



LESSON 2

THE CHURCH FOR LGBTQs

For a deeper study, read Chapter 10 of Rev. William Monday's book: [Rainbow Savior](#), pp.105-119.

1. The secular world paints a picture that there are only two types of churches out there when it comes to homosexual individuals. What are those perceived types?
2. Why is pigeon-holing every congregation of the visible church into one of these two types a dangerous and misleading impression to give?
3. Let's look at some different types of churches, beginning with what we might call **RADICAL** churches. Why might a church take the approach of zealously and publicly condemning all homosexuals?

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:15-17

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

4. How does Scripture itself contradict the approach of zealously and publicly condemning all homosexuals? (see also Mark 2:17, Luke 18:9-14, and all of Matthew 23)
5. **Agree or Disagree:** "Many homosexuals are actually closer to the kingdom of God than the members of [those churches] who carry around picket signs stating that God hates gays."ⁱ
6. Another type of churches are ones that we might call **RAINBOW** churches. In 2009, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) voted to welcome members of the LGBTQ community into their ranks of clergy. How is a monumental moment like this actually damaging to homosexuals?

READ JOHN 1:14

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

7. What happens when we try to separate the person of Jesus Christ from the Word of God? (see also 1 Corinthians 2:11-16 & Matthew 5:17-18)

READ 1 TIMOTHY 4:1-2

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

8. What grievous mistake have churches of this type made with the Word of God? (see also Genesis 3:1, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, Romans 6:1-14, and Galatians 1:8)
9. A common theme among this type of church is that "All Are Welcome Here." What is the sad irony of that statement?
10. Another type of churches that exist are ones that might be defined as **RECLUSE** churches. They do everything they can remain silent on this and other socially divisive issue for fear that they might lose some of their own or keep others from coming if they take a firm stance. To the Christian who finds themselves wanting to adopt this attitude, how is helpful to understand that "God doesn't ask us to worry about saving souls."ⁱⁱ (see John 10:27-28 & Romans 8:30)
11. The final type of church for our discussion today is what might call **REPENTANCE** churches. Explain why this statement is true: "The churches that are truly for LGBT[Q]s are those that preach the full message of repentance."ⁱⁱⁱ

READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:2.5

² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction...⁵ Keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

12. As it relates to the topic of homosexuality, are we in season or out of season?
13. What are we charged with by God as Christians? (see also Hebrews 11:33-39)

ⁱ Rainbow Savior, p.106

ⁱⁱ Rainbow Savior, p.116

ⁱⁱⁱ Rainbow Savior, p.113