



**REASON #4:
THE CHURCH
HATES GAY PEOPLE**

A Welcoming Community

There was something about Jesus that drew people. They felt safe around him. Even people who felt very unwelcome around organized religion—people like tax collectors and those regarded as “sinners”—felt welcomed by Jesus. They knew that he didn’t necessarily approve of everything in their lives, but there was no question that he loved them. He treated them with honor, dignity, and affection. So they continued gathering around him. When it comes to our LGBT+ friends and neighbors, are we more like Jesus, or more like Pharisees? As a church and individuals, are we more welcoming, or more muttering? Being “welcoming” doesn’t mean we compromise truth—Jesus never did—but he lived his life in a way that drew people, rather than repelling them.

Disney Lied to You

“Our culture and the church both place so much emphasis on romantic relationships that frankly the Bible does not. At times it’s easy to feel like I’m missing out on the peak of the human experience, because I’m missing out on romance—I’ve had people tell me as much. But scripture never says that. Hear me very clearly, the very peak of life is to know God and to enjoy fellowship with his family. It is not romance, it is not finding the right spouse, and having 2.5 kids and a little dog named Spot.”

- Art Periera

Called to Carry One Another

“The church is called and commanded by Jesus to be love, present in the lives of LGBTQ+ folks. In a church this size—if the statistics hold up—anywhere between 50-100 people in this community experience some sort of significant attraction to the same gender. Straight friends, those are your siblings in Christ. And as much as they cannot escape Christ’s command to holiness, you cannot escape Christ’s command to love them, to carry them. Are you ready to do it? In Galatians we’re called to shoulder one another’s burdens. And I’m going to be honest: a lot of times as a gay person I experience Christians picking up stones and putting them on my cross instead of getting down next to me and lifting it up.”

- Art Periera

Let's keep going back to Jesus as our model. All kinds of people-including those who felt unwelcome by organized religion-felt welcome by him.

Jesus led with grace.

He led with love.

And I keep thinking that's what we're supposed to do too.

Pastor Dave Gustavsen

Done with Church

TIME TO LEAN IN, LISTEN, & LEARN