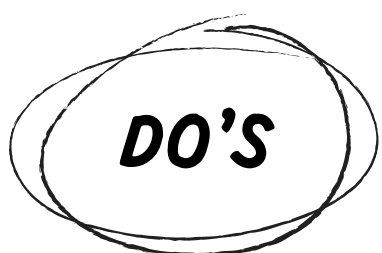


SUPPORTING LGBTQ+ FRIENDS

Far more members of the Christadelphian Community than we imagine are LGBTQ+. Hiding our true selves for fear of rejection leads to anxiety, depression and worse. Here are some ideas for supporting yourself and your friends.



Make sure that your friends understand that it's NOT a sin to be LGBTQ+. Feelings and temptations are not sinful, otherwise our Lord Jesus Christ would himself be a sinner and there would be no hope of salvation (Matthew 4:1-11).



Remember that whatever you say about gender and sexuality could be damaging to your friends. Always talk as though your listeners are LGBTQ+ (even when you're sure that they're not) because your closest friends and family may be too scared to be honest due to the fear of rejection.



Understand that scientific research shows that God created humans on a spectrum of sexuality.



If sexuality is ever discussed in Sunday School or CYC, ask the leader about what support there is in your ecclesia for LGBTQ+ young people. Who can you talk to in confidence, without fear of judgement?



Never "out" someone who is LGBTQ+ without their permission. You are not at liberty to discuss someone else's sexuality or gender (Matthew 7:12).



Never assume that your friends are straight or cisgender. Let them know that your friendship is unconditional. LGBTQ+ young people are far more likely to attempt suicide if they are not accepted by their families. Your loyal friendship could save lives and protect the vulnerable (Matthew 12:20).



Never simply quote Bible passages at LGBTQ+ friends. They will be probably be aware of Bible verses connected with sexuality and will have studied them far more than you have.



Don't show a lack of empathy if someone comes out to you. For example, never ever say that sexuality is a choice or that it is sinful just to be gay. Instead, thank your friend for confiding in you and let them know that you love them and will not break their trust.

REMEMBER

"... all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble" (1 Peter 3:8).