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Are Christians Homophobic?

St Paul wrote to us in Ephesians Chapter 4:

² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

The word for love is agape in this letter which is "Caring for each other". It is the "caring" type of love and, like the rest of the New Testament, there is no sense of eroticism in the word at all.



The Passion translation shows this passage as:

² With tender humility and quiet patience, always demonstrate gentleness and generous love toward one another, especially toward those who may try your patience.

With the two translations alongside each other, you can see that the word here means caring in "generous-love" for others. In such generous-love the question of whether you agree, or not, simply does not arise and does not prevent you from caring about someone else.

Nor is it about saying things simply because others want to hear it. There is NO case whatsoever of Jesus Christ not telling someone else the truth. If you really love an anorexic person then you do not care from them truly by trying to make them happy just by telling them they are fat when they are not. So truly caring for another is not about lying to them just to please them.

In the Christian view we are all created equal and we care for others and welcome others including strangers and foreigners. Christians do, however, expect people to become better (to constantly change for the better).

Right at the very beginning of the Bible in Genesis chapter 1 at verse 27 we are told:

*So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God He created them;
male and female He created them.*

That fundamental concept, that we are all created in God's image, is then used throughout the Bible. If we are all created in God's image then we are all equal and all equally valuable.

I write this as “Strictly come dancing” is on the television. In that TV show all the celebrity dancers are amateurs. None of them are dancers at all – They are all people learning to dance. Therefore, none of them expect to be called “dancers” just because they do nothing but dance on that TV show. In reality they are sportsmen and sportswomen, actors, presenters and so on – but not one of them is a dancer. What this shows us is that none of us is actually defined by our ACTS, we are actually defined as a person instead. So there is a big and clear difference between the ACTS in our lives and who we are as a person.

In the Bible the acts are often against God’s wishes, but nowhere does the Bible condemn someone outright for simply being either lesbian or homosexual. Neither do Christians condemn anyone for being lesbian or gay. Instead Christians know that we all have something of the image of God in us and we are all equally important.

So, NO, Christians are NOT homophobic at all, they should not, and do not, condemn anyone for simply being homosexual.

The important realisation is that everything that is wrong occurs whether you are heterosexual or homosexual and heterosexuality / homosexuality has little or nothing to do with it.

- God is against having multiple partners. So is science. Almost every scientific study shows that multiple partners, and things like adultery, are not just immensely damaging to our one true partner, but also to our children, and they are damaging to those around us for life.
- God is against promiscuity, but once again science also tells us of the immense damage promiscuity does to others around us.
- God is also against domination. If the partnership is unequal and one partner dominates over the other it does NOT just affect the partnership but it affects the children for life as well. You can see it in a kind of bullying type of characteristics.

All of these wrong-doings are stated in the Bible as against heterosexual relationships just as much as homosexual relationships.

What is immature and childish is how secular society puts itself in the position that it is all OK on the one hand if you are homosexual but wrong if you are heterosexual. That is truly ridiculous and has not an ounce of equality in it.

To be a Christian means that we believe in Jesus Christ and so that is what the word “CHRISTian” means. So any Christian needs to see what Jesus Christ says.

Do Christians kill adulterers, or do Christians kill homosexual people – NO.

Adultery is a case in point that illustrates the whole issue. Secular society think that Christians believe that those who commit adultery should be stoned to death. Christians don’t believe that at all. The Bible doesn’t actually say it anyway because that involves taking an Old Testament verse completely out of context and turning it into a human law (which leaves God out of it). Our Lord Jesus Christ was vehemently and loudly against

that and criticised the Pharisees and Sadducees often for doing exactly that and failing to understand what Scripture said, and meant, holistically.

A woman was allegedly caught in adultery and Jesus came to where the crowd were holding their stones ready to stone her to death. We are told what Jesus said in John's gospel at chapter 8.

³ *The teachers of the law and the **Pharisees** brought in a woman caught in adultery. They [the Pharisees] made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, '**Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.** ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' ⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.*

*But **Jesus** bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, '**Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.**' ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.*

⁹ *At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?'*

¹¹ *'No one, sir,' she said.*

'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'

Let us put that in perspective. This is Jesus standing in front of a crowd of armed people when it is the Pharisees that have brought her to be stoned (i.e. executed).

Imagine that the whole crowd were armed with guns instead of stones and Jesus has to persuade them all not to shoot when the elite of society have already decide it is right for her to simply be killed – It is not just persuading them not to shoot her, it is equally a case of persuading them not to shoot him as well for going against respected people. So when he says **Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to shoot her / throw a stone at her - that** is an incredibly gutsy thing to say and yet, as a result, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left.

So Jesus Christ does NOT stone her to death or anything like it.

Jesus does NOT say that what she did was right, but importantly he does NOT condemn her either! So we come back to exactly what St Paul tells us in the New Testament:

² *With tender humility and quiet patience, always demonstrate gentleness and **generous love toward one another, especially toward those who may try your patience.***

That same chapter in the letter to the Ephesians goes on to say:

¹⁴ *Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead,*

speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

We are living in a time where we are all indeed “*tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people*”. Where the secular world has indeed shown the “*futility of their thinking*” by ignoring any scientific studies they simply don’t like, and they have “*darkened*” “*their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts*”. It is there for all to see. Yet we are commanded in this situation to speak “*truth in love*” to everyone.

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Jesus Christ tells all Christians in the Gospels to NOT judge others.

In the Gospel according to St Luke chapter 6 it says at verse 37:

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

So Christians are commanded by Jesus Christ himself not to judge others. We are told clearly by our Lord Jesus Christ not to judge others.

We are not perfect people and do not always get everything right. That is what makes Christianity so accessible to everyone because it offers forgiveness for getting things wrong. In fact it offers anyone forgiveness no matter who they are.

So, no Christians are required to NOT be homophobic.

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