

MUST CHRISTIANS LEARN TO LOVE THE LGBT COMMUNITY?

Focus on the Family's Glenn Stanton explains why the answer is not only "yes", but non-negotiable ... and how to do it without compromising the truth or apologizing for your faith

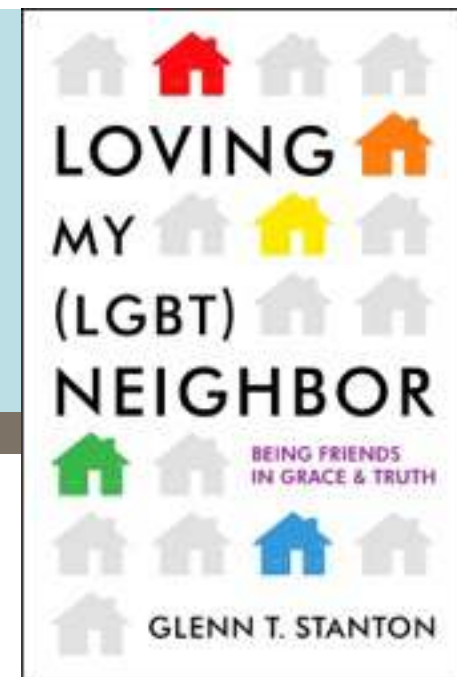
What is it?

To love our neighbor as ourselves is the second great command that our Savior gave us, eclipsing all others, but one. It is not a suggestion. Curiously, the question of "who is my neighbor?" came up the very moment Jesus gave us this command. And it comes up today. Jesus was colorfully clear -- our neighbor includes the person who lives on the far end of our ideological or sociological spectrum. In light of and despite the divisive issue that homosexuality has become in both culture and the church, ***Loving My (LGBT) Neighbor*** is conceived and thoughtfully written - from the author's decade-plus years of engaging this issue at all levels - for the Christian layperson or clergy who want to learn how to receive and interact with their gay or lesbian neighbors in a substantively Christ-honoring way.

Why is it relevant?

Many Christians feel as though they're being forced by government, Hollywood, educators and media to 'comply' with, 'accept' and even 'celebrate' homosexuality and same-sex marriage. True or not, the sentiment is greatly increasing the chasm between the two groups and making Jesus' command to 'love thy neighbor' rather difficult - particularly if that neighbor is gay. Are they justified? Stanton not only says 'no' and explains how/why millions of Christians are approaching the issue improperly, but how they can bridge the divide -- not only to civility, but to find meaningful, lasting friendships/relationships with those on the other side of this divisive issue ... without sacrificing or compromising their own beliefs.

*** How are we to respond? This is a colossal question and one that can't be ignored. The church has never had to ask itself this in the way we're asking today, because what we're experiencing in our time is historically unprecedented. ***



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How is it different than other books on this topic?

- Thoughtful, respectful, gracious and loving, while at the same time, thoroughly-researched, uncompromising and unapologetically Biblical.
- Hopeful and counter-cultural message
- Not a book with a judgmental and harsh tone, pointing fingers and condemning homosexuals, but rather a book on heeding Jesus' command to 'love our neighbors' and how to enjoy meaningful, authentic, honest relationships, despite disagreeing and without either side compromising their beliefs

Who is the audience?

- Absolutely everyone. There isn't one among us who isn't affected by this, the issue of our time.
- Christians interested in cultivating authentic, honest, meaningful relationships with those on the other side of this issue and loving them well – without compromising their faith
- Christians who want to better understand the LGBT community
- Anyone interested in a more comprehensive, thoughtful understanding of this divisive issue, from both sides of the aisle
- Anyone who loves a gay or lesbian family member, colleague or friend, but is unsure of how to talk honestly with them regarding the issue, their faith

Who wrote it? ... And what makes him an expert?

Glenn T. Stanton is the director for Family Formation Studies at Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs and a research fellow at the Institute of Marriage and Family in Ottawa. He debates and lectures extensively on the issues of gender, sexuality, marriage and parenting at universities and churches around the country. He served the George W. Bush administration for many years as a consultant on increasing fatherhood involvement in the Head Start program.

Stanton is the author of five books and a contributor to nine others. Prior to '*Loving my LGBT Neighbor*', he most recently wrote, "*The Ring Makes All the Difference*" -- which explains the latest research findings, as well as biblical wisdom, on why cohabitation is not a good idea for couples and their children -- and "*Secure Daughters, Confident Sons: How Parents Guide Their Children Into Authentic Masculinity and Femininity*", exploring how mothers and fathers raise girls and boys to be strong, healthy women and men.

Prior to those, he'd authored "*Why Marriage Matters: Reasons to Believe in Marriage in Postmodern Society*", "*My Crazy, Imperfect Christian Family*" and "*Marriage on Trial: The Case Against Same-Sex Marriage and Parenting*", which was featured on C-SPAN BookTV.

Stanton and his wife have five children and reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



WHERE TO FIND HIM ONLINE

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Particular Areas of Expertise

- Homosexuality, LGBT issues as they relate to public policy, Christian faith and culture
- Pro-life, family advocacy
- Theology, Christian faith
- Parenting
- Marriage
- Gender roles and issues

Other Reasons You're Booking Him

- Familiar face and authoritative voice on issues of family, marriage
- Extensive experience on radio and television
- Frequently debates hot-button cultural issues
- Long-standing relationship/employment with Focus on the Family offers enormous credibility
- Ability to analyze, summarize and simplify legislation/public policies, social activism, cultural movements and the impact their collision with faith has on the church
- Readily available
- Hopeful and counter-cultural message

Suggested Interview Questions/Topics

1. Can I support gay rights, politically, and still remain faithful to the Scriptures?
2. I'm not sure how I feel about the same-sex couple who wants to be a part of my local church. How am I called to respond?
3. How do I respond to colleagues, friends, family members who want to accept or claim to accept Christ, but refuse to see their homosexual relationship as sinful?
4. I've been invited to a same-sex wedding. Should I go?
5. If I vote in favor of laws protecting natural/traditional marriage, am I being unfair to my gay and lesbian friend and neighbors?
6. Should I apologize for the behaviors and attitudes of other Christians towards the LGBT community?
7. How do I resist the temptation to become bitter and resentful towards the LGBT community when I feel like the government is forcing me to 'comply', accept, support same-sex marriage and things I don't believe in?
8. Since I'm commanded to love, how can I oppose same-sex marriage and civil unions -- actively working against them, in fact -- and enjoy meaningful friendships with those who are involved in and advocate for them?

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STANTON'S PREVIOUS BOOKS

[The Ring Makes All the Difference: The Hidden Consequences of Cohabitation and the Strong Benefits of Marriage...](#) by Glenn T. Stanton (Aug 19, 2011)

[Secure Daughters, Confident Sons: How Parents Guide Their Children into Authentic Masculinity and Femininity](#) by Glenn T. Stanton (Jan 18, 2011)

[Why Marriage Matters: Reasons to Believe in Marriage in Postmodern Society \(Experiencing God\)](#) by Glenn T. Stanton (Oct 1, 1997)

[My Crazy Imperfect Christian Family: Living Out Your Faith with Those Who Know You Best](#) by Glenn T. Stanton (Jan 28, 2004)

[Marriage on Trial: The Case Against Same-Sex Marriage and Parenting](#) by Glenn T. Stanton and Dr. Bill Maier (Sep 9, 2004)

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