



SEXUALITY & FAITH 101

Do Christians celebrate same sex marriage?

Great question and the first thing I'm going to address is that there are widely differing views among individual Christians and within Christian denominations. What you will find is those who celebrate it, those who are not sure what to believe and those who believe that marriage can only be expressed as the union of one man and one woman.

The traditional Christian viewpoint, which is what I adhere to, is that if two people of the same sex want to be united in marriage, this is not something that God will bless. Put simply, God cannot bless sin, he is a holy God and all our sin is an abomination to him.

So when a same sex couple ask a church if they can marry them, it is simply not something that the church can do in good faith, because it would mean going against what God teaches us is his way for marriage. In fact it would be asking God to change his laws to accommodate the couple. Rather our desire as Christians should certainly be to ask ourselves. "How do we need to change to fit in with God?" not the other way around.

And if a non-Christian couple seek a blessing from God, it is our role to speak truth and explain our beliefs. That doesn't mean we condemn them or reject them, simply that we point them to a holy God and allow them to make the choice themselves, either to follow God and his best for us, or to continue to follow the way of the world and have their union, either in a secular ceremony or in one of the churches who are offering a blessing.



Should a Christian attend a same sex wedding?

This is such a complex question and there is no right or wrong answer. The advice I give is that you need to pray and seek God on this. Would not attending mean you lose fellowship with the individual, if this is your child would it mean never seeing them again? We are in relationship, we need to recognise the importance of our relationship and do what allows us to continue to have a place in the life of our friends and family.

However, what that looks like in practice is important. I would suggest whatever your decision you take time to speak in person with them and explain your faith beliefs. If you do attend it's because you love them and want to honour them, not that you are seeking God's blessing on their union because you don't believe it is God's best for them. Likewise if you choose not to attend, explain why and maybe plan something individually to show them your love for them as individuals. A meal out together for example, where you can affirm them as family or friends.

Communication and truth given in love is the key, silence or a simple, "No I'm not attending" will likely cause rifts and break down relationships. If we have no relationship how can we hope to impact them with the love of Jesus?