



Living Out

People...



Living Out

**Two ways of determining
identity...**

Nigel Owens

“I couldn’t accept who I was and didn’t want to be the person I was becoming. I didn’t want to be gay...After I accepted who I was, the next challenge was whether rugby would accept who I am...Rugby has supported me and players, spectators and pundits...have all enabled me to be who I am.”



**What's the universe
about?**



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God's plan for sexuality and marriage



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‘Haven’t you read,’ he replied, ‘that at the beginning the Creator “made them male and female,” and said, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh”? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate...’

Matthew 19:4-6



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‘There are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made that way by others – and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for sake of the kingdom of heaven.’

Matthew 19:12



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‘Although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him...Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another.’

Romans 1:21, 26-27



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‘Men who have sex with men...’

I Corinthians 6:9

‘Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman.’

‘If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable.’

Leviticus 18:22; 20:13



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God's ultimate purpose for sexuality and marriage



Living Out

*‘Your Maker is your husband- the LORD
Almighty is his name.’*

Isaiah 54:5



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*'You will be a crown of splendour in the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
No longer will they call you Deserted,
or name your land Desolate...
for the Lord will take delight in you,
and your land will be married.
As a young man marries a young woman,
so will your Builder marry you;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will your God rejoice over you.'*

Isaiah 62:3-5



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'How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is still with them?'

Matthew 9:15



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‘This is a profound mystery but I am talking about Christ and the church.’

Ephesians 5:32



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*‘Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!
For the wedding of the Lamb has come and
his bride has made herself ready...’*

Revelation 19:7



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*The Christian's
future is to have a
leading role in the
greatest royal
wedding the
universe has ever
known.*



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‘One of the functions of human marriage is to express the nature of the union between Christ and the Church. We have no authority to take the living and seminal figures which God has painted on the canvas of our nature and shift them about as if they were mere geometrical figures.’

C. S. Lewis



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Using sexuality as a signpost



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Living with the groaning of engagement



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The pattern of the Christian life



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‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it and whoever loses their life for me and for the Gospel will save it.’

Mark 8:34-35



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The community life of the bride



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Temptation and Suffering



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‘Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted’.

Hebrews 2:18



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The best identity



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*See what great love the Father has lavished
on us, that we should be called children of
God! And that is what we are!*

I John 3:1



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**The ultimate human
interest story...**



Living Out

A Biblically Inclusive Church?



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‘God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.’

I Timothy 3:15



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**Your church family meetings
include people who could be
labelled LGBTQI+/are same-
sex attracted**



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Derogatory language or stereotyping attitudes towards anyone would not be tolerated either up front or in conversation between church family members.



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**All in your church know that we
all experience sexual brokenness
and all are being encouraged to
confess their own sexual sins.**



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Same-sex sexual relationships are never mentioned in isolation from other sinful patterns of behaviour, or from the forgiveness offered to all through faith in Christ crucified.



Living Out

All in your church are hearing the same call to radical self-sacrifice of themselves in response to God's giving of himself in Jesus.



Living Out

**All in your church are encouraged
to develop an identity founded first
and foremost in their union with
Christ.**



Living Out

A godly Christian's sexual orientation would never prevent them from exercising their spiritual gifts or serving in leadership in your church.



Living Out

**God's gifts of either
singleness or marriage are
equally promoted, valued and
practically supported in your
church family's life together.**



Living Out

**Church family members
instinctively share meals, homes,
holidays, festivals, money, family
life with others from different
backgrounds and life situations
to them.**



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**No-one would be pressurised
into expecting or seeking any
'healing' or change that God
has not promised any of us
until the renewal of all things.**



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The Christian in Society



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History and humility



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I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people- not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers- who are idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world...What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?

I Corinthians 5:9-10, 12



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Provoking the question mark



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Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:12



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**“Why do you hate gay
people?”**



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The example of Jesus



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***Now the tax collectors and sinners were all
gathering around to hear Jesus...***

Luke 15:1



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Living water...



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