

Talking Points Guide

Episode 34: Yes I'm Gay! So Was Leonardo da Vinci by the way.

Why are many Christians focused on condemning and limiting the human rights of the LGBTQ+ community? I have an idea. Ancient religious texts are, ancient.

Jesus would ask us to remember that he did not write the Bible.

I am gay and that is okay with God, even though there are seven clobber verses in the Bible about same-sex relations. We need to remember, Biblical times were different from our own time. We have a duty to educate ourselves to ancient practices that were the basis for Bible verses still being used today to shape and defend Christians' judgmental view of homosexuality and more.

None of the ancient Bible verses refers to LGBTQ2+ orientation as it is now understood. As modern biblical scholars advise us, the verses regarding same-sex relationships need to be kept within the context of the ancient societies which produced them. The scientific, psychological, and educational communities of today acknowledge biology as a cause of sexuality. On the front lines each day, these professionals see young children of three and four years old who identify as transgender or gay.

Sexuality is not a choice we make.

Human sexuality does not determine the character values motivating behavior.

Integrity-focused behavior is governed by the depth of connection we have to the impeccable principles of soul—Jesus within our heart. Yes, I am gay and not perfect. Yet as a gay woman who loves Jesus, there is nothing—not money, fame, power over people, title, or social status—that means more to me than striving to live like Jesus. Those false measures of success or ways of coping with spiritual emptiness are no longer my idols. I openly share how I released myself from my egocentric mind's grip in my book, *Lead with Your Heart: Creating a Life of Love, Compassion and Purpose*. We have to intentionally choose not to conform to what our ego dictates as success—wealth, power over people, social, religious or political influence, physical beauty—to live aligned with Jesus' definition of success: love our neighbors as ourselves. Want for them what we want for ourselves. Treat all people equally, as we want to be treated. Be responsible stewards of earth and all life.

No matter how far down the path of spiritual growth we travel, we will not be perfect. But that does not mean we cannot become proficient in walking in the footsteps of Jesus' empathy and integrity. We can be LGBTQ+ and do that.