

# SEX TALKS: *My Friend Just Said He's Gay...What do I do?*

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## WHEN THE BOMB GETS DROPPED

True Story: It felt like one of those moments when a bomb hits and you are just stunned. I was sitting on the couch at my best friend's apartment. His roommate Steve came in and we were talking about going out that night when my best friend asked if John was coming along. So I asked the stupid question, who is John? Steve looked at me and said, "That's my boyfriend. Dude, didn't you know I was gay?" I sat there with my mouth wide-open and feeling like an idiot. Growing up in a small country town, my interaction with an openly gay person was limited to: ZERO. It didn't happen or I just didn't know about it. I felt so uncomfortable and wasn't sure exactly what to do. My exposure to the gay community was defined simply by what I heard on television or what I heard at church. Since each had a different message I was confused about what to do.

### Opening Discussion

- Who are some of the different well-known "gay" or "lesbian" actors and actresses that you know?
- How do television, online blogs or news-mags, or movies portray men or women who are gay/lesbian/transgender?
- On a scale of one to ten how comfortable would you feel if a friend or family member came and told you they were gay?  
1        really uncomfortable  
5        not sure how you would feel  
10      ok with it—it's not that big of a deal

**TEACHING POINT:** When a friend or family member comes out of the closet people tend to be shocked, uncomfortable, or indifferent. As a Christian we are often torn between friendship and the truth of God's Word. So as we dig deeper on what to do we want to keep three truths in mind:

### **Truth #1: No matter if you are gay or straight, we are all sinners.**

Read Romans 3:22–24.

- Paul teaches us that every sin, no matter how big or little, has the same consequence: we fall short of God's glory. Do you think that's fair? Does it help to know that we are all in the same boat when it comes to sin?

### **Truth #2: No matter if you are gay or straight, Christ died for all and desires that all people know him as Lord and Savior.**

Read 1 Timothy 2:3–4.

- How does it change the way you look at your friend who is gay to know that this is someone Jesus died for?

### **Truth #3: No matter if you are gay or straight, God expects us to speak to each other with TRUTH and LOVE.**

Read Ephesians 4:15.

- How hard is it to tell someone the truth when you know its going to hurt?

## PICKING UP THE PIECES

Over the next year I spent many afternoons hanging out with my friends, of which Steve was one of them. Somehow I knew that ignoring Steve or not being his friend wasn't going change anything. Steve was still going to be gay and I was going to look like one of those intolerant Christians portrayed in most movies. But I was still confused. I didn't know how to approach the topic. I didn't know what to say. I wasn't even clear on what the Bible said. I knew that something wasn't right but I wasn't sure how to go about dealing with it.

- Have you ever had the feeling around someone that you know something is wrong but you are not sure how to talk about it?

**TEACHING POINT:** In order to share Christ with someone who is gay/lesbian it is important to know exactly what the Bible says about this topic. So what does the Bible say about homosexuality? Read the following Bible passages that deal with this topic. As you do, notice how homosexuality is often grouped with other sexual sins.

Read Romans 1:21 – 27.

- Paul says that sexual sin flows out of the sinful desires of our hearts. (v. 24)
- God’s truth is often exchanged for a lie. (v. 25)
- Lust, just like in heterosexual relationships, is what drives people to homosexuality. (v. 26)
- God has established natural relationships that have been exchanged for unnatural relations. (v. 27)

Read Galatians 5:19 – 21.

- Signs of the sinful nature are obvious because they are outward actions.
- Sexual immorality is a way of describing a sex act performed outside the context of marriage (premarital sex and homosexuality are included in this statement). (v. 19)
- To live like this is no way to enter God’s kingdom. (v. 21)

Read 1 Corinthians 6:13, 18-20.

- Your body is designed to honor God with a healthy sexuality, not to dishonor with sexual immorality. (v. 13)
- Any type of sexual sin including homosexuality is a sin against our body. (v. 18)
- Our body is a temple of the Lord which should honor God. (v. 20)
- We honor God with our bodies because they are a temple of the Holy Spirit (v. 19) which is given to us in our Baptism.
- We honor God with our bodies because Jesus paid for our bodies with the crucifixion of his own.
- To honor God with our bodies means to acknowledge the price that Jesus paid for us.
- To honor God with our bodies means to:
  - Recognize that we belong to Christ.
  - Refrain from sexual activities such that would harm our bodies.
  - Respect our bodies by taking caring of them.

## REALITY CHECK

As I began to understand from God’s word that homosexuality was just one sin among many sexual sins, I realized that I needed to address my own sexual sins. I remember how Jesus once told His disciples that “before you go to remove the speck out of your brother’s eye make sure you remove the log out of your own.” I knew that I would be nothing more than a hypocrite if I tried to speak to my friend Steve’s issues without dealing with my own.

- What sexual sins do you need to confess to your parents, youth group leader, pastor, and to God this day? Circle the words that identify your sexual sin:

Masturbation	Viewing Pornography	Lust
Pre-marital sex	Oral Sex	Petting
Homosexual Behavior	Other: _____	

*(Since this is a sensitive topic you may want to give your teens a piece of paper with the words on it. They can circle it and then you can either burn them, throw them away, or some other creative way to communicate the forgiveness of Christ. Then encourage your teens to talk to someone if they have a serious problem.)*

We confess our sins so that Jesus Christ may free us from the pain and burden of sin.

Read John 8:31 – 32.

- We have the promise that Christ will forgive us of all our sins.

Read I John 1:8-9.

- The key to freedom from any kind of sexual sin is found in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

## THE COURAGE TO SPEAK

I knew that God was calling me to speak to Steve. I knew He wanted me to speak His truth in love. I knew I had to walk with humility as I acknowledged my own sin. But I was so unsure of how. How do you talk to someone without offending them or hurting them? I remember talking about this with another friend and she said to me What Would Jesus Do? I told her I don’t know. And she said why don’t you look in the Gospels and see if Jesus ever had to talk to someone about this kind of problem. So I searched the Gospels and I didn’t come across any encounters that Jesus had with someone who is gay but I did find a story about a woman who was living with a guy and how Jesus responded to her. I thought maybe I could learn how to talk to my friend Steve the way Jesus talked to her.

Read John 4:4–18 and answer these questions:

- Why is talking to this woman such a big deal? How is it like talking to someone who is openly gay? (verse 7–9)
  - A man speaking to an unmarried women in Jesus' day was taboo.
  - Samaritans were considered second class citizens and therefore someone an upstanding Jew didn't hang out with.
- How does Jesus treat this woman? (verse 7)
  - He treats her with respect by politely asking for some water.
- What does He talk about with her? (verse 10 – 15)
  - The living water of God which is the Holy Spirit.
  - He talks about her spiritual needs first before He ever confronts her sin.
  - He establishes a relationship first.
  - He talks about what she really needs instead of what is wrong with her.
- How does He bring up the issue of her sexual sin? How does she respond? (verse 16 – 17)
  - He asks a question about her husband.
  - She responds by telling the truth “she has no husband.”
- How does Jesus speak “truth and love” in verse 17 – 18
  - He affirms what she says.
  - He never uses judgmental language.
  - He doesn't condemn her but let's her know in very simple terms “this isn't your husband and you know this isn't good.”
  - He gives her what she really needs.

### **THE REST OF THE STORY**

My friendship with Steve taught me a lot about what it means to have a friend who was openly gay. I realized that Steve really wanted the same things that I wanted: “to be loved and to give love.” The problem was to whom and how. We had chances to talk and sometimes we agreed and other times we didn't. I wish I could say that Steve's life changed, but we grew apart over time and I'm not sure where he is at in relationship with God or his sexuality. I often pray that God will use my time as Steve's friend to be a faithful witness to the truth and love of Jesus Christ.

May that become your prayer also...