

# IT'S COMPLICATED Week 5

## Life Group Notes



### CONNECT QUESTIONS

What do you love most about Summer?

What is the worst meal you have ever eaten?

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This week's message "Navigating sexuality in the church" from Ps Mike Griffiths (Elim Auckland City) is online and is a message that you may wish to pass on to others: [www.wn.elim.org.nz](http://www.wn.elim.org.nz). Ps Mike started out sharing an online blog written by a young homosexual Christian man, who was struggling with his loneliness and his faith – and he finished with a question: Will the church be a place of nurture, shelter and understanding for those who struggle with their sexuality? What do you think? Why should people who struggle with sin expect a place in the community called church? What would this look like? How would you personally contribute to this?

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To navigate sexuality in the church, we must deal with people, not sexualities. That means we must engage with people through the lens of the gospel. We need to see people as:

1. made in the image of God, who through faith become people in relationship with God
2. In relationship with God, who through obedience become people being conformed to the image of Jesus
3. Being conformed to the image of Jesus, who through faithfulness become people serving others
4. Serving others as examples to follow

Using the lens of the Gospel, how do you think Jesus views sexual sin? How should we view sexual sin? How should we behave towards those engaging in sexual sin? How do you think Jesus engaged with them? How should we engage?

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Consider the story of the Prodigal son – check out **Luke 15:11-32**. Why did the father not reject his son for his ritual uncleanness and his wrong decisions? Do you think the Father would have reacted differently had his son come home saying he was homosexual? What would've happened in terms of the father's love, and the son's responsibilities, if the prodigal son messed up again a few months later?

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Think about the woman at the well – check out **John 4:1-42**. This woman was caught out in adultery – do you think Jesus would have behaved any differently had she been in lesbian relationships? Why? Why not? Who do you think Jesus was expecting to work with the woman caught in adultery to deal with her issues moving forward?

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Five perspectives that Jesus held, that we must also hold:

1. We are all sinners (**John 8:7-11**)
2. To bring sinners to faith requires relationship (**Mark 2:16-17**)
3. Love is our perspective, motivation and priority (**1 Corinthians 13:1-2**)
4. Every Christian is on a journey (**Luke 22:32**)
5. When the time comes to call what is sin, sin, it will produce repentance or opposition (**John 7:7**)

We need to have the preferences and values of Jesus – not our own. Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners, and was willing to be seen with them in public. How does the example of Jesus challenge you in your relationships and attitudes towards LGBTTTQIAAP (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, ally, pansexual) people?

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Are there any areas in your own life where you struggle with sexual sin? This is a serious question that can be uncomfortable to answer, but in allowing others to share in your struggles, you will discover support and encouragement, not shame or condemnation. Prayerfully share together and consider how you could support one another in the area of sexual purity, regardless of your preferences.

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What do you think Jesus would say to a LGBTTTQIAAP person today?

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**PRAYER**

Pray for opportunities to share the love of Jesus with ALL people that we encounter.  
Pray for the church – that we would be known for our love!