# Gracious Conversations: Talking to LGBTQ Family and Friends



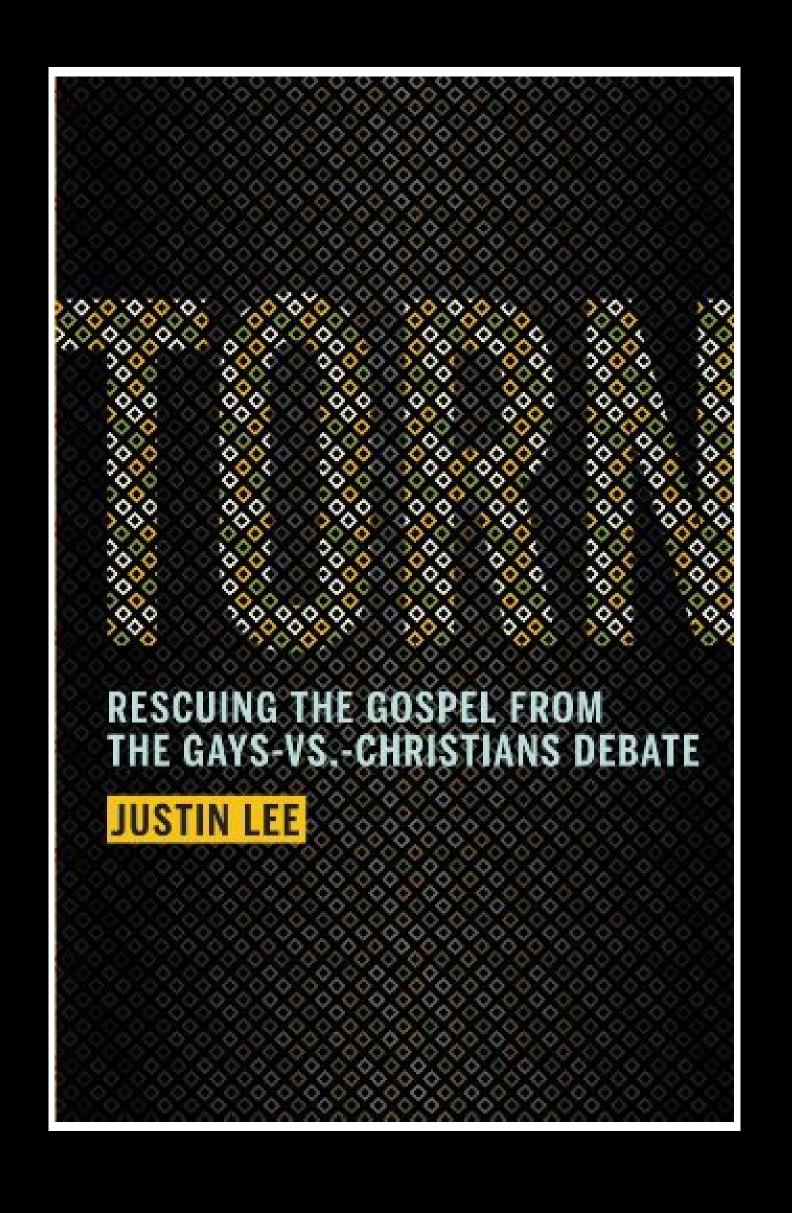
#### Mark Schulz

Fully Known and Truly Loved Ministries

mark@fullyandtruly.org

### Do you know someone?







Justin Lee

Author, Speaker, LGBTQ Christian Activist

Author of Torn,
Talking Across the
Divide, UnConditional

# What if God decided today that he was doing away with marriage?

For decades now,
we have found ourselves
caught up in a culture war:

#### US VERSUS THEM.

The good news: There is no them.

Our culture war has been a civil war:

#### US VERSUS US.

This is the untold story of religion and the LGBT community. Thankfully, there is a path toward peace...

ANDREW MARIN



#### Andrew Marin

Founder of the Marin Foundation

PhD in Divinity from St. Andrews University

Author of Us Verses
Us and Love is an
Orientation

Youtube: "Ministry Within Theological Tension"

- 1. Most LGBT people regularly attended a faith community for the majority of their youth.
- 2. Most left the church after they came out.
- 3. Most still believe in God and are interested in one day finding a faith community.
- 4. Most are less concerned with a church's theology of homosexuality than they are with how they are treated by individual Christians at church.

"The problem is never what you believe. The problem is in how you do two things: How you communicate what you believe, and how you live out (or don't live out) what you say that you believe."

- Andrew Marin

#### So ... what do we believe?

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God ...

Romans 3:23

"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."

#### What is Christianity all about?

Christianity is not about what I do, it is about what God has done!

"But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known ... this righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe ... For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

Romans 3:21-24

#### What is Christianity all about?

"One beggar helping another beggar know where to find bread."

#### What would Jesus do?

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only son from the Father, full of grace and truth ... From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

## "grace upon grace"

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

He (Jesus) left Judea and departed again for Galilee. And he had to pass through Samaria.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?"

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

## Acknowledge and Accept

(not)

Agree and Affirm

You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse ... Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

#### What YOU can do ...

Be there for people. Listen to their story. Don't be afraid.

"To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial.

To be known and not loved is our greatest fear.

But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God."

Tim Keller, The Meaning of Marriage

# Gracious Conversations: Talking to LGBTQ Family and Friends



#### Mark Schulz

Fully Known and Truly Loved Ministries

mark@fullyandtruly.org