

# The Life Challenge

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

**Series: Embodied: Faith, Sexuality & Gender**

**Title: Our Position**

**Speaker: Matt Ewert**

**Date: October 31, 2021**



## WARM-UP

**To whatever degree you are willing, share with the group what knowledge or experience you come to this conversation about the LGBTQ+ community with.**

- Do you have a friend or family member that is part of that community?
- Do you feel you are knowledgeable about this topic?
- Do you try to avoid thinking or talking about it?
- Do you find it confusing?

**As we engage in this conversation as a church for the next few weeks, what is the biggest question you come to this topic with?**

- What do you most hope to understand better by the end of these three weeks?

## DISCUSSION

**In the teaching on Sunday, Matt mentioned that the New Testament passages that talk about homosexuality always include in them a broader list of sins. And yet, it sometimes seems like the church has singled this particular sin as a "super-sin"**

- Why do you think the church has traditionally taken a stronger stance against homosexuality than other sins, like greed or gossip for example?

**Read Romans 1:18-32**

- What jumps out to you from this passage?
- What does Paul say about homosexuality in this passage?
- What else does Paul address in this passage, and what does he say about those things?

**Read Romans 2:1-4**

- What impact should this have on the way we read Romans 1:18-32?

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## DISCUSSION

***"Marriage is a covenant relationship intended to unite a man and a woman for life. At creation, God designed marriage for companionship, sexual union, and the birth and nurture of children. Sexual intimacy rightfully takes place only within marriage."***

- Excerpt from the MB Confession of Faith

In this week's teaching, Matt affirmed that our position as a church continues to be in line with what we have previously discerned on the issue as Mennonite Brethren. That, however, doesn't give us permission to walk away from people who are part of the LGBTQ+ community. As Jesus followers, we have a responsibility to all people.

***"If the gospel is not good news for gay people, then it's not good news."*** - Preston Sprinkle

- What do you think of that statement?
- In what way does the gospel seem to **NOT** be good news for gay people?
- In what way **IS** the gospel good news for gay people?

## PRAYER

**Given the context we live in today it's critical that the church face this conversation head on. At the same time, it is a conversation that has the possibility of being divisive.**

- Pray for our unity as a church as we talk about this issue.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would teach us how to be people of truth AND grace as we engage the LGBTQ+ community.
- Pray for our "Town Hall" meeting on November 7, that God would use it to help us better understand how we can embody the posture of Jesus towards the LGBTQ+ community.