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How Should I Respond to an LGBTQ Person Who Says He Feels Good About Who He Is?

March 2, 2026

#STRask - Stand to Reason

Questions about responding to an LGBTQ person who says he feels good about who he is, and whether—since we all have sin in our life we don't consider to be sinful—a practicing homosexual can be born again as long as he sincerely believes his behavior isn't sinful.

* What would be an appropriate response to an LGBTQ person saying, "I feel good about who I am"?

* Since we all have sin in our life that we don't consider to be sinful, and will only learn about it when we get to Heaven, doesn't that mean a practicing homosexual can be born again as long as he sincerely believes his behavior is not sinful?

Transcript

Welcome once again to the hashtag SDRask Podcast, and I hope it's once again. Maybe this is your first time. Welcome for the first time.

We're going to start with a question, Greg, from Eric. Alrighty? What would be an appropriate response to an LGBTQ person saying, quote, I feel good about who I am? Yeah, pausing because I'm, thinking and I'm trying to put myself right in that circumstance because this is where you want to be gentle but shrewd or innocent but shrewd as Jesus put it. And while you're thinking I just want to point out when you find yourself in this situation you're going to do exactly what Greg just did.

You're gonna have to take a second to think about it so this is why it's good to think about these things ahead of time. But don't think that we always know exactly what to say right when it happens. Well of course when I give the tactics talk the last thing I say is if you don't remember anything else about this whole presentation remember this take a tip from Lieutenant Colombo when you find yourself in a tough spot and always ask questions.

So the first tactical question is what do you mean by that and so this might be appropriate because that first question will buy you some time and I mean I'm a little bit knock in my head here like you're the guy who wrote the book why didn't you just say that right out of the gate you know just now. But that just shows it's it's it's sometimes challenging when you're talking with people and you don't always think of the right thing right away. So here's right out of the gate you say I'm confused about that statement.

What do you mean you're happy with the way you are now and there's a certain sense where it's what's so confusing about that. But you want them to say a little bit more this is what I want to do with my life and it makes me happy and that's all I need to know. And then I might say okay I think I understand but I'm also a bit confused do you think other people should have the same perspective.

Yeah of course what about the person who's a gay basher they're happy the way they are. Well gay bashing is wrong really by what standard or you might say I'm just curious who are you to say that you know you want to be careful when you say who are you to say because that's what they say to us. We are responding in kind but we're trying not to be harsh about it but it is an appropriate question and part of the deal here and I realize a lot of my approach in these circumstances is you adopt their rules and use them against them.

Okay now this is a version of taking the roof off we're saying okay let's say you're right about your general approach. You do you. Okay can I do me then if it hurts you why not.

Oh well I'm not hurting anybody well people don't know that I mean the point I mean just to clarify using it against them doesn't mean you're attacking them with it. No no thank you it just means addressing their claim. The idea is if they think that this is a legitimate justification for their all their behavior this is what's called a logical slippery slope so we adopt their rule and see where it takes us you know and that same rule applies to other things too and you might want to offer that and or you might say how is that I'm just curious here and what I think about I'm concerned about the view here I'm role playing right now but I'm trying to soften but how is that how is that different from narcissism is that the same as narcissism or is there something different here that might be a little bit strong to say I don't know but these kind of circumstances are hard because this individual is really committed to whatever that lifestyle is and it's usually a sexual ethic that we have in view here and I feel good doing what I do well there's a lot of people feel good doing what they do does that make it right does that make it a good thing that's another question that might be asked but it's good at this point not to just explode react to go slowly and you kind of think through the questions but these are some of the questions that are appropriate to try to get them thinking you know just because you feel good about it doesn't mean it's a good thing to do what if it's not good and that was your when you brought up the idea of what if what if the gay basher feels good about that and then they say well that but that's wrong then you can say exactly that is the real question what is right and what is wrong not how we feel about it because we can all be

deluded we see people who are deluded about what's right and wrong all the time sure so that's just how we act we we don't want to think of ourselves as being bad in any way so we're always deluding ourselves right but what you also might want to do is I don't even think you have to address the homosexuality in this situation if they say you know I feel good about who I am and you ask what do I mean by that what aspect of who you are do you feel good about we the problem is that we are all condemned by our behavior it's not just one group of people right it's everybody if I feel good about who I am then I am sorely mistaken and so you could move on to just leave that aside let let's leave that aside for a moment because if we're talking about the gospel you don't even need to go there in order to know that you're condemned before God without his grace we have plenty of examples in our lives had nothing to do with sexuality where we are thumbing our noses at God and we're disobeying him and all in all sorts of ways so you don't even have to go there right but if you can another thing you can do is say identify with them in the fact that we are all sinners before God and you say look I'm not I'm not saying anything about you that I wouldn't say about myself I was condemned before God and then I asked for his grace and he forgave me are are you telling me you have nothing in your life to feel bad about or guilty about leaving that aside for the moment so you can you can get to the gospel without even going there and and leave that for another time you're not taking you're not making issue with a particular sin just that there is sin right just feeling good about yourself is not enough to cover for the sin whatever it happens to be and of course it depends on what maybe your conversation is all about homosexuality so this doesn't make sense but but this could but there could be situations where this is the way to go yeah I when somebody asks me about sharing Christ with homosexuals but I never make there any particular sin the issue unless they're already under conviction about it you know then I would trade on that but these circumstances are a little challenging because these little rhetorical flourishes just seem so reasonable to them I was watching an interview with Lady Gaga and I'm not fan I don't know hardly anything about her but I did see a stars born and that one set where she sings shallow with Brad Cooper Cooper Bradley Cooper is magnificent I think just magnificent very touching to me but she's been interviewed and that she was talking about people's expectations of her and she finally broke away from all those expectations and it was a late night show host I can't remember who it was Jimmy Fallon or somebody and and then he says so you just decided to do what you wanted to do like this is the victory step you got there you're gonna do it you're want to do it and she said yeah like that's the pinnacle this is the sumum bonum this is the greatest good doing whatever you want to do and listening to that made me really sad because I think this is a magnificently skilled woman in that particular presentation with Bradley Cooper he directed that too I didn't realize that was was so gripping I mean I I get could deeply moved when I watch that that's why I want to watch it once in a while on YouTube just that four-minute clip but but I felt so bad for her because she didn't know where this gift came from and it was all about her and this is kind of the point you know that we're making it's whatever it is there's all kinds of different ways that the all about me sin can be expressed it's not about that the particular characterization it's about the all about me and who's at the center and it's them not God and we all have the tendency to try to get out from under our

guilt by convincing ourselves that we're not really guilty but that never works because we still feel it deep down yes right the way out from guilt is not to convince yourself you're not guilty the way out is forgiveness and openness I mean think about how much the the Pharisees hated Jesus because he was highlighting their sin and they didn't want to admit it but those who admitted it they're the ones who found the joy and the freedom but we are so prideful so anything you can do to to point them towards the gospel if you can find something that they are willing to admit maybe that would be helpful but I and I just want to point out too I think you noted that people who are really invested in their sin it's it's very hard to repent but I will also say God can change anyone God can move anyone to repentance even if they're so invested in what they're doing that they don't want to do it so you don't have to dismiss anyone and just say well it's not worth even talking to them because they're so invested in this life think of Beckett you know he's worked for us and and deeply deeply entrenched in the Hollywood scene a gay man and walks into this church in West Hollywood and he was in a coffee shop when he heard two people talking about the gospel is that how we ended up going to that's how he first heard and then he went to the church yeah and then he walked in you know a pagan totally invested his lifestyle and had a Damascus Road kind of experience and walked out completely converted and anyway that so that happens and we shouldn't sell the grace of God short because God can save and does save all manner of people and all manner of circumstances here's a question from Damon someone told me he believes a practicing homosexual can be born again as long as they sincerely believe their behavior is not sinful he said we all probably have sin in our life that we do not consider sinful and we'll only learn about it when we get to heaven how would you respond to this claim well I agree that there are people that are maybe not clear on their sinfulness or particulars of it this is the role of the Holy Spirit though it's interesting in David's Psalm 51 where his great Psalm of repentance about his behavior towards Bathsheba and Uriah he says something in there that to me I reflect on this a lot I mean it's a it's a feature a prayer for me he says you desire truth in the innermost being in it my hidden part you will make me no wisdom now given that this is a song of a psalm of repentance I think he is probably talking about truth regarding sin in his inner most being now he he already knew that I was wrong to commit adultery and then to arrange for the for the essentially the murder of Bathsheba's husband Uriah in battle putting him on the front line in the heat of it so he could heal to arrange that but nevertheless he is he is in this prayer for repentance he's asking for I think a sensitized conscience and so that certainly there are times when we may be living in some kind of behavior that it's not not clear to us that we're living sinfully in it though this is what the Holy Spirit is supposed to do convict of sin righteousness and judgment okay and Jesus talks about that and John the upper room discourse there are 15 16 7 15 or 16 somewhere in there but but in this particular case I'm not willing to buy this because this is a serious moral failing that the Bible speaks about a number of times in very clear terms Romans 1 is an act is it is a example of that and also in 1st Corinthians six or nine verse nine or six somewhere in there I think it's first of the six and verse nine and and he taught Paul says neither fornicators nor adulterers nor homosexuals will inherit now he's referring to behaviors those people are going on in those behaviors this is evidence that their claim that Jesus is their

saviour is not sound they will not inherit then he says at the end he says such worse some of you but you have been washed okay persisting in serious sin is evidence that you're not a Christian regardless of what you happen to say so I'm not willing to give in a sense the benefit of the doubt here to a person who loves Jesus trusting in him for salvation and is living a gay lifestyle and doesn't realize that it's actually wrong that to me is at an extreme you might be gossiping because it's your habit and you're a Christian and you're not thinking of it being wrong what you're saying because you're just telling the truth in that circumstance or something like that there might be some rationalization you have in your own mind but I think as time goes on this is something the Holy Spirit's gonna work on and other people might even say it but if when it comes to this this is that's to me it's like saying yeah I'm a Christian and I've had three adulterers relationship actually they're still going on right now and I think they're just fine because I'm loving them what Christian would take that as a authentic test of a test of only two genuine faith in Christ no one would because the behavior is so inconsistent with the claim so I wouldn't want to give any safe harbor so to speak to somebody in serious sin with this kind of justification and there's a difference between falling into a sin over and over and then repenting and asking for forgiveness versus saying this is a good thing I think those are two different things I don't want people to hear oh if you're still if you're still sending your name the question was worded though this is a person who doesn't know what to say and so he's not it doesn't ever repent in attitude now I will say anyone can be born again when they're still in even an egregious sin I that's how we are all saved when we're saved we are in our sin right so anyone it's not that oh someone can't be saved if they're living this lifestyle or whatever that that's ridiculous that's the only kind of salvation there is for people who are in their sin right and think about like the Corinthians they had to have their sexual sin explained to them they were not aware they didn't know what they were doing wrong so it's possible to be saved well these are pet these were Gentiles to in Corinth and not choose with the law and all that right exactly so so they they weren't aware they were saved and Paul had to say look here's the reality but then you'll notice that in this in the second Corinthians he says that they did repent so it's possible for someone not to know something is sinful but then once it's explained and especially if it's clear and all these things have been revealed in scripture now once it has been revealed to them what is their posture do they have a posture of of self justification or do they have a posture of submission to God and do they trust that what God is telling them is good right right or are they rejecting him and they so all of these things I think play into this and I agree it's hard to think that there's anyone who has no idea what the Bible says about this or has no idea it's wrong it's hard to believe that but it doesn't mean like at the beginning that could that could be the situation so when I became a Christian I knew very actually I knew this before because I'm reflecting on all of this stuff that sexual sexual behavior was sinful I had to kind of get dialed down on that outside of marriage right of course and I was outside of marriage at that time actually for a long time after that too for another quarter of a century but I realized that there's there's a problem here and when I actually became a Christian there was a transition time before I kind of got it all under control okay so I guess one could say well I was regenerated born again but I I was still in sexual sin of some sort but I knew I was in sexual sin of

some sort and I I was working on kind of repenting and getting things squared away and whatever and and I mean the first year was pretty first yeah the first year was a lot of struggle because I I was 23 when I became a Christian and so I'm coming out of a very worldly circumstance and then trying to get all my ducks in a row that way was took some time but I never justified it I never had this sense like oh this is good there's nothing wrong with this I knew it was wrong so that I think that kind of situation does exist Paul talks in Galatians 2 I think about those who are babes in Christ who are carnal carnality or fleshliness is characteristic of a babe in Christ you're supposed to grow out of that and if you continue living in this fleshliness it's it's certainly legitimate to question somebody's regeneration and I want to emphasize again why this is the case it's not it's it doesn't make me question their salvation because they're not doing enough good things that's not the problem the problem is their relationship with God when it comes to our sin are we willing do we love God more than our sin are we are we admitting that what God is saying is true and good are we submitting ourselves are we admitting when we're wrong and repenting and asking forgiveness because we trust Him this all comes down to our relationship with God and how He is our Lord and how He we believe Him we believe that He's the Creator we believe that He loves us we believe that Jesus came and died for us we believe that what He's asking of us is not something to ruin our life but to make our life better I mean to make our life it's funny I say better but it might be harder you mean better in the moral sense in the moral sense right which which has its own rewards but it might be harder for us but we trust that it's better to be obedient than to take things for ourselves that God hasn't given us so it all comes down to our relationship with God how we respond to our own sin and how we respond to information about ways we've been sending that maybe we haven't realized before so this is not it we're not saying that oh they're not being good enough therefore they're not saved we're saying that this is an indication of where they really are in relation to God and all of this I mean we all we all are sinners and I just want to come back to that that we are all in the same position we are all children of wrath before we are saved we all will be with God by His grace alone we're not saying that since we are not acting out in homosexual ways that therefore we are going to be with God so some of these things I think have to be explicitly said because our culture is a very strange idea of what Christians believe about sexuality and and why we would say homosexuality is wrong and all of these things are are not understood and you might have to say them explicitly so I would I would you just need to be clear that we are all sinners we are all needs God's grace and we all need to submit ourselves and and trust that what God wants for us is better than what we want for us all right we are out of time Greg thank you Eric and Damon those are those are all difficult questions and they're all so relevant to timely yes what we're going through in this culture and I just pray for all of you that God would strengthen you and give you love so that you can speak the truth in love and not just the truth but also love but not just love but also the truth even though I would say love does entail telling people the truth but let's not get into that now I think that was the last episode but thank you so much Eric and Damon all right if you have a question send it to us on x with a hashtag SDRask or you can just go to our website at str.org this is Amy Hall and Greg Coco for Stand to Reason