# What do Christians think of the gays... and why they're wrong



One of the most pervasive myths is that being LGBTQ+ is sinful. However, the Bible does not explicitly address the modern understandings of sexual orientation or gender identity. Key biblical texts often cited to condemn LGBTQ+ identities were written in historical contexts vastly different from today and, as scholars like Dr. James Brownson and Kathy Baldock have argued, primarily address issues such as power imbalances, idolatry, and abuse rather than affirming consensual, loving same-sex or gender-diverse relationships. This nuanced scholarship challenges a simplistic reading of 'clobber verses' and urges faith communities to reconsider entrenched interpretations.

Another distortion arises in the belief that trans people are somehow rejecting God's design. This notion tends to rely on a rigid binary interpretation of Genesis, which does not account for the complex gender diversity acknowledged even in ancient times, such as the recognition of eunuchs in the teachings of Jesus. For many transgender individuals, embracing their gender identity is a profound act of reconciling their body and soul and can lead to a renewed or deepened faith rather than rebellion against it. This counters narratives that frame gender variance as inherently oppositional to spirituality.

The harmful myth that LGBTQ+ people can or should be ‘fixed’ through prayer or conversion therapy has been repeatedly discredited by extensive research. Medical and psychological authorities, including the American Psychological Association and the World Health Organization, condemn these practices as not only ineffective but actively harmful, contributing to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide among LGBTQ+ populations. Such treatments are considered both unethical and unbiblical by many Christian mental health professionals who advocate for support and acceptance instead.

Furthermore, the fear that LGBTQ+ rights threaten traditional families is more a reflection of anxiety than reality. Inclusion does not erode the institution of marriage; rather, it expands the understanding of marriage as a covenant based on love, trust, and commitment that transcends gender binaries. Indeed, shame, secrecy, and exclusion pose greater threats to the health of families. This defensive stance often parallels anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric worldwide, under the guise of protecting women and children, particularly in countries with restrictive or hostile policies towards LGBTQ+ rights.

Perhaps most damaging is the myth that one cannot be both LGBTQ+ and Christian. In reality, millions of LGBTQIA+ Christians live out their faith authentically, participating fully in worship, service, and leadership across diverse denominations globally. To deny this is to impose unnecessary limits on the scope of divine grace and the work of the Holy Spirit. LGBTQIA+ Christians affirm that love and faith co-exist deeply within their identities, underscoring that God’s love transcends human labels.

Beyond these theology-focused myths, additional misconceptions circulate widely, such as the false ideas that LGBTQ+ identities result from abuse, that sexual orientation is a choice, or that LGBTQ+ people pose dangers to children. These unfounded claims have been systematically debunked by organizations advocating for social justice and equality. They highlight the importance of fostering acceptance and understanding, not fear and division, within faith communities and society at large.

Adding to this, it is important to recognise the religious diversity within the LGBTQ+ community itself. Many LGBTQ+ individuals maintain strong religious beliefs, and some Christian denominations openly ordain LGBTQ+ clergy and affirm their members. This counters assumptions that LGBTQ+ identities and religious commitment are mutually exclusive, revealing a richer, more complex tapestry of lived experience.

Ultimately, dismantling these damaging myths calls for a shift from judgment towards compassion. Instead of asking if someone is sinning, the focus should be on loving them well, reflecting the core message of many faith traditions. Challenging misinformation with scholarship, empathy, and inclusive dialogue can transform communities, fostering spaces where truth and love lead the conversation.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://chirhodating.com/debunking-lgbtqia-myths-in-christian-communities/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.unchangedmovement.com/myths> - This article from the Unchanged Movement addresses common myths about LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly within Christian communities. It debunks misconceptions such as the belief that LGBTQ+ identities result from abuse, that being gay is a choice, and that LGBTQ+ people are more likely to sexually abuse children. The piece emphasizes that these myths are unfounded and harmful, advocating for acceptance and understanding within faith communities.