

Engaging with Those Who Hurt

Compassion/Empathy/Listening:

1. Romans 8 -

Dani Treweek says that *“as we find ourselves immersed in all the debates and discussions, we often forget that we are not ultimately talking about issues. Or matters. Or agendas. On each and every 'side' of each and every debate are people. Real-life, breathing, hurting, loving, laughing, crying, human people. Surely Christians – those who are called to love others as themselves – should be the first to recognise this vital truth. Yet so often, we sharpen our theological debating expertise while forgetting the importance of practicing love.”*¹

How Does the Church Help?

Sexual Stigma in Churches

*“Trans-identified people often have several cards stacked against them: mental health concerns, loneliness, depression, social stigma, and family rejection.”*²

Church Audit

¹ <https://www.livingout.org/resources/reviews/50/people-not-pronouns-a-review>

² Sprinkle, *Embodied*, 224.

- a. Your church family meetings include people who could be labeled LGBTQI+/ are same-sex attracted.
- b. Derogatory language or stereo-typing attitudes towards anyone would not be tolerated either up-front or in conversation between church family members.
- c. All in your church know that we all experience sexual brokenness and all are being encouraged to confess their own sexual sins.
- d. Same-sex sexual relationships are never mentioned in isolation from other sinful patterns of behavior, or from the forgiveness offered to all through faith in Christ crucified.

Honor Singles

In 1 Cor. 7:8 Paul actually says that it is better to not get married than to marry. *“Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do.”*

Sexual Sinners

What would it look like to reach out to sexual strugglers in your church?

The church is the family of Christ, do you live this out like it's true?

- a. Do single, celibate Christians find their brothers and sisters in the church? Matt. 12:49-50,49 *“Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”*

Meet with a person

What is Jesus saying yes to? Hear a lot of no's in the church. What is the yes?

“Right now gay teens hear a robust “Yes!” from the mainstream media and gay culture. From the Church, they hear only a “No.” And you can’t have a vocation of not-gay-marrying and not-having-sex. You can’t have a vocation of No.”³

What are Things That We Are Saying Yes To?

Love of the Father

We are saying yes to being adopted into the family of the Triune God. John 17:22-23 *“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”*

Eternal Family

Mark 10:29-30 *Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.*

³ <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2013/08/celebrity-and-healing>

Joy in Singleness

Kathy Keller says that *“people with SSA may be the ones that God chooses to lead and purify his church for the next revival. Because their faithfulness both as an example and as an indictment to those of us who have made our peace with less visible and less controversial sin patterns is going to be the thing that the culture cannot deny. The truth of Christianity is visible in the lives of people who have chosen to be celibate. It is so counter-cultural and it will attract questions and people will be won to Christ through that.”*⁴

Friendship

Jesus as Our Deepest Love

How Do You as a Parent Help Your Child?

Scott Newgent, a transgendered man says that *“it took me 48 years to realize I transitioned because I never wholeheartedly accepted being a lesbian. Our children don't have a prayer to embrace the reality of something it takes a lifetime to understand. That's our job, as parents: to protect them from foolish, lifelong mistakes.”*⁵

First Goal - Listen & Love

⁴ <https://www.livingout.org/resources/talks/9/identity-in-christ-conference-church-and-identity>

⁵ <https://www.newsweek.com/we-need-balance-when-it-comes-gender-dysphoric-kids-i-would-know-opinion-1567277>

How Do We Listen? What Do We Need to Listen For?

This is what listening looks like, understanding your child

“One way to lead with unconditional love is to reframe your child’s coming out to you as an invitation to know them better.”⁶

1. I’m Not Fitting In

- a. Peers/Social Media

2. Scary Messages of What It Means to a Man/Woman

3. Be True to Yourself/Feelings

Keira Bell, a detransitioner says - *“I was adamant that I needed to transition. It was the kind of brash assertion that’s typical of teenagers. What was really going on was that I was a girl insecure in my body who had experienced parental abandonment, felt alienated from my peers, suffered from anxiety and depression, and struggled with my*

⁶ Yarhouse, Mark and Olya Zaporozhets, *When Children Come Out: A Guide for Christian Parents*, Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2022

sexual orientation.”⁷ She continues: “We are told these days that when someone presents with gender dysphoria, this reflects a person’s “real” or “true” self, that the desire to change genders is set. But this was not the case for me. As I matured, I recognized that gender dysphoria was a symptom of my overall misery, not its cause.”

- a. Stereotypes

4. I’m a Mistake

5. You Won’t Love Me

6. I am Ashamed of Myself/You Are Ashamed of Me

7. Be Aware of Suicidal Ideation

⁷ <https://www.persuasion.community/p/keira-bell-my-story>

How Do You Love?

1. Prayer
2. Unconditional Love
3. Focus on Their Hearts and Affections for Christ

C.S. Lewis - *"If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world."*

4. Patience
5. Counseling

For more information on counseling and teaching:

DoxaCounselingCollective.com

Podcast:

[Soul Care at the Movies Podcast \(Apple\)](#)

[Soul Care at the Movies Podcast \(Spotify\)](#)

Resources for Pronouns

Sam Allberry - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ur-lfYF4dc>

John Piper - <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/he-or-she-how-should-i-refer-to-transgender-friends>

Julie Maxwell - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pz6a9LCkxtY>

Rosaria Butterfield - <https://www.reformation21.org/blog/why-i-no-longer-use-transgender-pronouns-and-why-you-shouldnt-either>

Steve Dewitt - <https://stevedewitt.org/2020/01/19/the-beauty-of-gods-design-for-human-gender/>

Samuel Parkinson - <https://ftc.co/resource-library/blog-entries/on-the-use-of-personal-pronouns-or-should-i-use-my-trans-neighbors-preferred-pronoun/>