

The purpose of the first paragraph is to reveal stats and quotes from mainstream sources about the growing struggles teens may have regarding each topic. The purpose of the second paragraph is to reveal God's perspective by seeing what the Bible says regarding each topic and how we can receive help and guidance in our life's purpose through a relationship with Jesus.

LGBTQ

LGBTQ is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning. These terms (and others) describe a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. 7% of the US are LGBTQ youth⁶³. One third have been verbally harassed⁶⁷ or cyberbullied, and some physically or sexually assaulted⁷⁰, all from peers, the internet, religious leaders, family and/or others. Acceptance is rare^{67,68}. Over 70% reported feeling worthless/hopeless/depressed, and over 90% reported trouble sleeping⁶⁹. One in three attempt suicide at least once a year⁷⁰.

The Bible says God designed our identity being made in His image (Gen. 1:27), and romantic relationships for marriage (Heb.13:4) of man and woman (Gen. 2:24-25). Anything outside of that is sin (1 Cor. 6:9-10, 18). Sin is darkness (Eph. 5:1-10) but Jesus is the light (John 8:12) and said the greatest commandment is we love God (Matt. 22:35-40). A Christian should be peaceable, considerate and respectful (1 Pet. 3:15, Titus 3:2), known for loving others (John 13:35), finding identity in Jesus (Gal. 3:28) and freedom (Gal. 5:1) to live out the specific purpose he has for us (Eph. 2:10) as children of God (1 John 3:1).

BIBLE VERSES TO CONSIDER

Genesis 1:27 "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Hebrews 13:4 "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."

Genesis 2:24-25 "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."

1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

1 Peter 4:8 "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

1 John 3:18 "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

Ephesians 4:15 "Instead, speaking the truth in love..."

Galatians 5:14 "For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Genesis 19:5-7 "They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them." Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing."

Leviticus 18 (multiple unlawful sexual relations)
V22 "Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable."

Romans 1:25-27 "They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men and received in themselves the due penalty for their error."

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

John 14:6 "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

John 15:7 "This is my command: love each other"

1 John 3:16 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."

Ephesians 4:2 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

1 Peter 3:15 "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

Titus 3:2 "Slander no one, be peaceable and considerate, and always be gentle toward everyone."

John 13:35 "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Galatians 3:26-28 "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 5:1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

1 John 3:1 "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him."

Job 6:14 "Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty."

1 Corinthians 7:2 "But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband."

1 Thessalonians 4:3 "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality"

1 Timothy 1:9-10 "We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine."

Proverbs 14:34 "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people." (aka: a nation that allows sinful behavior will see negative effects)

John 10:35 (Jesus) "...Scripture cannot be set aside..."

Genesis 2:20-22,24-25 "So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So, the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man...That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 "Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."

1 Corinthians 6:18 "Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body."

Ephesians 5:1-10 "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore, do not be partners with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord."

John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Matthew 22:35-40 "One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" "Jesus replied:" "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 'This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. 'All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

1 Peter 3:15 "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

Titus 1:6 "An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife."

1 Timothy 3:2 "Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife."

Mark 10:6-9 (Jesus) "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female. '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.""

2 Peter 3:16 "He (Paul) writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction."

Hebrews 10:31 "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Titus 2:11-14 “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”

Matthew 5:27-28 ““You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery. But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

1 Corinthians 7:1-2 “Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.”

Romans 6:22 "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

1 John 4:7-21 "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us

and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so, we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.”

STATS & QUOTES TO CONSIDER

In the United States. They represent 7% of the youth population.

(LGBTQ...QIAAP2S) Definitions:

LESBIAN

Women sexual attracted to other women.

GAY

People attracted to members of same sex, most often men with men.

BISEXUAL

Sexual attraction to both men and women.

TRANSGENDER

Identifies mentally and emotionally as gender that doesn't match biological gender or represents someone who surgically alters themselves to align their physical selves with their gender identity.

QUEER

Umbrella term for all LGBT people as a whole or used as general term for those who don't yet feel they fit into a group.

QUESTIONING

People who wonder if they belong in the Queer community or are questioning their gender identity or sexual preference.

INTERSEX

Born with or develop genitals with ambiguous sexual characteristics because of chromosomal or hormonal abnormalities; often surgically assigned a gender by doctors at birth.

ASEXUAL

Feels only romantic (but not sexual) attraction towards any gender.

ALLY

Person who supports LGBTQ+ community without identifying as LGBTQ themselves.

PANSEXUAL

Attracted to other people regardless of gender (broader than bisexual), including attraction of just personality.

2-SPIRIT

People who display both male and female qualities, whether in personality, sexuality or gender identity.

More definitions from another source...

LESBIAN

A woman whose enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction is to other women. Some lesbians may prefer to identify as gay or as gay women.

BISEXUAL

A person who has the capacity to form enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to those of the same gender or to those of another gender. People may experience this attraction in differing ways and degrees over their lifetime. Bisexual people need not have had specific sexual experiences to be bisexual; in

fact, they need not have had any sexual experience at all to identify as bisexual.

GAY

The adjective used to describe people whose enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attractions are to people of the same sex. Sometimes lesbian is the preferred term for women.

TRANSGENDER

An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. People under the transgender umbrella may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms—including transgender. Many transgender people are prescribed hormones by their doctors to bring their bodies into alignment with their gender identity. Some undergo surgery as well. But not all transgender people can or will take those steps, and a transgender identity is not dependent upon physical appearance or medical procedures.

QUEER

An adjective used by some people, particularly younger people, whose sexual orientation is not exclusively heterosexual. Typically, for those who identify as queer, the terms lesbian, gay, and bisexual are perceived to be too limiting and/or fraught with cultural connotations they feel don't apply to them. Some people may use queer, or more commonly genderqueer, to describe their gender identity and/or gender expression. Once considered a pejorative term, queer has been reclaimed by some LGBT people to describe themselves; however, it is not a universally accepted term even within the LGBT community.

QUESTIONING

Sometimes, when the Q is seen at the end of LGBT, it can also mean questioning. This term describes someone who is questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity.

More definitions from another source...

ALLY

A person who is not LGBTQ but shows support for LGBTQ people and promotes equality in a variety of ways.

ANDROGYNOUS

Identifying and/or presenting as neither distinguishably masculine nor feminine.

ASEXUAL

The lack of a sexual attraction or desire for other people.

BIPHOBIA

Prejudice, fear or hatred directed toward bisexual people.

BISEXUAL

A person emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to more than one sex, gender or gender identity though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.

CISGENDER

A term used to describe a person whose gender identity aligns with those typically associated with the sex assigned to them at birth.

CLOSETED

Describes an LGBTQ person who has not disclosed their sexual orientation or gender identity.

COMING OUT

The process in which a person first acknowledges, accepts and appreciates their sexual orientation or gender identity and begins to share that with others.

GAY

A person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to members of the same gender.

GENDER DYSPHORIA

Clinically significant distress caused when a person's assigned birth gender is not the same as the one with which they identify. According to the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic

and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the term - which replaces Gender Identity Disorder - "is intended to better characterize the experiences of affected children, adolescents, and adults."

GENDER-EXPANSIVE

Conveys a wider, more flexible range of gender identity and/or expression than typically associated with the binary gender system.

GENDER EXPRESSION

External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, haircut or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.

GENDER-FLUID

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a person who does not identify with a single fixed gender; of or relating to a person having or expressing a fluid or unfixed gender identity.

GENDER IDENTITY

One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.

GENDER NON-CONFORMING

A broad term referring to people who do not behave in a way that conforms to the traditional expectations of their gender, or whose gender expression does not fit neatly into a category.

GENDERQUEER

Genderqueer people typically reject notions of static categories of gender and embrace a fluidity of gender identity and often, though not always, sexual orientation. People who identify as "genderqueer" may see themselves as being both male and female, neither male nor female or as falling completely outside these categories.

GENDER TRANSITION

The process by which some people strive to more closely align their internal knowledge of gender with its outward appearance. Some people socially transition, whereby they might begin dressing, using names and pronouns and/or be socially recognized as another gender. Others undergo physical transitions in which they modify their bodies through medical interventions.

HOMOPHOBIA

The fear and hatred of or discomfort with people who are attracted to members of the same sex.

INTERSEX

An umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural bodily variations. In some cases, these traits are visible at birth, and in others, they are not apparent until puberty. Some chromosomal variations of this type may not be physically apparent at all.

LESBIAN

A woman who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to other women.

LGBTQ

'An acronym for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer."

LIVING OPENLY

A state in which LGBTQ people are comfortably out about their sexual orientation or gender identity – where and when it feels appropriate to them.

NON-BINARY

An adjective describing a person who does not identify exclusively as a man or a woman. Non-binary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as falling completely outside these categories. While many also identify as transgender, not all non-binary people do.

OUTING

Exposing someone's lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender identity to others without their permission. Outing someone can have serious repercussions on employment, economic stability, personal safety or religious or family situations.

PANSEXUAL

Describes someone who has the potential for emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to people of any gender though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.

QUEER

A term people often use to express fluid identities and orientations. Often used interchangeably with "LGBTQ."

QUESTIONING

A term used to describe people who are in the process of exploring their sexual orientation or gender identity.

SAME-GENDER LOVING

A term some prefer to use instead of lesbian, gay or bisexual to express attraction to and love of people of the same gender.

SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH

The sex (male or female) given to a child at birth, most often based on the child's external anatomy. This is also referred to as "assigned sex at birth."

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

An inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people.

TRANSGENDER

An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.

TRANSPHOBIA

The fear and hatred of, or discomfort with, transgender people.

Gender Revolution Guide by National Geographic...

LGBT youth are more than two times as likely as non-LGBT youth to say they have been verbally harassed and called names at school. Among LGBT youth, half (51%) have been verbally harassed at school, compared to 25% among non-LGBT students.

“Many LGBT youth are profoundly disconnected from their communities”

“LGBT youth describe the challenges they face as being directly related to their identity as LGBT.”

18% of LGBT youth describe the number one thing in their lives they would like to change right now as being “understanding/tolerance/hate.”

26% of LGBT youth describe the number one most important problem facing their lives right now as being “non-accepting families.”

Non-LGBT youth are nearly twice as likely as LGBT youth to say they are happy. Among non-LGBT youth, 67% report being happy while only 37% of LGBT youth say they are happy.

29% of LGBT youth are more likely than 17% of non-LGBT youth to report that they do not have an adult they can talk to about personal problems.

52% of LGBT youth are more than twice as likely as 22% of non-LGBT youth to experiment with alcohol and drugs.

Roughly three-quarters (73%) of LGBT youth say they are more honest about themselves online than in the real world, compared to 43% among nonLGBT youth.

4 in 10 LGBT youth (42%) say the community in which they live is not accepting of LGBT people.

LGBT youth are about twice as likely as their peers to have been verbally harassed and called names outside of school (in the neighborhood or mall, etc.) as well as to have been physically assaulted outside of school. Among LGBT youth, 18% report verbal harassment while 10% of non-LGBT youth report the same; 5% of LGBT youth report physical assault compared with 3% of their peers.

LGBT youth are far less likely than non-LGBT youth to attend religious services in a house of worship. Among LGBT youth, 28% report attending church or religious services very often or sometimes while 58% of non-LGBT youth say the same. LGBT youth are less than half as likely as their peers to participate in a church/religious youth group, with 22% of LGBT youth saying they participate very often or sometimes while 47% of their peers say the same.

Nearly six in ten LGBT youth (57%) say that churches or places of worship in their community are not accepting of LGBT people; a third (35%) say their own church or place of worship is not accepting.

When asked in an open-ended question what it is like to be LGBT in their communities, 60% of the LGBT youth described negative experiences and 42% described positive aspects.

School, peers, and the Internet led the list of places where LGBT youth say they most often hear negative messages about being LGBT: 74% chose school, 69% chose their peers, and 70% chose the Internet. Religious leaders (68%), elected leaders (60%), family (46%), movies/TV/radio (42%) and community leaders (20%) followed as places where LGBT youth often hear negative messages.

77% of LGBTQ teenagers surveyed report feeling depressed or down over the past week (2018)

95% of LGBTQ youth report trouble sleeping at night (2018)

More than 70 percent report feelings of worthlessness and hopelessness in the past week (2018)

67% report that they've heard family members make negative comments about LGBTQ people (2018)

LGBT youth attempt suicide 5 times more than non-LGBT youth. In addition, LGBT youth are 5 times more likely to need medical attention as a result of their suicide attempt than non-LGBT youth

LGB youth are at greater risk for depression, suicide, substance use, and sexual behaviors that can place them at increased risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Nearly one-third (29%) of LGB youth had attempted suicide at least once in the prior year compared to 6% of heterosexual youth.

Compared with other students, negative attitudes toward LGB persons may put these youth at increased risk for experiences with violence.

According to data from the 2015 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), of surveyed LGB students:

- 10% were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property
- 34% were bullied on school property
- 28% were bullied electronically
- 23% of LGB students who had dated or went out with someone during the 12 months before the survey had experienced sexual dating violence in the prior year
- 18% of LGB students had experienced physical dating violence
- 18% of LGB students had been forced to have sexual intercourse at some point in their lives.

Religion is a difficult terrain for many LGBT adults. Lopsided majorities describe the Muslim religion (84%), the Mormon Church (83%), the Catholic Church (79%) and evangelical churches (73%) as unfriendly toward people who are LGBT

However, 55.2% of LGBT students experienced cyberbullying.