



# First United Methodist Church

## Points to Ponder

# Isolation

Full acceptance and embrace of anyone created by God is essential to following God's key commandment to love one another. God does not distinguish who to love and who to shun. Since there is no distinction, we need to love all our brothers and sisters ...man, woman, transgender, gay, heterosexual, black, white, sinner, saint, rich, poor. God does not call us to embrace only a homogeneous group of people with whom we are most comfortable.

If God called us to be judge, why choose to isolate the LGBTQ community? Why not isolate and exclude us who have coveted or those of us who have not honored our parents? How about those of us who work on Sunday or who spread lies about others? If we choose to be judge, do we envision a church where we stand alone in the pew?

I believe God wants us to live holy lives. Holiness is incompatible with bitterness and persecution. God wants us to live in a spirit of communion with all living things. He does not want us to plunder our resources or to carry condemnation like a scepter. He is King of kings and Lord of lords...forever and ever. Hallelujah!

*- Kerry Mentzer*