
Love First: Love, Gender, and Membership

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, June 2, 2019*

Shouldn't Christians Just Love Everyone?

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

John 15:12, ESV

Jesus' Love Is Always Toward Holiness, Not Away from It

“The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself...’ *Mark 12:31, ESV*”

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” *Mark 12:30, ESV*

The Bible Never Reduces Christian Obedience To
“Do Whatever You Want as Long as It Doesn't Hurt
Anyone.”

Understanding the Difference Between Gender and Sex

Sex Simply Refers to One's Biological Sex

Biological Sex is Binary: Male - Female

What Does the Bible Say About Sex and Gender?

1. The Bible Only Identifies Two Sexes:
Male and Female

“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” *Genesis 1:27, ESV*

2. The Bible Doesn't Consider Sex and Gender to Be Two Totally Different Aspects of What It Is to Be Male or Female

There Are Prohibitions:

Against Cross Dressing

“A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God.” *Deuteronomy 22:5, ESV*

Against Gender Confusion

“Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him,” **1 Corinthians 11:14, ESV**

The Bible Asserts That the Male/Female Binary Is A Part of God’s Creative Order

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

“But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.” **1 Corinthians 11:3, ESV**

Can Someone Who Is Gay Become a Member at NHCC?

1. First You Have to Ask Yourself If the Issue about Same-Sex Relations Is a Primary or Secondary Issue?

Every Christian Believes Some Doctrines Are More Important,
Or Clearer in Scripture, Then Others

NHCC Holds to A Traditional View of Marriage

2. The Bible Never Suggests that Issues of Sexual Immorality Are A Secondary Issue

“Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled

animals, and from consuming blood.” *Acts 15:20, NLT*

Can Gay Christians Become Members and
Serve at NHCC?

What Kind of Person Will I Be?