

The Intersection of Same-Sex Attraction and Christian Faith

Over the past several months, our Elevation community has been on a journey exploring the intersection of same-sex attraction and Christian faith. What follows is a brief summary of where we've been so far, with links to the most relevant sermons and updates shared along the way. Out of respect for the complexity of the issues involved, we have decided against issuing a concise statement that would remove the burden of wrestling deeply with this theme. Instead, those who desire to understand our posture are invited to engage with these resources and direct any questions or comments to a member of our Staff or Steering Committee.

As part of our January series, we explored some of the practices that early believers used to navigate some very complicated waters, recorded in Acts 15 and commonly known as the Jerusalem Council. We found the church leadership engaging in dialogue with one another, considering God's activity, deferring to higher principles, observing fruit, and aligning themselves with Scripture. Here is a link to the sermon from that morning:

[It Seemed Good](#)

We started off the month of February by looking at how an excess of sexuality in our culture has warped the way we think about this gift of God. The following week, we launched into a longer conversation around same-sex attraction. After acknowledging the diversity of opinions our church has on this theme, we identified the "big question" that was in front of us: How can we as a church be more comfortable doing life with people whose views on this issue differ from our own, while still holding in unity the values and beliefs we believe are essential? A key element of the second sermon in this two-part series was the story that a member of our Elevation community shared about his experience with same-sex attraction. Here are links to the sermons from those two weeks:

[Sex – Part One](#)

[Sex – Part Three](#)

Part Two was left out to highlight the need to talk about this outside of Sunday mornings, which we did during the month of March. We created midweek opportunities for our Elevation community to engage in a process of listening to and learning from others about the diverse ways we tend to think about this complex and often controversial theme. The goal was to raise our collective understanding of the various views that people in our church and in the broader Christian community have about the intersection of same-sex attraction and Christian faith. We watched video clips and read articles that presented both traditional and affirming perspectives, all the while listening to one another's stories. It was our hope that this learning process would help us have healthier conversations about this and related topics and grow in our appreciation of those who see things differently than we do. The resources used as part of these conversations are available upon request. An outline of the sessions can be found below:

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[Listen and Learn - Session One Summary](#)

[Listen and Learn - Session Two Summary](#)

Following this stretch of intentional dialogue, our church's leadership created a survey as an opportunity for participants to reflect on the *Listen and Learn* sessions and to provide feedback. We also extended an opportunity to the rest of the congregation to express their thoughts and feelings during this important season of our community's life together. At the end of a Sunday morning gathering in late April, our Steering Committee provided an update to the congregation which included a sampling of the kind of feedback we received from these surveys, which you can read here:

[April Steering Committee Update](#)

Finally, on June 24, our pastor shared about his own engagement with this issue over the past seven months and related the vision that our Steering Committee has for the next leg of our journey, charting a course forward that will call all of us to view this issue and one another from a place of humility in the spirit of Christian unity. Here is a link to the sermon from that morning:

[Stretch Out Your Hand](#)

We hope you can see that no concise statement would be able to capture the depths of our many conversations around this theme, but we offer this summary of our journey as a way to let others in on where we have been and to share the hopes we have for Elevation's bright future.

Grace and Peace.