

Good & Beautiful Life - Part 7

“Is God Anti-gay”

Sam Allberry

When we’re talking about same sex attraction or LGBTQ, it’s personal. It’s people that we love very, very dearly.

Sam Allberry’s story...

The big question for Allberry was, “What does Jesus think about sexuality?”

Jesus is saying you’re not ultimately going to understand marriage unless you understand the whole issue of God making us male and female.

Based on Matthew 15:19-20 and Matthew 19:3-12...

- Sex only belongs within marriage.
- Marriage is between a man and a woman.
- The only godly alternative to that kind of marriage is to be single and celibate (i.e., sexually inactive).

4. Reflect on the following passages in light of the sermon.

Matthew 19: ⁴ “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Ephesians 5: ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

2 Corinthians 11: ² I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. ³ But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. Why is it so hard to practice the rhythm of joyful obedience outlined in the sermon?

5. Reflect on the two reasons Allberry gives for choosing to follow Christ in light of your own reasons for following Christ.

6. What did you most appreciate about Sam Allberry’s sermon?

Why Allberry decided to follow Jesus in spite of the cost as a gay man:

1. Because of who Jesus is.

Jesus came not only to diagnose our hearts; he came to rescue us from ourselves. Jesus knows you better than you know yourself. Loves you more than you love yourself. More committed to your joy than you are.

2. Jesus is saying the same thing to everyone.

What Jesus teaches about marriage and sex is hard for everyone. Sin taints every area of our lives—we are all disordered and broken. There is no one who is straight. All of us are skewed in one way or another. No one gets what they want.

John 6: ³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life.”

In the time of Jesus, bread wasn’t a preference, it was life. No bread, no life. Jesus is saying, “I am to your soul what bread is to your starving stomach.” We look for what only Jesus can give in romantic relationships. We mistake the model of marriage as the reality of what is meant to fulfill us. “There are times I want to be a dad and a husband, but that’s not the win for me. The win for me is to get to know Jesus better and be just a bit more like him.” (Sam Allberry)

Practical Next Steps

- Read [Is God Anti-Gay?](#) by Sam Allberry or [Living in a Gray World: A Christian Teen’s Guide to Understanding Homosexuality](#) by Preston Sprinkle. Listen to the May 13, 2019 episode of The Gospel Coalition podcast of a talk by Rebecca McLaughlin called, “4 Things Christians Must Reclaim.” If you dig in and want more, email me and I’ll suggest more resources (hwilliams@fiveoakschurch.org).
- If you’re not a reader, the books are short reads. But if you prefer, listen to the Rebecca McLaughlin talk, and get the DVD small group courses by Preston Sprinkle, “Grace/Truth 1.0” and “Grace/Truth 2.0” at <https://centerforfaith.com>, or do his online course, “LGBT & the Church: 22 comprehensive sessions taught by Dr. Preston Sprinkle” at <https://www.digitalleadersforum.org>. At least go and watch the trailer to this online course and the dvd materials.
- Another in-depth resource is [Guiding Families of LGBT+ Loved Ones](#) by Bill Henson and Meg Baatz.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week’s sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Why is knowledge and wisdom about this subject so important for Christians today?
3. Read Matthew 15:16-20. How does what Jesus says about hearts apply to our lives and to our relationship with God?