



LESSON 1

WELCOME TO OZ

For a deeper study, read Chapter 9 of Rev. William Monday's book: [Rainbow Savior](#), pp.81-103.

1. **Opening Exercise:** Put yourself in the shoes of someone who is a member of the LGBTQ community. In what ways are you feeling oppressed by society in general and/or by Christians in particular?
2. Now let's find some common ground. Whether you are straight or gay, what makes living our lives so difficult? Why is it important for all Christians to understand this truth?
3. **Agree or disagree:** We have all contributed to the problems that exist in this world, including the problems that exist in the tension between the LGBTQ community and Christians.

READ ECCLESIASTES 4:1-3

Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed—and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors—and they have no comforter. ² And I declared that the dead, who had already died, are happier than the living, who are still alive. ³ But better than both is the one who has never been born, who has not seen the evil that is done under the sun.

4. In recent years, how has nature been proclaiming that something is terribly wrong with our world? (see also Romans 8:20-21) What human atrocities have made that same proclamation? (see also Genesis 4:10)
5. As we all witness the horrors of our sin-torn world, what fact are we constantly reminded of?
6. Let's throw around some specific blame for the problems that exist in our world. Can you list some monstrous ancient and ongoing reasons why the visible church, which you and I are a part of, is part of the problem?
7. Some might argue that this is a good reason to just do away with the visible church and institutionalized Christianity. Why is this *not* a fair argument to make?
8. What must we, as members of the visible church, continually do in our relationship with the LGBTQ community?
9. As we continue to play the blame game, how is the government to blame? (see Psalm 146:3)

10. Some might argue that the government is an evil institution that needs to be overthrown. Why is this not a reasonable (or Christian) approach to take?
11. So how will the Christian approach politics and government?
12. What does the Christian need to do for times when we blur the line between politics and faith?
13. Next stop on the blame train is the area of higher learning. Can anyone concisely define today's predominant school of thought: postmodernism?

READ ISAIAH 5:20-21

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.²¹ Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.

14. What does God's Word have to say about this line of thinking? Sadly, what does this line of thinking ultimately conclude about God's Word?
15. **Agree or Disagree:** Postmodern thought is best compared to a wrecking ball, because all it can truly accomplish is to tear down and tear apart. (consider Genesis 3:1)
16. How does this understanding help a Christian in his or her approach to members of the LGBTQ community?
17. After a brief stop at corporate America, blame train comes into the station with fingers pointed back at ourselves. Explain.
18. There is one person that we can't blame for all this world's troubles, though we often try. How can we relate when homosexuals, feeling oppressed, blame God? How can postmodern, agnostic and even atheistic thought help when someone is tempted to do this?

READ 2 PETER 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

19. Why is it essential for us to know what God tells us about himself in Scripture?