

unchristian

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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WEEK 2

JUDGMENTAL AND ANTI-HOMOSEXUAL

These questions are to be used in small groups or Bible studies as a follow-up to the sermon message each week. They will be most effective when discussion groups are also reading the book unChristian along with the series. This week's topic pertains to chapters 5 and 8 in unChristian.

1. When you hear the word “homosexual” what are your first reactions? Discuss your opinions and try to assess the reasons behind them.
2. Discuss the following quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer as it applies to the homosexual discussion: “Nothing that we despise in the other [person] is entirely absent from ourselves. We must learn to regard people less in light of what they do or don’t do, and more in light of what they suffer.”
3. If judgmentalism means you marginalize someone, describe a time when you have been judgmental towards someone else (whether regarding homosexuality or some other behavior you considered sinful). Compare that to a time when you were judged by another Christian who seemed wrongly motivated to find fault.
4. What is your reaction to 1 Corinthians 5, especially verse 12? Paul informs the Christian community that they have no responsibility to judge outsiders, but he says, “It certainly is your job to judge those inside the church who are sinning.”
5. How can Christian communities learn the proper balance between what it means to be gracious and effective with “outsiders,” while being very clear on not accepting sin among churchgoers? Keep in mind that its complex because many people who visit churches are actually “outsiders.” How should church discipline function when the community is invited in every Sunday?
6. Have you ever heard the statement, “Hate the sin but love the sinner”? Have you ever used that phrase? Is that really possible? How does this approach help or hurt your ability to unconditionally accept outsiders?
7. Review the advice outsiders gave to Christians about establishing a mutually respectable, non-judgmental relationship (unChristian, pp. 194-195). How possible is this for you to achieve in your friendships with outsiders? What are the parts of the advice that will be hardest for you to accept?