

University of Nottingham Christian Fellowship
Student Questions and Mike Constantine's Answers

1. If you're invited to a LGBT wedding, who is a close friend of yours...how does one as a Christian respond? If you go, does that act mean you celebrate/support their union?

Mike:

It is very much a matter of conscience. Some would say that to attend the wedding is to condone the idea of same-sex marriage. Others would say that going shows support for the people, but not the same-sex marriage. My wife and I actually have a potential situation like this and are not quite sure what we would do. We would pray and seriously consider the choice and we would not always make the same choice.

2. Is the fight for equality (or feminism) against the original (true) intention of man and woman?

Mike:

Feminism is a very broad term with many degrees of attitude. In its healthy forms it encourages things like the right to vote, equal pay for equal work, equal educational opportunities, etc. In these matters, there is nothing against God's original intention, or the counsel in the Bible. In fact, Christians led efforts towards women's equality in voting, ownership of property, and other matters.

But there are unhealthy forms of feminism. In those forms, it encourages the killing of unborn babies (more than 50% of whom are female), profane and vile standards of behavior, and other perverted ideas.

For an excellent discussion of these matters, see this article:

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/march/god-feminist-ideals-is-bible-good-for-women.html>

3. Is sexuality solely defined by the sexual organs given to you or does it include your conduct, clothing, choices (i.e. behaving/portraying to be more feminine/masculine)?

Mike

All humans have a basic, genetically defined gender. That is unchangeable. If the person is having acute struggles with their sexual identity, that does not mean he or she is a person of one sex trapped in the body of the other sex. There is no scientific evidence for this. See the following links:

<http://www.cnsnews.com/blog/michael-w-chapman/johns-hopkins-psychiatrist-support-transgenderism-and-sex-change-surgery>

<https://pjmedia.com/trending/2016/08/23/johns-hopkins-research-no-evidence-people-are-born-gay-or-transgender/>

4. If I as a girl, prefer to be slightly more masculine (in terms of clothing & behavior) than other girls...is that wrong of the true intention of God?

Mike

There is a wide range of healthy identity in both male and female genders. Sometimes culture plays a part as well. As long as your chosen style does not reflect personal disgust with your gender, and is appropriate for your culture and context, you are free to dress in what makes you feel good.

5. Is God's intention for man and women solely defined by my sexuality? What if I am born with two sexual organs?

Mike

Unless you are one person in about 150,000, you were not born with ambiguous genitalia.

6. How does celibacy come into the picture in terms of the intention of man and woman by God?

Mike

Celibacy is not the same as singleness. A man or woman could be single, but not celibate. He or she just does not have a marriage partner to share sex with.

Celibacy is seen by various churches as a gift (I Corinthians 7:7), a calling, or a necessary decision based on circumstances.

7. Is God's MAIN or sole role of man and woman for reproduction (natural sex), fulfilment of the Great Commission? If so, is in-vitro fertilisation or surrogates wrong? If it is more than that (i.e companionship, relationship)...how then about LGBT?

Mike

Let's take these issues individually:

A. The desire for natural sex in a marital relationship, has nothing to do with the Great Commission of Jesus.

B. IVF is generally accepted as permissible by most Christian teachers.

C. Marital sex has several purposes:

1. It is the celebration of the unique covenant of marriage between one man and one woman
2. It provides the means for procreation
3. It provides pleasure and fulfillment to the married couple.

LGBT does not fulfill all those criterion, and even if it did, sex between two people of the same gender is still unacceptable to God, just as all forms of sex outside of marriage are unacceptable to God.

8. How to choose between remaining single and getting involve in a BGR?

9. Is boy-girl relationship a benefit or a burden for us at this age (University age, before we graduate)?

Mike:

Please see the book I wrote, **Choosing for Life**. I think it will help answer some of your questions.

10. Why did God create woman out of a man?

Mike

In my opinion, he did it that way to model the complimentary nature of man and woman. In most cases, for most people, marriage is a joining of two individuals into a relationship that makes both of them better people, and more complete.

Of course, there are some who will not marry, and God will have other means of working in their lives.

11. As women of God, to what extent do we submit ourselves to a man (husband)?

Mike

Much of our confusion about submission, and much of our fear, will evaporate if we keep one idea in mind: Submission is for safety, not for control. The Bible teaches women to submit to their own husbands, but also that he is to provide loving leadership, not oppressive, controlling leadership. My wife and I also see a principle of mutual submission in Ephesians 5.21.

12. According to Scriptures, should women have our own pride and ego? And, how far can we go?

Mike

Every human being has ego and pride, male or female. Both ego and pride can be either helpful or harmful. Helpful, when we find our identity and true worth in Christ and in our work with him in the world. Harmful, when our ego and pride are centered on self-fulfillment that either excludes God from our lives or makes him our genie.

13. Does 1 Timothy 2:8-15 still apply to us today, since there is reference to creation? If so, what are its practical implications?

Mike

This passage of scripture, and others in I Corinthians 11 and 14, are extremely difficult to understand for one reason: we do not know the situation in the churches at that time. It seems clear that women did teach, preach and hold offices of some types, both in the Old Testament and the New. So many scholars see the prohibitions in those letters as local in nature, applying only to those churches in those contexts and times.