

Navigating politics and sexuality

Politics

Fear and the _____.

- When we have a culture of fear, we see secular people as the enemy and then we adopt a zero-sum game of winning and losing.

Followers of Jesus should be _____-driven not _____-driven. 1 Peter 2:11
Philippians 3:20

- Remember who the real enemy is. Ephesians 6:12

*When He saw the crowds, He had **compassion** on them because they were **confused** and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

Matthew 9:36

Don't make secondary things _____.

We live in an _____ culture.

- Cultural hot topics:
 - Environmentalism
 - Racism/Black Lives Matter
 - LGBTQ/Sexuality
 - Feminism
 - Mental health/Suicide prevention
 - Economic injustice
- Look for opportunities to connect (affirm or challenge) and then have a conversation seeking the truth together.

Sexuality

Recognize that beneath the mask of intense moral conviction, there's deep _____ and _____.

- At the core of the confusion is the circular statement, "love is love" (love is sex; love is lust; love is a feeling; love is whatever I want it to be).
- The core truth we can hold onto is that people desire to belong and feel accepted, but they have no idea where to find it.
- Jesus responds to confusion with compassion. And like Jesus, we need to engage this topic from a place of radical love and mercy.

Matthew 9:36

We need to approach with _____ – understanding their reality properly.

- Many people experience same-sex attraction, gender dysphoria, or other things that are confusing as it relates to their sexuality.

We need to make a critical distinction between _____ and _____ action.

- Temptation is not a sin, but the action in thought or deed in response to the temptation is sin.

Hebrews 4:15

We need to approach with _____ in action.

- One of the lies of our culture is that in order to love someone, we must affirm their lifestyle and behavior.
- The best way to challenge this lie is to love them in action, while not agreeing with their lifestyle and behavior.
- Being in a relationship and association with someone is not synonymous with affirming their lifestyle or behavior. It's about challenging the lie that stands in the way of them meeting Jesus.

The key spiritual apologetic assumption we're challenging is related to

- In the secular world, meaning and purpose is self-defined.
- In the Christian worldview, we are created intentionally by God. He created our bodies, minds, and souls with a clear purpose and a way to operate them as revealed in the Bible, that will allow us to thrive spiritually, physically, emotionally, and sexually.

How do we answer if someone insists on asking the question, "is homosexuality a sin?"

1. Ask, "do you really want to know?"
2. If you want to understand my view on sexuality, you need to see it in context.
 - Unpack God's value and purpose for each unique life.
 - Communicate that we were created to thrive in a certain way for our good.
 - Clarify that it's not based in hate, but for our good.

Jesus first; sexuality, behavior, and discipleship second.

- Many have a legalistic view of Christianity; that actions and behavior have to change first.
- They don't understand that submitting sexuality and behavior is a part of discipleship and trusting that God's ways are better than my ways.
- Until they have an encounter with the living God made possible by Jesus' death and resurrection, and surrender their life to Him, and invite the Holy Spirit to live in them, none of it will make sense.

Application:

1. How have you prioritized winning an argument with someone, over introducing them to the person of Jesus?
2. In the past, how have you interacted with people who have different views than you on politics or sexuality? In what ways has Aaron's teaching challenged that? What will you do different next time?
3. Aaron mentioned that when Christians have a culture of fear, secular people are seen as the enemy. According to Ephesians 6:12 who is the real enemy? How did Jesus respond to the crowds in Matthew 9:36?
4. How did your perspective toward the LGBTQ+ community change, after realizing that many are struggling with confusion and brokenness?
5. What are some ways you can approach with love in action?
6. Why is it important to focus on introducing people to the person of Jesus rather than focusing on their behavior?