

## Practical Tips to Reach Gay-Identified Friends

1. Speaking of H12 – Joe Dallas
2. Blog on website - Target
3. What gays think of Christians
  - A. Westboro Baptist signs
  - B. Website: "GOD HATES FAGS" is a profound theological statement, which the world needs to hear more than it needs oxygen, water and bread.
  - C. Purdue campus
  - D. Loralice – Boston church
4. For the Christian = moral issue
  - A. Civil Right
    1. No former AA
    2. MLK, Jr. chief associate, Bayard Rustin = openly gay
      - a. "I can't. They are not the same thing" – MLK

Q: How do we respond in a culture where same-sex marriage is now legal and anyone who disagrees with homosexuality is labeled a bigot?

1. Postmodern thinking
  - A. History
    1. Prior to the 1600s, West viewed God as source of all truth, human dignity, and morality
    2. 1600s – age of Enlightenment
      - a. Philosopher René Descartes
        - i. Disillusioned w/Catholic Church → "skeptical voyage"
        - ii. "I think; therefore I am" = human reason/progress/authority > God
          1. Scientific method displaced faith in God
      - b. Modernism = human intellect improve world
    3. World War I & WWII happened
  - B. 1960s - Postmoderns:
    1. Reject absolute truth
    2. Despise authority
    3. Social justice
  - C. Christians
    1. God = authority
    2. Word = true
    3. Don't care abt social justice → heaven
  - D. Greatest moment!
    1. Darkness = brighter!
    2. Contextualize gospel
      - a. Deeper understanding
      - b. Syncretism
        - i. Question Word/absolutes
          1. Gay Christian
          2. Rob Bell – Love Wins
        - ii. Self on throne
          1. Worship = us
          2. No suffering/death to self
          3. No living for another

Ten Tips to engage with the LGBT community:

1. Recognize the real battle is in the spirit
  - a. Massive cultural shift = supernatural

- b. **Ephesians 6:12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms
  - a. **Safe zone**/ally
  - b. Enemy = enemy
  - c. **PRAY**, PRAY, PRAY
- c. Direct aggression toward **stronghold** not people
2. **Apologize** for the way Christians have misrepresented Jesus to gay community
3. Avoid **clichés**
  - a. Adam & Steve
  - b. Love sinner but hate the sin (reject identity)
  - c. Gay lifestyle – no such thing
  - d. If you're gay, it's your choice
  - e. **No gay bashing/jokes**
4. **Defend** LGBT people when it's appropriate to do so
  - a. **Orlando**
  - b. **Baptist** pastor
5. Engage in **dialogue**, not didactic monologue
  - a. Initiate relationship w/LGBT director
  - b. Ask questions
  - c. Outreach:
    - i. **Homosexuality** & Imago Dei: Exploring the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Faith Perspectives
    - ii. **God Table** – “Is it unloving to believe homosexual practice is morally wrong?”
6. Address the intolerance of tolerance
  - a. **2 Cor. 10:3-5** For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup>The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish **strongholds**. <sup>5</sup>We **demolish arguments and every pretension** that **sets itself up against** the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
    - i. **Illogical = oppose God of Truth & operate in logic**
    - ii. Target:
      1. **2 Cor. 4:4** The **god of this age** has **blinded** the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
      2. **John 15:18-19, 20** “If the world **hates** you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ...<sup>25</sup> But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They **hated** me **without reason**.’
  - b. DA **Carson**
    - i. **Old**: There is objective truth & it's our duty to pursue truth.
      1. **Voltaire**: “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”
    - ii. **Now**: There is no objective/absolute truth but rather equality of all ideas
      1. **Truth** and **love** are pitted against one another as mutually exclusive
        - a. **Cupcakes** analogy
        - b. Disagreement is not **DENIGRATION**
      2. Affirmation **sandwich**
7. Focus on **connecting to Christ**, not stopping them from sinning
  - a. Homosexuality won't send them to hell (LORDSHIP)
    - a. Already under conviction (Rom. 2:15)
  - b. Lonely → LGBTQ
    - a. **Minorities at least relate to family**
    - b. Invite them to your family holiday gatherings
  - c. Experience gospel: **Live lives** that demand a gospel explanation
8. Don't **force change** on those who don't want it
  - a. Horror stories – “pray the gay away” (**reparative therapy**)
  - b. **Chik-Fil A** & **FB** are not going to win people over (**relationship**)
  - c. Jesus was more than a Facebook friend of sinners

9. Don't be **discouraged** if you don't see results yet
  - a. Hate you // throw rock at **dogs**
  - b. Keep praying!!!
10. Exercise wisdom regarding gay marriage
  - a. **We already discriminate based on marriage**
    1. Can't marry mother/father/sibling
    2. Can't marry minor/animal
    3. Can't have multiple spouses
  - b. Marriage is not about **two adults** exercising their rights
    - 1. Law given to protect weak from strong**
      - a. Marriage about the rights of children. Anything that weakens the institution of marriage is an injustice toward children.
      - b. The overwhelming body of social science research agrees that children do best when raised in homes with married, opposite-sex parents.
        - i. Children of gay parents...are most apt to...(Mark **Regnerus** of the University of Texas)
          1. be on welfare
          2. have gotten a sexually transmitted infection
          3. have recently thought of suicide
          4. report being raped
          5. test impulsive
          6. smoke
          7. have been arrested
          8. have pled guilty to a crime
          9. score high on depression
          10. be promiscuous
          11. be unemployed
          12. live socially isolated from others
      - c. **Marriage protects children from sins of self-centered adults!**
      - d. **Marriage is more than just self-centered sexual behavior**
    - 2. Won't stop with Gay Marriage → DESTROY GENDER**
      - a. Spirit of **intimidation**
  - c. Should a Christian attend a **"Gay Wedding?"**
    1. 1 Cor. 8-10, Paul addressed believers visiting temples of idols to connect w/unbelievers
    2. Paul forbade dining there:
      - a. Cause others to "stumble" by sending message idol worship wasn't big deal (ch. 8)
      - b. Those attending offend God by **aligning unknowingly w/demonic powers** (10:14-22)
        - i. ....the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. <sup>21</sup>You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.
    3. Jesus reached out to sinners w/o attending rituals that celebrated immorality
      - a. **Jesus probably not attend gay wedding unless call to repentance**
    4. Other ways to show love w/o attending wedding
      - a. "What **good** would I be at a "gay wedding" anyway since I would be visibly weeping my heart out at a ceremony that solemnizes a behavior that puts a loved one at risk of not inheriting God's kingdom?"
        - b. **Unbelievers subconsciously EXPECT Christians to follow conscience**

Conclusion: **Tornado**