

Session 12 - Inside the Church

If someone walks into our church lobby on a Sunday morning, and they appear to be someone who is gay or transgender... How should we as the church respond?

Don't jump to conclusions.

Are they a Christian?

If they aren't a Christian, share the gospel with them.

If they are a Christian, then address the sin in their life.

Deal with your sin first.

Matthew 7:1-5

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. **2** For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. **3** “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? **4** How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Build a **relationship**.

Follow the process that Jesus lines out.

Matthew 18:15-17

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. **16** But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ **17** If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Expel the unrepentant sinner.

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— **10** not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or

idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. **11** But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. **12** What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? **13** God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”

Be consistent with all areas of sin.

Be kind and respectful.

Invite them into your community.

Mark 10:28-30

Then Peter began to speak up. “We’ve given up everything to follow you,” he said. **29** “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, **30** will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life.

If someone attends your church, did they receive more community than they left behind?