

# why do christians hate gays

**why do christians hate gays** is a controversial and complex topic that has sparked intense debates and discussions in religious, social, and academic circles. Many people wonder why some Christians hold negative attitudes toward the LGBTQ+ community or why Christian beliefs are sometimes associated with anti-gay sentiments. This article explores the historical, theological, and cultural factors that have influenced Christian perspectives on homosexuality. It examines biblical interpretations, church teachings, societal influences, and the ways in which these factors shape attitudes and behaviors. By providing a comprehensive analysis of the roots and realities behind Christian views on homosexuality, this article aims to foster understanding and highlight the diversity of opinions within the faith. Readers will gain insight into the origins of these beliefs, the role of tradition, and contemporary responses within Christianity. The following sections will delve into history, doctrine, cultural impact, and ongoing changes in Christian attitudes toward LGBTQ+ individuals.

- Historical Roots of Christian Attitudes Toward Gays
- Biblical Interpretations and Their Impact
- Church Teachings and Institutional Influence
- Cultural and Social Factors Shaping Christian Views
- Diversity of Opinions Within Christianity
- Contemporary Christian Responses to LGBTQ+ Issues

## Historical Roots of Christian Attitudes Toward Gays

Understanding why Christians have historically shown hostility or rejection toward gays requires an exploration of the origins of these attitudes. Throughout history, Christian beliefs and doctrine have been shaped by cultural norms, philosophical ideas, and prevailing social structures. In the early centuries, Christian communities operated within societies that often held negative views of same-sex relationships. This context influenced the development of religious teachings and interpretations.

## Early Christian Society and Moral Codes

Christianity emerged within the context of Roman and Jewish societies, both of which had specific moral

codes regarding sexuality. The early church sought to distinguish itself from surrounding cultures by promoting particular standards of behavior. These moral codes often reflected broader societal taboos against same-sex relationships, leading to their integration into Christian doctrine.

- Roman society had laws regulating sexual behavior
- Jewish traditions emphasized heterosexual marriage
- Early Christian leaders aimed to establish unique moral authority

## **Evolution of Teachings Over Time**

As Christianity spread and evolved, its teachings on sexuality adapted to different cultural settings. Medieval and Renaissance periods saw the solidification of doctrines that condemned homosexual acts as sinful. These views were often reinforced by ecclesiastical authorities and shaped by broader societal attitudes. The historical legacy of these teachings continues to influence contemporary perspectives in some Christian communities.

## **Biblical Interpretations and Their Impact**

A significant factor in why some Christians hold negative views toward gays lies in biblical interpretation. Scripture has been cited as both a source of condemnation and, more recently, as a foundation for affirming LGBTQ+ individuals. The interpretation of key passages has played a central role in shaping beliefs and attitudes within Christianity.

## **Key Biblical Passages Referenced**

Certain passages from the Old and New Testaments are frequently referenced in discussions about homosexuality. These include verses from Leviticus, Romans, and Corinthians. Traditional interpretations of these texts have often been used to justify anti-gay sentiment.

- Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13
- Romans 1:26-27
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

## Debates Over Scriptural Meaning

Modern scholars and theologians debate the meaning and relevance of these passages. Some argue that the biblical texts refer to specific cultural practices rather than consensual same-sex relationships. Others contend that the language used is open to interpretation and may not apply to contemporary understandings of sexuality. This ongoing debate has led to a diversity of views within Christianity regarding homosexuality.

## Church Teachings and Institutional Influence

The role of church institutions and leadership in shaping attitudes toward gays is substantial. Different denominations and traditions interpret scripture and doctrine in varying ways, leading to a wide range of positions on LGBTQ+ issues. Institutional policies and official statements often influence the beliefs and actions of individual Christians.

## Catholic and Orthodox Perspectives

The Catholic and Orthodox churches have traditionally upheld teachings that consider homosexual acts as sinful, based on their interpretation of natural law and biblical texts. These positions are reflected in official catechisms and statements from church authorities. While there is some pastoral outreach to LGBTQ+ individuals, doctrinal positions remain largely unchanged.

## Protestant Denominations and Diversity

Protestant churches display significant diversity in their approach to LGBTQ+ issues. Some denominations maintain conservative stances, while others have adopted more inclusive policies. Institutional influence plays a key role in shaping the beliefs and practices of congregations, with some churches actively welcoming LGBTQ+ members and others enforcing exclusionary policies.

1. Evangelical churches often hold traditional views
2. Mainline Protestant churches may support LGBTQ+ rights
3. Policy changes reflect shifting social attitudes

# Cultural and Social Factors Shaping Christian Views

Beyond theology and doctrine, cultural and social factors significantly impact why Christians may express hostility or rejection toward gays. Societal norms, historical events, and political movements have all influenced the development and persistence of these attitudes.

## Influence of Cultural Norms

In many societies, traditional gender roles and heteronormative expectations have shaped views on sexuality. Christian teachings have often mirrored these cultural norms, reinforcing negative attitudes toward homosexual relationships. The interplay between religion and culture has maintained these views across generations.

## Political and Legal Context

Political movements and legal frameworks have also affected Christian perspectives on LGBTQ+ issues. In some regions, laws criminalizing homosexuality have been supported by religious groups, further embedding anti-gay sentiment within Christian communities. Conversely, in areas where legal protections for LGBTQ+ people exist, some Christians have begun to reevaluate their views.

## Diversity of Opinions Within Christianity

It is important to recognize that Christianity is not monolithic in its views on homosexuality. There is considerable diversity in beliefs, practices, and attitudes among Christians globally. Many individuals and groups within the faith advocate for acceptance, inclusion, and equality for LGBTQ+ people.

## Affirming Christian Movements

Numerous Christian organizations and denominations actively support LGBTQ+ rights and challenge traditional interpretations of scripture. These groups emphasize principles of love, compassion, and social justice, seeking to create welcoming environments for all individuals regardless of sexual orientation.

## Generational and Regional Differences

Younger Christians and those in more progressive regions often express greater acceptance of gays. Differences in education, exposure to diverse viewpoints, and shifting cultural norms contribute to this variation. As attitudes continue to evolve, many Christian communities are engaged in ongoing dialogue

about the role of sexuality and inclusion.

## **Contemporary Christian Responses to LGBTQ+ Issues**

In recent years, Christian attitudes toward gays have undergone significant changes. Public debates, advocacy efforts, and shifting social values have prompted many Christians to reconsider their beliefs and practices. While some continue to hold traditional views, others are actively working to promote acceptance and understanding.

### **Dialogues and Reconciliation Efforts**

Interfaith and ecumenical dialogues have encouraged greater understanding between Christians and the LGBTQ+ community. These conversations focus on building bridges, fostering empathy, and addressing the harms caused by exclusionary practices. Reconciliation efforts are evident in many churches that seek to repair relationships and promote healing.

### **Challenges and Opportunities for Change**

Despite progress, significant challenges remain. Resistance from conservative groups, denominational divisions, and ongoing theological debates continue to shape the landscape. However, opportunities for change exist, as more Christians engage in self-reflection and embrace inclusive values.

#### **Q: What are the main reasons some Christians reject homosexuality?**

A: Some Christians reject homosexuality due to traditional interpretations of biblical texts, longstanding church teachings, and cultural norms that emphasize heterosexual marriage and gender roles.

#### **Q: Do all Christians hate gays or hold negative views?**

A: No, not all Christians hate gays or hold negative views. There is considerable diversity within Christianity, with many individuals and denominations supporting LGBTQ+ rights and inclusion.

#### **Q: Which Bible verses are commonly cited regarding homosexuality?**

A: Verses from Leviticus, Romans, and Corinthians are commonly cited in discussions about homosexuality, including Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26-27, and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

## **Q: How have Christian attitudes toward gays changed over time?**

A: Christian attitudes toward gays have evolved, with increasing acceptance and support in many communities, especially among younger generations and progressive denominations.

## **Q: Are there Christian denominations that welcome LGBTQ+ members?**

A: Yes, several Christian denominations actively welcome LGBTQ+ members, such as the United Church of Christ, Episcopal Church, and certain Methodist and Lutheran congregations.

## **Q: What role do church leaders play in shaping views on homosexuality?**

A: Church leaders and institutional policies play a significant role in shaping beliefs and practices regarding homosexuality within their congregations and communities.

## **Q: Can biblical interpretation change over time?**

A: Yes, biblical interpretation can change as scholars and theologians reassess the meaning of scripture in light of historical context, language, and evolving social values.

## **Q: How do cultural factors influence Christian attitudes?**

A: Cultural factors, such as prevailing social norms, political movements, and legal frameworks, influence how Christians view homosexuality, often reinforcing traditional or conservative perspectives.

## **Q: What challenges do affirming Christians face?**

A: Affirming Christians often face resistance from more conservative groups, denominational divisions, and theological disagreements when advocating for LGBTQ+ inclusion.

## **Q: Is hate toward gays universal among Christians?**

A: Hate toward gays is not universal among Christians. Many advocate for love, acceptance, and equality, emphasizing compassion and inclusion within their faith communities.

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## **Why Do Christians Hate Gays? Addressing Misconceptions and Exploring Diverse Perspectives**

The question, "Why do Christians hate gays?" is a harmful oversimplification that fuels prejudice and misunderstanding. It paints an inaccurate picture of a diverse global faith with a wide spectrum of beliefs and interpretations. This post aims to unpack the complexities surrounding this sensitive issue, exploring the theological underpinnings, societal influences, and individual experiences that contribute to varied perspectives within Christianity. We'll move beyond the inflammatory rhetoric and delve into a nuanced exploration of the relationship between Christianity and LGBTQ+ individuals. It's crucial to understand that "hate" is a strong and often inaccurate label, and this piece will strive for a respectful and informative analysis of the multifaceted reality.

### **Theological Interpretations: A Source of Divergent Views**

The Bible, the central text of Christianity, contains passages that have been interpreted by some as condemning homosexual acts. These passages, often found in Leviticus and 1 Corinthians, are frequently cited to justify negative attitudes towards LGBTQ+ individuals. However, it's crucial to acknowledge that biblical interpretation is complex and varied. Different denominations and individual Christians interpret these passages differently, considering historical context, literary genre, and evolving theological understanding. Some argue these verses should be understood within their historical context and not applied literally to modern relationships. Others emphasize the importance of love, compassion, and inclusivity as central tenets of Christian faith, finding ways to reconcile these values with their understanding of scripture.

### **The Influence of Tradition and Culture**

Beyond theological interpretations, societal and cultural factors significantly shape attitudes within Christian communities. Historically, many Christian denominations have held conservative views on sexuality, influenced by prevailing social norms and interpretations of scripture that have been passed down through generations. These traditions, while deeply ingrained, are not monolithic. A growing number of progressive Christian denominations and individual believers are actively challenging these traditional views, advocating for LGBTQ+ inclusion and affirming the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

# **The Spectrum of Christian Belief: From Exclusion to Full Inclusion**

It's crucial to avoid generalizations. The Christian world is not a monolith. While some individuals and groups hold strongly negative views towards LGBTQ+ people, citing specific biblical interpretations, others actively work towards creating inclusive and affirming Christian communities. Many denominations have evolved their stances, embracing LGBTQ+ individuals and advocating for equal rights. This spectrum reflects the diversity of interpretation and application of Christian faith, highlighting the importance of avoiding broad brush strokes when discussing the relationship between Christianity and LGBTQ+ individuals.

## **The Impact of Personal Experiences and Family Background**

Personal experiences and family backgrounds also profoundly influence individual perspectives. Someone raised in a conservative Christian environment may hold views different from someone raised in a more liberal or accepting context. Furthermore, personal encounters with LGBTQ+ individuals can significantly shape attitudes and perceptions. These individual experiences are crucial in understanding the wide range of beliefs and behaviors within the Christian community.

## **Moving Beyond the Label of "Hate": Towards Understanding and Dialogue**

Using the term "hate" to describe the feelings of all Christians towards LGBTQ+ individuals is inaccurate and unproductive. It fosters division and prevents meaningful dialogue. The reality is far more nuanced, encompassing a wide range of beliefs, interpretations, and personal experiences. Focusing on understanding the various perspectives and engaging in respectful dialogue is crucial for bridging the gap and fostering a more inclusive and compassionate society. Open and honest conversations are vital to overcoming misconceptions and promoting mutual respect.

## **The Importance of Empathy and Compassion**

Ultimately, understanding the complexities surrounding the relationship between Christianity and LGBTQ+ individuals requires empathy and compassion. Recognizing the diversity of beliefs within Christianity, the influence of historical and cultural contexts, and the impact of individual experiences is essential for fostering respectful interactions and promoting understanding. The path forward lies in respectful dialogue, a willingness to listen to different perspectives, and a commitment to building a more inclusive and accepting society for everyone.



## Conclusion:

The question, "Why do Christians hate gays?" is simplistic and misleading. The reality is far more complex, reflecting a diverse range of theological interpretations, societal influences, and individual experiences within the Christian faith. Moving beyond harmful generalizations and engaging in respectful dialogue is crucial for promoting understanding and building a more inclusive society.

## FAQs:

1. Are all Christians homophobic? Absolutely not. The Christian faith encompasses a vast spectrum of beliefs and practices, with many Christians actively advocating for LGBTQ+ inclusion and rights.
2. What are some examples of inclusive Christian denominations? Many denominations are evolving their stances, including some branches of Presbyterian, Methodist, and Episcopal churches, among others. Researching specific denominations is recommended for detailed information.
3. How can I find an affirming Christian community? Online resources and LGBTQ+ affirming church directories can help locate welcoming congregations.
4. What biblical passages are often cited in arguments against LGBTQ+ relationships? Passages in Leviticus and 1 Corinthians are frequently referenced, but their interpretation is highly debated.
5. Is it possible to reconcile faith and LGBTQ+ identity? Yes, many LGBTQ+ Christians find ways to reconcile their faith with their identity, finding support and community within affirming churches and organizations.

**why do christians hate gays:** *Is God anti-gay?* Sam Allberry, 2013-07-01 A practical and sensitive exploration of the Bible's teaching on homosexuality. A practical and sensitive exploration of the Bible's teaching on homosexuality. It's the hot topic of the moment. Christians, the church and the Bible seem to be out of step with modern attitudes towards homosexuality. And there is growing hostility towards those who hold a different view to the culture's. So is God homophobic? And how do we relate to both Christians and non-Christians who experience same-sex attraction? In this short, simple book, Sam Allberry wants to help confused Christians understand what God has said about these questions in the scriptures. Drawing on his own experience, he offers a positive and liberating way forward through the debate. This revised and updated version includes answers to some new questions, including: \* Should Christians attend gay weddings? \* Isn't the Christian view of sexuality dangerous and harmful? \* Is it sinful to experience same-sex attraction?

**why do christians hate gays:** Messy Grace Caleb Kaltenbach, 2015-10-20 Sometimes, grace gets messy. Caleb Kaltenbach was raised by LGBT parents, marched in gay pride parades as a youngster, and experienced firsthand the hatred and bitterness of some Christians toward his family. But then Caleb surprised everyone, including himself, by becoming a Christian...and a pastor. Very few issues in Christianity are as divisive as the acceptance of the LGBT community in the church. As a pastor and as a person with beloved family members living a gay lifestyle, Caleb had to face this issue with courage and grace. Messy Grace shows us that Jesus's command to "love your neighbor as yourself" doesn't have an exception clause for a gay "neighbor"—or for that matter, any other "neighbor" we might find it hard to relate to. Jesus was able to love these people and yet still hold on to his beliefs. So can you. Even when it's messy. "Messy Grace is an important contribution to the conversation about sexual identity for churches and leaders. Caleb's story is surprising and unique, and he weaves it together compellingly. He states his views clearly, leaves room for disagreement,

and champions love no matter where you are in this conversation.” —Jud Wilhite, Sr. Pastor, Central Christian Church

**why do christians hate gays:** God and the Gay Christian Matthew Vines, 2014

Reinterpretations of key Bible texts related to sexual orientation, written by a Harvard student, present an accessible case for a modern Christian conservative acceptance of sexual diversity.

**why do christians hate gays:** A War of Loves David Bennett, 2018-11-13 At 14, David Bennett came out to his parents. At 19, he encountered Jesus Christ. At that moment, his life changed forever. As a young gay man, David Bennett saw Christianity as an enemy to freedom for LGBTQI people, and his early experiences with prejudice and homophobia led him to become a gay activist. But when Jesus came into his life in a highly unexpected way, he was led down a path he never would have predicted or imagined. In A War of Loves, David recounts his dramatic story, from his early years exploring new age religions and French existentialism to his university experiences as an activist. Following supernatural encounters with God, he embarked on a journey not only of seeking to reconcile his faith and sexuality but also of discovering the higher call of Jesus Christ. A War of Loves investigates what the Bible teaches about sexuality and demonstrates the profligate, unqualified grace of God for all people. David describes the joy and intimacy he found in following Jesus Christ and how love has taken on a radically new and far richer meaning for him.

**why do christians hate gays:** Can You Be Gay and Christian? Michael L. Brown, 2014 How do we respond to gay people who tell us how much they love the Lord and experience God's power? What do we do with the argument that the Old Testament laws no longer apply? Brown provides solid biblical answers, clearly written and based on sound scholarship, in a compassionate way that causes the reader to wrestle with the issues and discover the biblical truth. He also provides practical guidelines for ministry, and shows readers how they can resist the gay agenda while reaching out to their gay friends and family.

**why do christians hate gays:** Single, Gay, Christian Gregory Coles, 2017-08-22 In an age where neither society nor the church knows what to do with gay Christians, Greg Coles shares his story—a story about a boy in love with Jesus who, at the fateful onset of puberty, realized his sexual attractions were persistently and exclusively for other guys. This honest, hopeful account shows life through one man's eyes and assures all people: You are not a mistake.

**why do christians hate gays:** Mercy for Today Jonathan Parnell, 2020-01-07 You cannot make it without God's mercy. Do we just need God's grace in dark and shameful moments? Are prayers for mercy only for those times when we really mess up? Jonathan Parnell says we need God's mercy all the time. In fact, contrary to many church cultures, Parnell shows that asking God for mercy should be as regular as asking God for our daily bread. There's no doubt that David was in a terrible predicament when he first prayed the words of Psalm 51. It was a dark and shameful moment in the Bible, and one so dark and shameful it seldom feels relevant to us today. But David's most desperate prayer is really a prayer for all of us—and not just for our worst moments, but for our every moment. In these pages, you'll discover: how to pray a daily, memorable prayer derived from Psalm 51 how to practice daily repentance and soul care how to pursue God and experience his joy in the Christian life This is God's mercy, and it's Mercy for Today.

**why do christians hate gays:** What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality? Kevin DeYoung, 2015-04-16 In just a few short years, massive shifts in public opinion have radically reshaped society's views on homosexuality. Feeling the pressure to forsake long-held beliefs about sex and marriage, some argue that Christians have historically misunderstood the Bible's teaching on this issue. But does this approach do justice to what the Bible really teaches about homosexuality? In this timely book, award-winning author Kevin DeYoung challenges each of us—the skeptic, the seeker, the certain, and the confused—to take a humble look at God's Word. Examining key biblical passages in both the Old and New Testaments and the Bible's overarching teaching regarding sexuality, DeYoung responds to popular objections raised by Christians and non-Christians alike—offering readers an indispensable resource for thinking through one of the most pressing issues of our day.

**why do christians hate gays:** Scripture, Ethics, and the Possibility of Same-Sex Relationships Karen R. Keen, 2018-10-11 WHEN IT COMES TO SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS, this book by Karen Keen contains the most thoughtful, balanced, biblically grounded discussion you're likely to encounter anywhere. With pastoral sensitivity and respect for biblical authority, Keen breaks through current stalemates in the debate surrounding faith and sexual identity. The fresh, evenhanded reevaluation of Scripture, Christian tradition, theology, and science in Keen's Scripture, Ethics, and the Possibility of Same-Sex Relationships will appeal to both traditionalist and progressive church leaders and parishioners, students of ethics and biblical studies, and gay and lesbian people who often feel painfully torn between faith and sexuality.

**why do christians hate gays:** Conditionally Accepted Baker A. Rogers, 2019-12-13 This book explores Mississippi Christians' beliefs about homosexuality and gay and lesbian civil rights and whether having a gay or lesbian friend or family member influences those beliefs. Beliefs vary widely based on religious affiliation. Overall, conservative Christian identity overshadows the positive benefits of relationships with gay and lesbian friends or family.

**why do christians hate gays:** A Simple Guide to Experience Miracles J. P. Moreland, 2021-11-16 Does God Still Do Miracles Today? A Simple Guide to Experience Miracles will give you confidence in and awareness of the supernatural realm as you learn how to flourish spiritually by experiencing more miraculous interventions in your life and ministry. Internationally renowned philosopher J. P. Moreland looks at the nature of miracles and explains why bearing and receiving credible testimony to God's miraculous acts is a crucial feature of a mature Jesus-follower. He also shows how to distinguish a real miracle from a mere coincidence. Miracles bring comfort to believers, strengthening faith in God and creating boldness in our lives. While miraculous healings have occurred frequently throughout church history, Moreland provides data showing how the last fifty years have seen a massive outbreak of miracles and supernatural activity. Today, he argues, the church should humbly expect to see more of these miraculous works of God than we do. Moreland looks at topics like: The relationship between sickness and suffering, along with two different ways to pray for healing How to discern clearly the difference between a genuine miracle and a mere coincidence How to increase your faith that petitionary prayer really works and what to make of unanswered prayer Six ways God speaks to us and advice for hearing God wisely and biblically The role angels play in our lives, how they appear to us, and how to combat demonic influence The biblical basis for most Near-Death Experiences and what we can learn from them A Simple Guide to Experience Miracles increases your expectation and hope that God can and often does miraculously intervene to bring help and comfort. Moreland shows that it makes rational sense to step out and engage in employing Kingdom power and to strengthen courage to witness and act on behalf of the gospel of Jesus. Filled with inspiring, credible, motivating accounts of miracles, he covers five different kinds of supernatural activities and provides practical wisdom about how to begin practices such as healing prayer and learning to deal with the demonic.

**why do christians hate gays:** Calling the Rainbow Nation Home E. Sundby, 2005-08 This book is a journey for truth.-Samuel Kader Sr., Pastor, Community Gospel Church, Dayton, Ohio, Openly Gay, Openly Christian, Leyland Publications. Am I going to hell because I am gay? Is homosexuality a sin? Should I remain celibate my entire life? If you or someone you love is struggling with these issues, this book is for you. Follow Reverend Elaine Sundby's journey as she takes us on her personal quest for truth and self-acceptance-a path that eventually led her to enter the ministry. Reverend Sundby was determined to discover God's plan for her and equally determined to do what was right in the eyes of God, without taking the easy way out. Simple to understand, yet rooted in spiritual truth, Calling the Rainbow Nation Home has the potential to heal-to heal the battered soul of the Christians who are struggling to reconcile their homosexuality with their faith, and to heal their relationships with those who love them and want to understand. A new era is just beginning in the gay Christian community, as thousands begin to realize that God loves us all just as we are.

**why do christians hate gays:** The Christ of the New Testament Paul Elmer More, 1924

**why do christians hate gays:** Reasonable Faith William Lane Craig, 2008 This updated edition

by one of the world's leading apologists presents a systematic, positive case for Christianity that reflects the latest work in the contemporary hard sciences and humanities. Brilliant and accessible.

**why do christians hate gays:** Gay Christian 101 Richard G. Brentlinger, 2007

**why do christians hate gays: Does Jesus Really Love Me?** Jeff Chu, 2014-04-15 "Fascinating, thoughtful, and important. [Jeff Chu] captures the fractures and conflict at a moment when the issue of what to do with L.G.B.T. people is tearing Christian denominations apart. Does Jesus Really Love Me? deserves to be widely read." —Dan Savage, New York Times Book Review In this timely work—part memoir, part investigative analysis—a prize-winning writer explores the explosive and confusing intersection of faith, politics, and sexuality in Christian America. When Jeff Chu came out to his parents as a gay man, his devout Christian mother cried. And cried. Every time she looked at him. For months. As a journalist and a believer, Chu knew that he had to get to the heart of a question that had been haunting him for years: Does Jesus really love me? The quest to find an answer propels Chu on a remarkable cross-country journey to discover the God "forbidden to him" because of his sexuality. Surveying the breadth of the political and theological spectrum, from the most conservative viewpoints to the most liberal, he tries to distill what the diverse followers of Christ believe about homosexuality and to understand how these people who purportedly follow the same God and the same Scriptures have come to hold such a wide range of opinions. Why does Pastor A believe that God hates me, especially because of my gayness? Why does Person B believe that God loves me, gayness and all? From Brooklyn to Nashville to California, from Westboro Baptist Church and their god hates fags protest signs to the pioneering Episcopal bishop Mary Glasspool, who proclaims a message of liberation and divine love, Chu captures spiritual snapshots of Christian America at a remarkable moment, when tensions between both sides in the culture wars have rarely been higher. Both funny and heartbreaking, perplexing and wise, Does Jesus Really Love Me? is an intellectual, emotional, and spiritual pilgrimage that reveals a portrait of a faith and a nation at odds.

**why do christians hate gays: Torn** Justin Lee, 2012-11-13 An evangelical Christian examines the impact of sexuality, the LGBTQ+ movement, and the future of the church in this thoughtful, deeply researched guide to navigating and mending the social and political division in our families and churches. As a teenager and young man, Justin Lee felt deeply torn. Nicknamed God Boy by his peers, he knew that he was called to a life in the evangelical Christian ministry. But Lee harbored a secret: He also knew that he was gay. In this groundbreaking book, Lee recalls the events--his coming out to his parents, his experiences with the ex-gay movement, and his in-depth study of the Bible--that led him, eventually, to self-acceptance. But more than just a memoir, TORN provides insightful, practical guidance for all committed Christians who wonder how to relate to gay friends or family members--or who struggle with their own sexuality. Convinced that in a culture that sees gays and Christians as enemies, gay Christians are in a unique position to bring peace, Lee demonstrates that people of faith on both sides of the debate can respect, learn from, and love one another.

**why do christians hate gays: Where the Light Fell** Philip Yancey, 2023-03-14 In this searing meditation on the bonds of family and the allure of extremist faith, one of today's most celebrated Christian writers recounts his unexpected journey from a strict fundamentalist upbringing to a life of compassion and grace—a revelatory memoir that "invites comparison to Hillbilly Elegy" (Publishers Weekly, starred review). "Searing, heartrending . . . This stunning tale reminds us that the only way to keep living is to ask God for the impossible: love, forgiveness, and hope."—Kate Bowler, New York Times bestselling author of Everything Happens for a Reason Raised by an impoverished widow who earned room and board as a Bible teacher in 1950s Atlanta, Philip Yancey and his brother, Marshall, found ways to venture out beyond the confines of their eight-foot-wide trailer. But when Yancey was in college, he uncovered a shocking secret about his father's death—a secret that began to illuminate the motivations that drove his mother to extreme, often hostile religious convictions and a belief that her sons had been ordained for a divine cause. Searching for answers, Yancey dives into his family origins, taking us on an evocative journey from the backwoods of the Bible Belt to the

bustling streets of Philadelphia; from trailer parks to church sanctuaries; from family oddballs to fire-and-brimstone preachers and childhood awakenings through nature, music, and literature. In time, the weight of religious and family pressure sent both sons on opposite paths—one toward healing from the impact of what he calls a “toxic faith,” the other into a self-destructive spiral. Where the Light Fell is a gripping family narrative set against a turbulent time in post-World War II America, shaped by the collision of Southern fundamentalism with the mounting pressures of the civil rights movement and Sixties-era forces of social change. In piecing together his fragmented personal history and his search for redemption, Yancey gives testament to the enduring power of our hunger for truth and the possibility of faith rooted in grace instead of fear. “I truly believe this is the one book I was put on earth to write,” says Yancey. “So many of the strands from my childhood—racial hostility, political division, culture wars—have resurfaced in modern form. Looking back points me forward.”

**why do christians hate gays: Bringing Up Boys** James C. Dobson, 2014-08-22 Here’s sensible advice and caring encouragement on raising boys from the nation’s most trusted parenting authority, Dr. James Dobson. With so much confusion about the role of men in our society, it’s no wonder so many parents and teachers are asking questions about how to bring up boys. Why are so many boys in crisis? What qualities should we be trying to instill in young males? Our culture has vilified masculinity and, as a result, an entire generation of boys is growing up without a clear idea of what it means to be a man. In the runaway bestseller Bringing Up Boys, Dr. Dobson draws from his experience as a child psychologist and family counselor, as well as extensive research, to offer advice and encouragement based on a firm foundation of biblical principles.

**why do christians hate gays: Jesus > Religion** Jefferson Bethke, 2013-10-14 Abandon dead, dry, religious rule-keeping and embrace the promise of being truly known and deeply loved. Jefferson Bethke burst into the cultural conversation with a passionate, provocative poem titled Why I Hate Religion, But Love Jesus. The 4-minute video became an overnight sensation, with 7 million YouTube views in its first 48 hours (and 23+ million in a year). Bethke’s message clearly struck a chord with believers and nonbelievers alike, triggering an avalanche of responses running the gamut from encouraged to enraged. In his New York Times bestseller Jesus > Religion, Bethke unpacks similar contrasts that he drew in the poem--highlighting the difference between teeth gritting and grace, law and love, performance and peace, despair, and hope. With refreshing candor, he delves into the motivation behind his message, beginning with the unvarnished tale of his own plunge from the pinnacle of a works-based, fake-smile existence that sapped his strength and led him down a path of destructive behavior. Along the way, Bethke gives you the tools you need to: Humbly and prayerfully open your mind Understand Jesus for all that he is View the church from a brand-new perspective Bethke is quick to acknowledge that he’s not a pastor or theologian, but simply an ordinary, twenty-something who cried out for a life greater than the one for which he had settled. On this journey, Bethke discovered the real Jesus, who beckoned him with love beyond the props of false religion. Praise for Jesus > Religion: Jeff’s book will make you stop and listen to a voice in your heart that may have been drowned out by the noise of religion. Listen to that voice, then follow it--right to the feet of Jesus. --Bob Goff, author of New York Times bestsellers Love Does and Everybody, Always The book you hold in your hands is Donald Miller’s Blue Like Jazz meets C. S. Lewis’s Mere Christianity meets Augustine’s Confessions. This book is going to awaken an entire generation to Jesus and His grace. --Derwin L. Gray, lead pastor of Transformation Church, author of Limitless Life: Breaking Free from the Labels That Hold You Back

**why do christians hate gays: Why Celibacy?: Reclaiming the Fatherhood of the Priest** Fr. Carter Griffin, 2019-07-01 “The Church today demands a profound renewal of celibate priesthood and the fatherhood to which it is ordered.” Priestly celibacy, some say, is an outdated relic from another age. Others see it as a lonely way of life. But as Fr. Carter Griffin argues in Why Celibacy?: Reclaiming the Fatherhood of the Priest, the ancient practice of celibacy, when lived well, helps a priest exercise his spiritual fatherhood joyfully and fruitfully. Along the way, Griffin explores: the question of optional celibacy some pitfalls of celibate paternity the selection and formation of

candidates for celibate priesthood why biological fathers are also called to spiritual fatherhood the powerful impact of celibacy on the Church and the wider culture In a critical moment for the Catholic priesthood, Fr. Griffin brings light and hope with a new perspective on the Church's perennial wisdom on celibacy.

**why do christians hate gays: Cover-up** Lawrence Goudge, 2012 The Christian church hides a multitude of secrets; it is, after all, a mysterious religion. For instance, what if Jesus did not start Christianity? What if Paul, who knew Jesus only through visions, created it? In *Cover-Up*, author and lay minister Lawrence Goudge disputes the Christian theology that has dominated the world for millennia. Goudge, who has spent more than twenty-four years researching the suppressed history of Jesus's Jewish followers, demonstrates how the church has corrupted Jesus's message. *Cover-Up* takes an innovative and investigative approach to Christianity, St. Paul's credibility, and ways in which theological truths have been concealed for two thousand years. Goudge's analysis debunks the myths and provides alternative theories. As hatred and heresy haunt Christianity's shadows, this study addresses the intolerant nature of the Christian church and sets out to right the wrongs by bringing the truth about the Nazarenes into the light of day. Goudge's message presents hope for a just world.

**why do christians hate gays: Life Application** Tyndale, 2001-08-20 1990 Gold Medallion Award winner! The Life Application Study Bible is today's #1 selling study Bible because it helps people see how the Scriptures are relevant to today's issues. This edition of the Life Application Study Bible lets you enjoy the best-selling Life Application features with the time-honored King James Version. Special Features: Thousands of Life Application notes help explain God's Word and challenge readers to apply the truth of Scripture to life Personality profiles highlight over 100 important Bible characters Book introductions provide vital statistics, overview, and timeline to help readers understand the message of each book 200 thumbnail maps highlight important Bible places and events 260 charts help explain difficult concepts and relationships Cross-references Harmony of the Gospels built right into the text of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John Dictionary/concordance Words of Christ in red Daily reading plan Genuine leather and bonded leather editions include gold-page edges and ribbon marker

**why do christians hate gays: Culture Shock** Chip Ingram, 2014-08-05 We live in a reactionary culture where divisive issues arise, people on either side throw stones, and everyone ends up more entrenched in their opinions than in reaching common ground--or even exhibiting common courtesy! If there ever was a time for Christians to understand and communicate God's truth about controversial and polarizing issues, it is now. Believers must develop convictions based on research, reason, and biblical truth--and be able (and willing) to communicate these convictions with a love and respect that reflects God's own heart. In *Culture Shock*, bestselling author, pastor, and radio personality Chip Ingram shows readers how they can bring light rather than heat to the most controversial and divisive issues of our day. Covering topics such as right and wrong, sex, homosexuality, abortion, politics, and the environment, *Culture Shock* is every engaged believer's must-have guidebook to replacing reactionary hate with revolutionary love.

**why do christians hate gays: Surprised by Joy** C. S. Lewis, 2017-02-14 A repackaged edition of the revered author's spiritual memoir, in which he recounts the story of his divine journey and eventual conversion to Christianity. C. S. Lewis—the great British writer, scholar, lay theologian, broadcaster, Christian apologist, and bestselling author of *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Great Divorce*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and many other beloved classics—takes readers on a spiritual journey through his early life and eventual embrace of the Christian faith. Lewis begins with his childhood in Belfast, surveys his boarding school years and his youthful atheism in England, reflects on his experience in World War I, and ends at Oxford, where he became the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England. As he recounts his lifelong search for joy, Lewis demonstrates its role in guiding him to find God.

**why do christians hate gays: The Bible, Christianity, & Homosexuality** Justin R. Cannon, 2008-07-14 There are many commendable books on the Bible and homosexuality which span

anywhere from a hundred to several hundred pages in length. For the curious, such books can sometimes be inaccessible or more than they really want to read. *The Bible, Christianity, & Homosexuality* is a concise yet profound analysis of the Bible verses often misused to condemn gay and lesbian Christians. This study was written to be accessible to all, indeed, something family members and friends of gay and lesbian Christians might actually take the time to read. The Los Angeles Times describes this work as an illuminating...analysis that argues the Bible doesn't condemn faithful gay relationships. (McGough, 7/18/05).

**why do christians hate gays:** *Queer Virtue* The Reverend Elizabeth M. Edman, 2017-05-23 LGBTQ people are a gift to the Church and have the potential to revitalize Christianity. As an openly lesbian Episcopal priest and professional advocate for LGBTQ justice, the Reverend Elizabeth Edman has spent her career grappling with the core tenets of her faith. After deep reflection on her tradition, Edman is struck by the realization that her queer identity has taught her more about how to be a good Christian than the church. In *Queer Virtue*, Edman posits that Christianity, at its scriptural core, incessantly challenges its adherents to rupture false binaries, to “queer” lines that pit people against one another. Thus, Edman asserts that Christianity, far from being hostile to queer people, is itself inherently queer. Arguing from the heart of scripture, she reveals how queering Christianity—that is, disrupting simplistic ways of thinking about self and other—can illuminate contemporary Christian faith. Pushing well past the notion that “Christian love = tolerance,” Edman offers a bold alternative: the recognition that queer people can help Christians better understand their fundamental calling and the creation of sacred space where LGBTQ Christians are seen as gifts to the church. By bringing queer ethics and Christian theology into conversation, Edman also shows how the realities of queer life demand a lived response of high moral caliber—one that resonates with the ethical path laid down by Christianity. Lively and impassioned, Edman proposes that queer experience be celebrated as inherently valuable, ethically virtuous, and illuminating the sacred. A rich and nuanced exploration, *Queer Virtue* mines the depths of Christianity’s history, mission, and core theological premises to call all Christians to a more authentic and robust understanding of their faith.

**why do christians hate gays:** *What's So Amazing About Grace? Revised and Updated* Philip Yancey, 2023-10-03 OVER TWO MILLION COPIES SOLD! It's the most powerful force in the universe, our only hope for love and forgiveness, and a foretaste of eternal life: amazing, radical, life-changing grace. Millions of lives have been changed by award-winning author Philip Yancey's startling exploration of grace at street level. Grace is the one thing the world can't duplicate, the healing force we need, and the key to transforming a broken world. In this revised and updated edition of his personal and provocative book, Yancey offers true portraits of grace's life-changing power. These stories, set in the midst of life's stark realities, evoke such questions as: If grace is God's love for the undeserving, how do I get it? How well are we dispensing grace to a world that knows far more of strife and unforgiveness than it does of mercy? Can grace make a difference in the midst of such atrocities as the Nazi holocaust, and how can it withstand the brutality of hate? With powerful stories, rich theology, and practical suggestions, Yancey challenges us to become living answers to a world that desperately needs to know, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*

**why do christians hate gays:** *Out of a Far Country* Christopher Yuan, Angela Yuan, 2011-05-03 Over 100,000 copies sold! *Coming Out, Then Coming Home* Christopher Yuan, the son of Chinese immigrants, discovered at an early age that he was different. He was attracted to other boys. As he grew into adulthood, his mother, Angela, hoped to control the situation. Instead, she found that her son and her life were spiraling out of control—and her own personal demons were determined to defeat her. Years of heartbreak, confusion, and prayer followed before the Yuans found a place of complete surrender, which is God’s desire for all families. Their amazing story, told from the perspectives of both mother and son, offers hope for anyone affected by homosexuality. God calls all who are lost to come home to him. Casting a compelling vision for holy sexuality, *Out of a Far Country* speaks to prodigals, parents of prodigals, and those wanting to minister to the gay community. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran

and embraced him and kissed him.” - Luke 15:20 Includes a discussion guide for personal reflection and group use.

**why do christians hate gays: Holy Homosexuals** Michael S. Piazza, 1997 Yes, you can be gay or lesbian and Christian! What does it mean for lesbian and gay people that Jesus was tempted like we are in every way? Fundamentalists have created God in their image. What if God has qualities other than being right wing, upper middle class, white, male? Rev. Piazza challenges us to look at God from a different angle--Page [4] of cover.

**why do christians hate gays: Gay Girl, Good God** Jackie Hill Perry, 2018-09-03 “I used to be a lesbian.” In *Gay Girl, Good God*, author Jackie Hill Perry shares her own story, offering practical tools that helped her in the process of finding wholeness. Jackie grew up fatherless and experienced gender confusion. She embraced masculinity and homosexuality with every fiber of her being. She knew that Christians had a lot to say about all of the above. But was she supposed to change herself? How was she supposed to stop loving women, when homosexuality felt more natural to her than heterosexuality ever could? At age nineteen, Jackie came face-to-face with what it meant to be made new. And not in a church, or through contact with Christians. God broke in and turned her heart toward Him right in her own bedroom in light of His gospel. Read in order to understand. Read in order to hope. Or read in order, like Jackie, to be made new.

**why do christians hate gays: Bible, Gender, Sexuality** James V. Brownson, 2013-02-03 In *Bible, Gender, Sexuality* James Brownson argues that Christians should reconsider whether or not the biblical strictures against same-sex relations as defined in the ancient world should apply to contemporary, committed same-sex relationships. Presenting two sides in the debate -- traditionalist and revisionist -- Brownson carefully analyzes each of the seven main texts that appear to address intimate same-sex relations. In the process, he explores key concepts that inform our understanding of the biblical texts, including patriarchy, complementarity, purity and impurity, honor and shame. Central to his argument is the need to uncover the moral logic behind the biblical text. Written in order to serve and inform the ongoing debate in many denominations over the questions of homosexuality, Brownson's in-depth study will prove a useful resource for Christians who want to form a considered opinion on this important issue.

**why do christians hate gays: Stranger at the Gate** Mel White, 1995-04-01 “Compelling...eloquent and compassionate...We learn as much about growing up in the Christian right as we do about gay life in Mel White’s heartfelt and revealing memoir.”—San Francisco Examiner Until Christmas Eve 1991, Mel White was regarded by the leaders of the religious right as one of their most talented and productive supporters. He penned the speeches of Ollie North. He was a ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell, worked with Jim Bakker, flew in Pat Robertson's private jet, walked sandy beaches with Billy Graham. What these men didn't know was that Mel White—evangelical minister, committed Christian, family man—was gay. In this remarkable book, Mel White details his twenty-five years of being counseled, exorcised, electric-shocked, prayed for, and nearly driven to suicide because his church said homosexuality was wrong. But his salvation—to be openly gay and Christian—is more than a unique coming-out story. It is a chilling exposé that goes right into the secret meetings and hidden agendas of the religious right. Told by an eyewitness and sure to anger those Mel White once knew best, *Stranger at the Gate* is a warning about where the politics of hate may lead America...a brave book by a good man whose words can make us richer in spirit and much wiser too.

**why do christians hate gays: Beliefs** Jamie Cawley, 2018-12-12 An accessible, objective understanding of what the major ‘beliefs’ are about. The major beliefs include: Polytheism, Judaism, Daoism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity, Islam, Nationalism, Communism and Environmentalism. All have over 100 million followers and the full structure of faith-determined behavioural guidance.

**why do christians hate gays: Covenant and Calling** Robert Song, 2014-09-24 No other issue in recent times has proved as potentially divisive for the churches as that of same-sex relationships. At the same time as many countries have been moving towards legal recognition of civil partnerships or



same-sex marriage, Christian responses have tended towards either finding alliances with proponents of conservative social mores, or providing what amounts to theological endorsement of secular liberal values.

**why do christians hate gays:** *Homosexuality and Religion* Richard Hasbany, 1989 Here is a comprehensive historical overview of the recent discussion in the Judeo-Christian religions regarding homosexuality. Breaking new ground in the scholarship about Judeo-Christian religion and homosexuality, this wide-ranging volume features insightful new perspectives on the relationship between the church and homosexuals. Aimed at scholars, religious professionals, counselors, and therapists, *Homosexuality and Religion* provides valuable information on both historical and contemporary religious thought and life and homosexuality. Some of the provocative topics include gay and lesbian clergy, psychological/pastoral counseling for lesbians and gay men, and the church and homophobia.

**why do christians hate gays: A God Who Hates** Wafa Sultan, 2011-04-26 From the front page of The New York Times to YouTube, Dr. Wafa Sultan has become a force radical Islam has to reckon with. For the first time, she tells her story and what she learned, first-hand, about radical Islam in *A God Who Hates*, a passionate memoir by an outspoken Arabic woman that is also a cautionary tale for the West. She grew up in Syria in a culture ruled by a god who hates women. How can such a culture be anything but barbarous?, Sultan asks. It can't, she concludes because any culture that hates its women can't love anything else. She believes that the god who hates is waging a battle between modernity and barbarism, not a battle between religions. She also knows that it's a battle radical Islam will lose. Condemned by some and praised by others for speaking out, Sultan wants everyone to understand the danger posed by *A God Who Hates*.

**why do christians hate gays:** *Understanding Gender Dysphoria* Mark A. Yarhouse, 2015-05-22 Gender and sexual identity are immensely complicated topics. An expert on human sexuality, Mark Yarhouse offers a Christian perspective of transgender identity that eschews simplistic answers, engages the latest research and listens to people's stories. This accessible guide challenges Christians to rise above the politics and come alongside individuals navigating these issues.

**why do christians hate gays:** *The Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha* Oxford University Press, 2002-11 The first major translation of the Christian Scriptures from the original languages to be undertaken since the King James Version (1611), the Revised Standard Version debuted in 1952 to simultaneous acclaim and condemnation from American Christians. Mainline Protestants and Roman Catholics lauded the new translation, while many evangelicals vilified it. The RSV dramatically shaped the course of English Bible translation work in the latter half of the Twentieth Century, and it remains the Bible of choice for many people. This Anniversary Edition features a clear new type setting that readers are certain to appreciate.

**why do christians hate gays: Victory** Linda Hirshman, 2012-06-05 In the vein of Taylor Branch's classic *Parting of the Waters*, Supreme Court lawyer and political pundit Linda Hirshman delivers the enthralling, groundbreaking story of the gay rights movement, revealing how a dedicated and resourceful minority changed America forever. When the modern struggle for gay rights erupted in the summer of 1969, forty-nine states outlawed sex between people of the same gender. Four decades later, in 2011, New York legalized gay marriage and the armed services stopped enforcing Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Successful social movements are always extraordinary, but these advances seem like something of a miracle. Linda Hirshman recounts the long roads that led to these victories, detailing the remarkable and revolutionary story of the movement that has blurred rigid gender lines, altered the shared culture, and broadened our definitions of family. Written in vivid prose, at once emotional and erudite, *Victory* is an utterly vibrant work of reportage and eyewitness accounts and demonstrates how, in a matter of decades, a focused group of activists forged a classic campaign for cultural change that will serve as a model for all future political movements. "Remarkable for its emotional punch as for its historical insight."—New York Times Book Review

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