



Is Gay OK? What Every Christian Needs to Know

Part 1: Our Magic Glasses

Scene opens with a couple sitting in chairs, holding hands, looking at a beautiful sunset. There is a small table with two glasses of wine. We see them from behind and as they talk the camera moves a little so that we can see them almost in profile. We note that they both wear glasses.

She: “This is so perfect!”

He: “It is....and not the least because I am sharing it with the most beautiful girl in the world.”

She: “And the most handsome man.”

He takes her hand and kisses it.

She: “Have you ever seen a more beautiful sky?”

He lets go of her hand to take a sip from his glass: “What did the poet say? The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil. It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil.”

She, also sipping from her wine: “Hopkins got it exactly right. (Toasts the sky) All those reds swirling together. The sky might as well be on fire.”

He: “Reds? Darling, oil tends toward blue...and so does this sky.”

She laughs: “Blue? Jim, that’s the reddest sky I have ever seen.”

Camera starts to slowly move around to the front.

He: “Julie, I know you’re the artist and I normally defer to you in these matters, but the shining that is shaking off of this foil is as blue as your eyes.”

She: “Are we looking at the same thing? (Again lifts her glass to toast or point to the sky) That’s red.”

He toasts the sky, “No, that’s blue.”

She: “Red.”

He: “Blue.”

As they are having this back and forth the camera is in front and zooms in to a tight shot on their faces. We see that they are wearing blue and red colored glasses.

Fade to black.

Fade up to Larry sitting in a similar chair; same scene.

Larry: “Anyone who has been an eyewitness to an accident, studied philosophy or been married for more than a year knows reality – what we might call true truth – can be a difficult thing to nail down. Everything we see or in some other way experience, every issue we consider is colored by our presuppositions (holds up a pair of glasses), the magic, metaphysical glasses we have on. This inevitably leads to divergent opinions – which is not a big deal and can even be fun when dealing with less consequential matters like sunsets, shapes in a cloud or whether a particular work of art is a masterpiece...or a mess.

(Cut to a litany of issues scrolling on a screen.) But when it comes to important issues, those that profoundly impact our lives, these divergent opinions can escalate into heated debate, schisms, violence and eventually even war. And that is never more true than when it comes to the great trinity, the three topics that polite society once frowned at discussing:

POLITICS,

SEX and

RELIGION.

(Back to Larry) Well hang onto your hat because in this video we about to jump head-first into all three of them.

(Cut to scenes of marches, Prop 8, people screaming, etc.) Without question one of the most visible, contentious, politically, sexually and religiously charged issues of our time has to do with all things gay. Hardly a day goes by where there isn't some major story breaking somewhere concerning gay rights, gay marriage, gay adoption, health issues, gays in the military, the related issue of bisexuality and transgenderism, whether being gay is as normal and morally acceptable as heterosexuality, whether it should be taught as such to children, the portrayal of the gay lifestyle in popular media, homophobia, hate crimes and hate speech, or whether one can be gay and a Christian... and even a leader in the Church – on and on it goes, spinning off all manner of advocacy groups, college courses, protests, criminal charges, multimillion dollar political campaigns, court cases – some going all the way to the Supreme Court – and church splits. Few issues in our time are as controversial and divisive as homosexuality.

(Larry, holding glasses again.) And the reason? Well, as in every other controversy known to man, we have groups of people – many who are sincere and well-meaning – wearing all manner of different magic glasses. And while there are many nuances and sub-texts within the greater controversy surrounding homosexuality, it is fair to say that in a broad sense it boils down to two basic sides: those who support the gay lifestyle – or certain aspects of it – and those who believe it is fundamentally immoral and therefore should not be supported (holds up the red and blue glasses)...the red and blue glasses.

Eric: I think almost everyone would agree that it's the truth we want, the right set of glasses. The truth is what makes us free. But as Pilate famously asked Jesus, "What is truth?" When analyzing any issue – and the varying perspectives on it – it's vital to first consider one's source for truth, what philosophers call one's epistemology.

Doug Powell: At the core, particularly in the West, there are two primary epistemologies. The one that has become the most common was made famous by Descartes: *cogito ergo sum* – I think therefore I am. With this system, you *begin* with man, his mind and then reason out from there. The problem with this from a Christian perspective is the Fall, original sin, which has impacted the mind as well as the heart. To use an analogy, if there's a flaw in the operating system, how can you be sure that the answers your computer are "rationally" generating are accurate; are true? The other fundamental system, the Christian one, says that you *begin* with God, the infinite, infallible, unfallen One, the classical observer who exists outside our quantum universe, and His mind as revealed in Christ and the scriptures and then reason out from there. This was perhaps most famously formulated by Augustine, Anselm and others with *credo et intelligam* "I believe in order to understand."

Larry: As the sub-title for this program makes clear, our perspective in this video is first and foremost a Christian one. So we will begin our analysis in the next two sections by looking at what the Bible says about homosexuality. But that doesn't in any way mean we're going to ignore the evidential perspectives. Later sections will examine both the scientific, medical and sociological aspects of this issue from what we trust will be a calm, rational, well-reasoned perspective. Our goal will be the truth – true truth – and we intend to follow it wherever it takes us.

Larry: I can almost guarantee that whatever side of this issue you're on – and whether you're a true follower of Jesus or not – some surprises are in store. Christians, in particular, are going to find that this is an issue where we have far too often fallen short of God's best. As for those who're of a more secular, man-centered frame of mind, I hope you will consider what follows as not *just* for Christians. If there is a God and Jesus is the Son, God incarnate, come to earth, then you're just as responsible to – and can be just as blessed by – the only Truth that can set men free.

We opened with a parable. And now we'll close this section with another parable, another spin on the same theme.

(Cover with b-roll) Because one thing we knew coming into this project is that we'll be dealing with people who are convinced that they're right – who desperately want to be right – who have dedicated a large part of their lives to being right – on this issue. And unless we're all willing to humble ourselves, to be open to the truth even if it surprises us and takes us in directions we would have never thought possible or even desirable, we will never be free.

Larry: For you see, God gives grace to the humble but He resists the proud.

(Fade to black and the up to parable.)

THE MIND JUSTIFIES WHAT THE HEART HAS CHOSEN

Scene opens in a psychiatrist's office. Doctor is sitting at his desk, and a forty-something couple, looking worried, are seated in two chairs across from him. The camera moves around the room – wide, tighter, tight, wide again – as we see the people talking, gesturing. As the camera goes from wide to medium tight, we hear the doctor respond:

Dr. Jameson: “Now let me get this right – your son thinks he's dead?”

Mr. Loman: “That's right dead. As dead as a doornail.”

Dr. Jameson: “And you and (waves hand as if to encompass the world) everything else are merely figments, emanations of his mind?”

Mr. Loman: “Precisely! William refers to it as a *simulacrum*.”

Dr. Jameson: “And how exactly does his mind process this, this *simulacrum* if he's dead?”

Mr. Loman: “It's complicated – but best as we've been able to follow his ramblings, he believes that after he died – this would be almost 6 months ago now – all the information that was in his mind – he says *was* his mind – was uploaded to some cosmic quantum supercomputer that lies at the center of the universe...”

Mrs. Loman interrupts, “One day he refers to it as the *Omega Point*, the next *The Singularity* – recently he's been calling it *YAWEH*.”

Mr. Loman: “...that's right and all this (lifts up his hand) is a projection of the interface created as *his* mind in being subsumed into the greater mind of well...”

Dr. Jameson: “God?”

Mr. and Mrs. Loman (looking sheepish, confused and embarrassed, nod) Mr. Loman, “That's what he believes.”

Dr. Jameson takes off his glasses and begins wiping them, and turns to look out the window. Turns back, puts on his glasses and looks at the Lomans with a smile. “Well, Mr. and Mrs. Loman, I thought I’d seen it all over the last thirty years but this is a new one. I must confess that I’m intrigued. Let’s schedule an appointment for Thursday afternoon next week and I’ll make an evaluation as to whether I think I can do anything to help your son.”

Mr. and Mrs. Loman let out a gasp of hope and relief, looking at each other and taking hands. Mrs. Loman, “Oh, Dr. Jameson, thank-you so much. You have no idea how much we appreciate your taking the time to help William. God bless you, sir.”

Mr Loman has gotten up and has reached out to take Dr. Jameson’s hand, “Yes, God bless you, sir.” Fade to black.

Scene 2

Camera fades up to the same office. We see William talking to Dr. Jameson who is listening intently to him. The camera dissolves from one shot to another, close-ups on the two men, wider shots from different angles in the room. We get the sense that they have been at it for a half-hour or so. Close up on Dr. Jameson.

Dr. Jameson, “Let me ask you another question, William. Think hard before you respond. Do dead men bleed?”

William looks a bit befuddled by the question but then begins to ponder. “Do people who are dead bleed? I’ve frankly never thought about it but...well...the mind can play all manners of tricks you understand...but on the face of it: a dead man has no heart beat, no blood pressure... so no...dead men don’t bleed.”

As William delivers these last lines we see a close-up on the doctor, then his hands as they surreptitiously open up the drawer under his desk and remove a finger prick instrument. Immediately after the last line, he reaches across the table, grabs the startled William’s arm, takes his hand, administers the prick, and then walking around the table takes the hand, squeezes the finger and shoves it into William’s face.

Dr. Jameson, “And then explain this William!”

William looks at the drop of blood oozing out of his finger with a look that moves from interest to startled amazement.

William: “Good God, I was wrong!”

Dr. Jameson: “Good, William, good! And just *how* we’re you wrong? Tell, me, William.”

William looks up at Dr. Jameson with a look of enlightenment. “Why, dead men *do* bleed!”

Fade to black, then words appear on the screen:

COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE JUST AS WRONG, JUST
AS CONFUSED ABOUT THE ISSUE OF
HOMOSEXUALITY?

Fade to black.