Glad You Asked: *How Do We Love People We Disagree With*? Next Steps Study

Based on Pastor Russell’s sermons for this series, the Next Steps studies will help us dive a little deeper into what Pastor Russell covers on Sunday morning. This study can be done as a small group or individually.

**Read Matthew 8:5-7** *“****5*** *When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help.* ***6*** *“Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.”* ***7*** *Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”*

1. Why is it unusual that Jesus would talk to a Roman centurion?
2. Why does Jesus start with love?
3. What role does the law play? Is it still relevant?

**Read Matthew 9:12-13** *“****12*** *On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.* ***13*** *But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

1. What did Jesus see as His mission?
2. Was Jesus afraid of people who were different than He was? What mindset did Jesus have to those who were different from Him?
3. Considering that Jesus saw His role as a doctor, what does this imply about His role in difficult discussions?
4. How is it possible for Jesus to see the tax collectors as sick and still love them?
5. How might this challenge us about our viewpoints of people?

Russell listed five applications.

We must confess that Christianity has not responded well to the LGBT community.

1. How have you seen a poor response in this situation?
2. How have you seen a better response?

We must insist on the human dignity of everyone.

1. How does realizing that every person (regardless of age, race, sex, choice…) is created in the image of God affect your thoughts or actions?

We must recognize the sin of everyone.

1. How does the sinfulness of everyone (cf. Rom. 3:23) challenge the notion of “affirming” anyone’s actions?

We must avoid the error of making heterosexual sins more “acceptable” than homosexual sins.

1. What is God’s view of holy sexuality?

We must practice true Christian love.

1. What would it look like for us to show love like Jesus?
2. After hearing Pastor Russell’s sermon and digging into this study, how do you answer the question, “ How do we love people we disagree with?”