, of causing harm to LGBTQ+ people? What kind of actions can you make going forward to “posture shift” and be extenders of God’s grace instead?

- 7) **Read Matthew 16:24.** Jesus makes it clear that in order to follow Him, we must pick up our cross. And there’s a cross for every single one of us. Art asked the Lord, “What does it look like to pursue holiness and healthiness as a gay man?” And he’s decided to pursue celibacy, out of obedience to Jesus and what he sees that Scripture teaches. What cross do you carry in order to follow Jesus? What does it look like for you to pursue holiness and healthiness? What difference

does being gay or LGBTQ+ make, if any – when we are both pursuing holiness and healthiness, out of obedience to Jesus and the Scriptures?

Application (Individuals & Group):

- 8) **End your group time in prayer.** Ask God to show you where you haven't shown grace, and to repent. Seek forgiveness and reconciliation with those you have hurt. Ask for the Spirit's help to be an agent of grace, while holding on to truth.
- 9) **Learn & grow** – Check out some of the resources available online so you can continue to learn and grow in this subject area.
- 10) **Reach out** – Seek to build relationships with those that you know (and don't know) who are LGBTQ+. Make them feel loved, welcome, valued, and appreciated. Listen to them – show them that their voice matters.

Additional Resources Available Online:

- Interview with Bill Henson ([chapel.org/watch online/sermons](http://chapel.org/watch/online/sermons))
- leadthemhome.org
- Posture Shift (Bill Henson)