

Responding to the Pride Movement: A Case Study

How do we successfully address the LGBTQ/Pride movement in the public arena without being rejected as homophobic or facing similar accusations? Based on the example from The Clapham Institute's report "The Colourful Darkness", this session provides practical examples on how to uncover the deeply troubling content and agenda of the Pride movement, as well as gives advice on which attitudes and way of reasoning work well and what ought to be avoided. Properly handled, opinion-making about this issue can reveal much-needed information and can impact a nation.

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- I. The extremely secular-individualistic society of our time
 - A. Preserving the autonomy of the individual becomes the highest of all virtues.
 1. Results in a battle against three forces which oppose autonomy:
 - a. Community
 - b. Authority
 - c. The Sacred
- II. Four possible views on sexuality:
 - A. Everything permitted (Marquis de Sade)
 - B. Everything permitted – as long as no one gets hurt (hedonism)
 - C. Some things permitted, most notably homosexuality (general liberal view)
 - D. Sex restricted to a lifelong, exclusive covenant between one man and one woman (Biblical)
 1. A) accepted by the Pride movement, B) accepted by utilitarianism C) accepted by secular thought, though often unreflected, D) accepted by Christianity, natural law, and others
- III. Morals founded on either of three grounds:
 - A. Autonomous (self law)
 - B. Heteronomous (resting on any other higher standard)
 - C. Theonomous (relying on divine will)
 1. The struggle in our time to balance between A) and B)
 2. The need for the Church to rely on C) if our position is to be Christian.
- IV. The contents of Pride – in the example of Stockholm
 - A. Manifestly *not* about human dignity and equality
 - B. To a small extent about love, in such cases always in an autonomous version.
 - C. To a very large extent about sex, with Q as in Queer being the common factor.
 - D. Not about light, but rather about darkness.
 - E. Negative views on relations, commitment, norms, responsibility.
 - F. Positive views on anarchy, egoism
 - G. Public health problems due to positive views on prostitution, drugs, self-harm, etc.

- V. To remember when in fear of attacks:
 - A. If etiquettes are slammed in your face: Ignore them, expose them, defeat them.
 - B. Attacks may be painful, but you will survive. God will provide strength and growth.

- VI. Core principles
 - A. Our foundation is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.
 - B. Centre of our attention should be the children, not ideological wishes from adults.
 - C. The autonomous agenda in a constant rebellion against community, authority and the Holy. All heterosexual, homosexual or other sins direct consequences of this.
 - D. When facing “arrogant obstacles” (2 Cor 10:5), remember they are *raised up towards* the knowledge of God. A Biblical position always higher and more solid, as it rests on reality. Therefore, it can tear down these obstacles.

- VII. How to battle this agenda
 - A. Aim at the base of the fire (i.e. avoid focusing the surface, instead fight the centre)
 - B. Play the right tunes, not just the wrong ones. (Live and communicate good examples of marriage, commitment and *agape*; avoid focusing only bad examples)
 - C. Rest on previous experience. It’s a treasure.
 - D. Reveal the actual content behind the rainbow banner.
 - E. Care for the children, defend their right to be children.
 - F. Trust your moral intuition.
 - G. Trust a Biblical anthropology and an established Christian view on relations.
 - H. Connect to people’s conscience – it is our best friend.
 - I. When the stones cry out - which they will - join them!
 - J. Consistently defend truth, humility and righteousness – just as Christ himself did.

You are standing at the crossroads. So consider your path.

Ask where the old, reliable paths are.

Ask where the path is that leads to blessing and follow it.

If you do, you will find rest for your souls.

Jer 6:16

Suggested Readings:

Abstract of our report on Pride: <http://www.claphaminstitutet.se/uncategorized/the-colourful-darkness-abstract-of-our-report-on-stockholm-pride/>

Peterson, Abby; Wahlström, Mattias; Wennerhag, Magnus “‘Normalized’ Pride? Pride parade participants in six European countries” *Sexualities* August 2017
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1363460717715032>

Strudwick, Patrick “Inside the dark, dangerous world of chemsex” *Buzzfeed* 3/12 2016
https://www.buzzfeed.com/patrickstrudwick/inside-the-dark-dangerous-world-of-chemsex?utm_term=.loO8ddvyqP#.fryZGGxLj8

Wilson, Douglas *LGBT Basics* (2016) DesiringGod.org
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/lgbt-basics>