

RPC Christian Education Series: Christ and Culture
Week 6: Topics from the Cultural Landscape—LGBTQ, Part 1

Intro and Review

Postmodernism rejects the view that there's any single story that gives truth, meaning, purpose to our lives. What challenges do we face when communicating the gospel to a postmodern audience? What behaviors and attitudes can we model that help our communication?

I. Discussing and handling the LGBTQ/SSA topic in our culture and church requires Spirit-led dependence and discernment, grace and truth, both orthodoxy and orthopraxy. And our culture is watching.

A. Jesus often exposed people's view of the Kingdom by pointing to their relationships with the marginalized and needy.

Read **Luke 7:36-50, 10:25-37**

"The absence of hope-filled words spoken to those struggling with SSA in our churches expose our lack of love, and our lovelessness is not cured by simply trying to be more friendly. Plastic smiles and patronizing handshakes cannot cover up cold hearts."—Peter Hubbard, Love Into Light

Idolatry is at the core of all our sins, whether homosexual, heterosexual, or asexual. And in the gospel, Jesus forgives all our sins. Therefore, there is no "they", only "we".

Read **Romans 1:18-32, 1 Cor 6:9-11**

"Sin is the despairing refusal to find your deepest identity in your relationship and service to God. Sin is seeking to become oneself, to get an identity, apart from Him."—Timothy Keller, The Reason for God.

"Resolved, to act, in all respects, both speaking and doing, as if nobody had been so vile as I, and as if I had committed the same sins, or had the same infirmities or failings as others; and that I will let the knowledge of their failings promote nothing but shame in myself, and prove only an occasion of my confessing my own sins and misery to God."—Jonathan Edwards, "Resolutions"

II.

The metanarrative of the Bible provides a helpful framework for thinking about, discussing, and engaging with our friends, neighbors, and culture on the LGBTQ/SSA topic

Objection or misunderstanding	“they” are not like us and are abnormal	“their” sin isn’t like our sin and is responsible for the moral decline of our country	“they” are defined by their sin and have an identity that shapes their life	“they” don’t or won’t change and are really unredeemable
Truth according to God’s big story in redemptive history	<u>Creation</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Redemption</u>	<u>Restoration</u>

(diagram adapted from Love Into Light by Peter Hubbard)

III. Application