

WHY DO CHRISTIANS HATE GAY PEOPLE? | 11-15-15

REFLECT & DISCUSS

Homosexuality is a very emotional topic. Those who experience same-sex attraction feel hated and misunderstood. Others with family or friends who experience same-sex attraction are frustrated by the way their loved one is treated. Those who do not believe a homosexual lifestyle is moral are labeled bigots. Do you know someone who is gay? What has been your experience with that person? Why does it seem that Christians hate gay people? How should we treat homosexuals? How did Jesus treat people who were rejected by religious people?

READ: *Luke 15:1-7*

Why do you think tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to hear Jesus teach? Who did this upset? Why do you think Jesus was willing to associate with people like this? Did he care what religious people thought of him? What was Jesus saying with his response (v 7)?

READ: *Luke 7:36-39*

What was this woman's reputation? Why do you think she was compelled to come to Jesus? What did her actions reveal about the state of her heart? When it comes to the way we treat people, why do we tend to act more like Simon The Pharisee (judging and condemning) than Jesus (inviting and forgiving)? How do we welcome homosexuals without compromising the Truth we believe?

READ: *Luke 7:40-48*

What was Jesus saying about the love Simon showed to Jesus? Consider the tension here: the man who was supposed to be teaching people about how to find God showed less love and hospitality to Jesus than a notorious sinner. Why? Why do we feel the need to judge, convince, and convict people of their sin? Is that our job or God's job? What is our job?

CHALLENGE

Consider the way you have thought about and responded to gay people. What thoughts or actions do you regret? How can you ask for forgiveness? How can you speak truth in love (Eph 4:15)?

PRAYER

Father, you create and define us. Thank you for making each of your children unique and complex. In you, we find our identity. We are convicted of our sin. We are shaped by you so we can become whole. By the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, I pray you would make us more like you.