



First United Methodist Church

Points to Ponder

All "Sins" are Equal?

Here are some handy charts to illustrate how LGBTQ people are treated differently. Even if we were to concede that being LGBTQ is a sin (which we do NOT), is the "sinner" treated differently from other sinners? Let's see.

Take, for example, who can be married in the UMC. There are no restrictions for anyone who commits the sins of gluttony, divorce/remarriage, treating women unequally, lying/dishonesty, drunkenness, and even murder. Likewise, those who argue, curse, are impatient, smoke, are angered, have worry/anxiety, complain, criticize the government, and women wearing jewelry are all able to marry in a UMC church, even though the Bible declares all of them sins, and despite the fact that these are rarely "one-time" sins, but habitual acts. Additionally, people make the CHOICE to do these things. The situation is similar with regard to serving as a UMC leader. One can habitually commit any of these sins. In fact, one can habitually commit ALL of these sins and still be a fully included member of the UMC.

Jesus himself declared that gluttony, divorce and remarriage, and murder are sins. Yet the UMC does not use any of these practices, acts, or states of being to make the offenders less equal than any other. The ONLY state of being that some consider a sin called out by the UMC Book of Discipline is being gay.

- Steven Di Pilla

	Homosexuality	Gluttony	Divorce and Remarriage	Women Inequality	Lying Dishonesty	Drunkenness	Murder
Spoken against in the Old Testament?	?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spoken against in the New Testament?	?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Is it a choice?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Does it hurt others?	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Does Jesus say it's sinful?	No	No	Yes	No	?	?	Yes
Book of Discipline accepts?	No	Yes	Yes	No~	?	No	No
Can serve as a UMC leader?	No	Yes	Yes	-	?	?	Yes#
Can be married in the UMC?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*When taken out of context of the culture and time, and intent; does not address committed, monogamous same-sex relationships

~Women were not given full clergy rights in the UMC until 1956

<https://www.presstelegram.com/2016/09/02/from-murder-to-ministry-reformed-long-beach-pastor-preaches-redemption/>

	Women Arguing	Wearing Jewelry	Cursing	Not Being Patient	Smoking	Anger	Worry Anxiety	Complain	Criticizing Government
Spoken against in the Old Testament?	Yes*	No	Yes^	Yes#	Yes~	Yes"	Yes`	Yes&	Yes
Spoken against in the New Testament?	Yes*	Yes+	Yes^	Yes#	Yes~	Yes"	?	?	Yes@
Is it a choice?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	Yes
Does it hurt others?	?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	No
Does Jesus say it's sinful?	No	No	?	?	No	?	?	?	No
Book of Discipline accepts?	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can serve as a UMC leader?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can be married in the UMC?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Pv 17:14; 18:6; Titus 3:9; 2 Tim 2:23

+1 Tim 2:9

^Ro 3:14; Ps 10:7; 59:12; Ex 20:7; Lev 24:16; Ecc 10:20; Ja 3:9

#Lk 21:19; 1 Tim 3:3; 2 Tim 2:24; Heb 10:36; Ja 5:8

~ Ro 12:1; 13:14; 1 Cor 3:16-18; 6:20; 2 Cor 4:10; 1 Pe 1:15; 1Thes 4:4,5

"Col 3:8, Pv 14:17; Pv 27:4; 29:22; Ex 6:9; 2 Cor 12:20; Mt 5:22

`Phili 4:6; Mt 6:25; Phili 4:6 NIV

&Jude 16; Num 11:1 NIV; Num 11:4-6; 21:5

@Ro 13:1-7; 1 Pe 2:13-14; Mt 22:20-21