



LGBTQ 3: What Would Jesus Do?

*"God does not expect us to imitate Christ;
He expects us to allow the life of Jesus to
be manifested in our mortal flesh."*

—Oswald Chambers

Teaser

Jesus opened Pandora's Box the night he ate dinner with hoodlums and hookers. He might as well have hung out with mob boss Tony Soprano, his New Jersey crew, and some street prostitutes at the *Bada Bing Club*.

So, here's a loaded question: if Jesus would do that, would he also hang out with folks at a Gay Nightclub? Or accept an invitation to a Gay Wedding? Or go to a baby shower for a gay couple who just adopted a child? Or welcome a trans, gay, or bisexual relative, and their LGBTQ friends, to the family's Christmas dinner?

As the Rainbow Tsunami rolls over us, Christians will be faced with lots of tough decisions regarding LGBTQ friends and family. I'll be back in a minute to talk about what Jesus would do if he were in our shoes; or, what we should do when standing in his sandals.

INTRODUCTION

It was heartbreaking enough that Joe and Mary's favorite granddaughter, Emma, "came out" a couple of years ago. They couldn't believe that the little girl they used to take to Sunday school,

the teen who gave her heart to Jesus at a Young Life Camp, was now declaring herself to be a lesbian.

It took all the grace they possessed to treat her gay girlfriend, Ava, like family at last year's Christmas gathering. Watching his little Emma cuddle up romantically with Ava on the couch made Joe want to weep.

Every day, Joe and Mary prayed that Emma would come to her senses and leave Ava. Those hopes were dashed two weeks ago when Mary went to the mailbox. Tucked inside was a wedding invitation. Emma and Ava were getting married on September 7th. Along with the formal invitation was a note from Emma,

“Dear Gramps and Grammy, I can hardly wait for you, the two people I love most in this world, to share this special day with Ava and me.”

Joe and Mary hardly slept for the next several days. What should they do? On the one hand, they deeply loved Emma. If they stayed away from the ceremony, it would break their granddaughter's heart and do irreparable harm to a treasured relationship. Not only that, if Joe and Mary opted out, they would cause a rift in the family. Besides that, they could destroy any future influence they might have in leading Emma (and even Ava) to embrace Jesus fully.

On the other hand, Joe and Mary couldn't affirm or celebrate their granddaughter's unbiblical choices. If they went to that gay wedding, their very presence would condone what Jesus declared to be wrong. To smile through a sham wedding, as if nothing was wrong, would be disingenuous at best and hypocrisy at worst.

So, what should Joe and Mary do? How would you advise them? More specifically, what would you do if Emma was your granddaughter? Or, the most important question of all for fully devoted Jesus followers:

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

1. Jesus' Beliefs, Words, and Actions Aligned Perfectly.

- **Integrity** [Job 27:5] Hebrew meaning: “A single, seamless piece of cloth, without rip or tear.” A seamless life in which beliefs, words, and actions are in synch.
- Jesus' words and actions mirrored his beliefs, and his beliefs were always in synch with God's Word.
- Jesus calls his followers to live with his integrity. [John 17:18]

- Our life is to conform to God's "good, pleasing, and perfect will." [Romans 12:2]

2. The Woman Caught in Adultery. [John 8:1-11]

1) **Jesus Never Compromises Biblical Truth,** [Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6]

- **Sin, despite our redefinitions, is still sin.** [John 8:7 & 11]

Westminster Confession of Faith, Shorter Catechism:
What is sin? "Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of the law of God."

- **Jesus puts all sin in the same bucket.** [John 8:7]
The many violations of Genesis 2:24 and the Sixth Commandment, that were practiced by the stone throwers were just as egregious as the woman's adultery. And so are the many heterosexual violations of Genesis 2:24 often tolerated by the Church just as egregious as those committed by the LGBTQ community.
- **Let's clean up the houses of the Lord first.** [Rom. 1:18, I Cor. 5:12 & 13; I Pet. 4:17]
- **Jesus recognized the sins of those in the world, but he knew that he needed to cleanse the temple if it was going to be salt for a decaying world, and light in the spreading darkness.**

2) **Jesus understood we live in a Post-Genesis 3 world, which gave him compassion for those trapped in sin.**

[Matt. 19:13; John 8:11; Matthew 9:37; Luke 6:36; Psalm 145:8; Eph. 4:32]

3. Eating with Tax Collectors and Prostitutes. [Luke 15:1ff]

1) **Motives Matter.** [Luke 15:2]

- **Is it to keep peace in the family, or the goodwill of the person who invited you?** [Matt. 10:36]
- **Are you afraid your refusal will negate any chance to lead them to Christ later?** [Matt. 6:33]

- **Will you make your decision based on what other Christians say or think?** [Rom. 14:12]
- **The purest motive is to do that which honors God and brings others to Christ.** [Luke 15:3ff]
Martin Luther, on praying for God's direction in difficult decisions: "We pray not so much to get God's answers as to get his heart. When we have his heart, we will do what he would do."

Luther "Love God, and do what you will."

2) **The Situation Matters.** [Luke 15]

3) **Your Attitude Matters.** [Luke 15]

A happy face will imply condoning.

A sad face will imply condemnation.

Ultimately, you put yourself in a no-win situation.

4) **Your Doubts Matter.** [Luke 19:10; Rom. 14:22 &23; Matt. 25:23]