



First United Methodist Church

Points to Ponder

Who is entitled to grace?

The ongoing discussions and disagreements about the full inclusion of LGBTQ people in the life of the church hinges on the question of whether or not practicing homosexual union is sin. It's just that simple. My personal answer to that question is -I doubt it enough to give LGBTQ people the benefit of my doubt and let God be the judge. I am totally confident in God's grace and mercy that He will forgive me if I get this wrong and will understand that my motive is to bring LGBTQ people closer to Him.

If you have a personal conviction that practicing homosexual union in a life-long, monogamous, loving, non-coercive manner is sin and you come by this belief by your understanding of Bible-based teaching, I urge you to read one or more of the following:

- Jim Dant's *This I Know: A Simple Biblical Defense of LGBTQ Christians*
- Matthew Vines' *God and the Gay Christian - The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships*
- Adam Hamilton's *When Christians Get it Wrong*

Start from an acknowledgement that the Church, from its earliest days, questioned long held beliefs and traditions in the context of Christ's Good News. Recognize that, from its earliest days, the Church has changed its attitudes and beliefs in the light of new understandings and the work of the Holy Spirit. Consider that now is the time for all who believe in Christ to share His grace with the LGBTQ community as equals in sin **and** forgiveness.

- Doug Sell, Sr.