

Welcome!

Book Club Week 3



Today's Goal

Focus on some of the practical hangups you might be having with implementing the changes outlined in Heavy Burdens.



Instructions

Essential or Nonessential?



Consult LGBTQ People

- Consultation from professionals AND
- Consultation from LGBTQ members

Intentional Learning

- Trainings
- Workshops
- Conferences



Focus of Teaching

- Healing on Sundays
- Hermeneutics on other days
- Prioritize teaching your congregants to discern God's will
- Explicitly invite members to differ

What questions do you have?

What about community discernment of God's will? What would that look like in a healthy way?

How long (in your experience) does a discerning season last for a church? I have seen two years.

I am UK based - do any of the organisations you mentioned before do work in the UK? If not, do you happen to know of any that do? Don't worry if not!

Are you familiar with any Eastern and/or Oriental Orthodox Christian faith leaders/clergy members who have successfully engaged their communities in these trainings, framework shifts, etc.?

If you're in ministry, do you think including pronouns next/under your name would be helpful or harmful, and why? I believe it's a statement that signals to LGBTQ+ folk that they're welcome and valued.

I work with youth. Church is a mixed bag on the topic. Youth are primarily affirming. Parents are not. How do we navigate this line?

Do you believe we should actively help others deconstruct when they are deep in conservative lies? If they are not willing, what should I do?

How would one begin this conversation in a church which does not hold a doctrinal position, but seldom addresses the topic and has some members who obviously are anti-queer and vocal about it.

You describe G/L identities as not primarily about sex/romance. For at least some G/L people, though, they seem to have those desires at their core. How would you describe the non-sexual/romantic core of these identities?

What questions do you have?

Do you think it is helpful/necessary for a church to take an organized stance regarding LGBT issues or are there situations where they can leave it as a gray area for church members?

How do you encourage leadership to move from avoidance [silence, not addressing LGBTQ concerns/explorations] to engagement?

How do you decide when to stay in a church (as an advocate/ally) trying to ease the church towards being welcoming and when to walk away because they aren't there yet?

As a closeted graysexual, how can I begin advocating for better treatment and inclusion of queer people in the Christian spaces I'm in?

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