

Handling LGBTQ+ Issues With Grace

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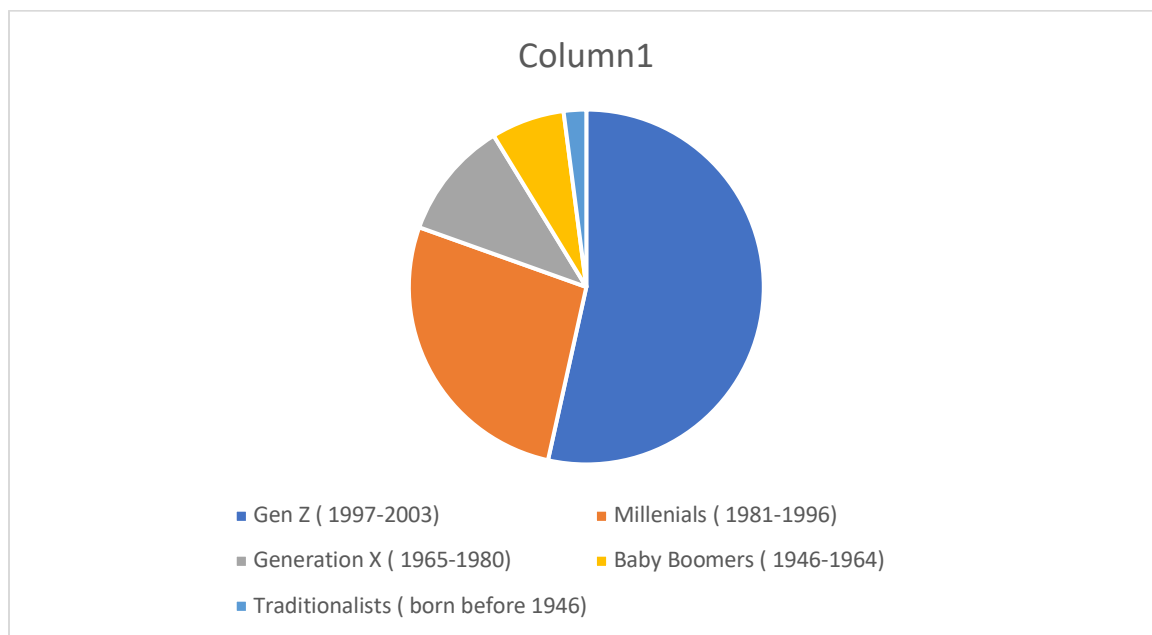
What is LGBTQ?

LGBTQ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer or questioning.

Cis gender is a word that refers to a person whose biological sex is consistent with how they identify.

More recently LGBTQ has expanded to include LGBTQIA ...the "I" referring to intersex (that is a person that is born with differences in their reproductive anatomy) and "A" referring to asexual (those who experience a low level or no sexual desire).

7.1% - The percentage of U.S. adults who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or something other than heterosexual in 2021. This is double the percentage from 2012, when Gallup first measured it.



Terms

In the culture that we live in there is much explanation going on to define ideas and terms. Here are some terms that are important to take note of.

Gender identity refers to a person's "**psychological sense of gender.**" What their psychological perception of their gender is. Or... how you perceive yourself to be.

Gender expression refers to the way in which one presents to the world in a gendered way. Their expression of how they see themselves.

Sexual orientation refers to the types of people you are attracted to sexually.

Nonbinary refers to someone who does not identify as exclusively male or female. They may identify as both, neither or some combination of the two.

As you can already tell, the disconnect becomes that we would reason a person identifies with their birth gender. Not so currently ...this is not a given.

Stats

- A June 7th, 2022, Pew Research Poll indicates that about 5% of young adults in the U.S. say their gender is different from their sex assigned at birth.
- 20% of those polled say that they know someone who is nonbinary.
- Adults under 30 are more likely than older adults to be trans or nonbinary. Some 5.1% of adults younger than 30 are trans or nonbinary, including 2.0% who are a trans man or trans woman.

How Self-Focus Works Itself Out

It will work itself out as **fully embracing the LGBTQ lifestyle** (hangouts, friends, TV entertainment, supporting those in the community, likes and dislikes ...entertainers, personalities etc.) We've seen this – where your energy goes your body follows.

This focus on self can come in the way of **ultimatums**.... “If you don't accept everything I do, then I will disown you, cut you off, ignore you.” (These are not easy things to hear.)

“Why would God make me this way if He didn't want me to pursue being happy? God is love, and He wants me to be happy! My goal is to be happy.” (But God wants us to be holy.)

“Love is love, and what matters is that we're in a committed love relationship.”

“I am free to be however I want to be!” (A person's identity is determined by sexual and emotional attraction.)

“I can be married or have sex with whoever I want.”

“God honors love above all else. All we need is 2 consenting adults, no matter the sex, to love one another.”

“It doesn't matter how we are made...either male or female. What matters is who I'm attracted to. I am not bound by the gender of the other sex.”

“Marriage has nothing to do with sex ...I am free to choose whatever I want to do.”

“I was born this way...embrace it.”

“God does not consider same-sex romantic love as sinful.”

“Whatever makes me happy is okay to do.”

Where Do We Start?

- We must ask ourselves: What are our feelings and attitudes towards those in the LGBTQ+ Community? Have you dealt with your past, preconceived notions and ideas that need to be brought under the control of God's Word (Matthew 7)?
- **God loves all people**...and regarding the lost...God has a heart for the lost and we're called to imitate Him.
- **God loves sinners!** Romans 5:8 "God demonstrates His love in this ...he died for us while we were yet sinners."
- **God is extraordinarily patient, and we need to be the same.** 2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness but is patient towards you not wishing that any should perish but that all should reach repentance".
- **We should be what 1 Peter 3:8 says ...** "Finally, all of you, be like minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." Humility comes out in our genuine care for others.
- **Ps 103:8 "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.**
- **James 1:19 Feelings...** We must be willing to hear things regarding feelings and how these things are processed, and this takes a listening ear and a caring person. It takes genuine compassion.
- **1 Corinthians 6:8-11** Writing the believers at Corinth, Paul first reminds them that wrong does (sinners) will not inherit the kingdom of God. And second, Paul reminds them what they were like and how they acted before they came to faith in Christ – You, yourselves, **WERE...** sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, practicing homosexuality, thieves, greedy, drunkards, verbally abusive, swindlers.

Notes: