## Making Things Right

## BRIAN NIETZEL

With one of today's most divisive, hot-button topics—Christianity and the LGBTQ+ community—extreme voices seem to lead the conversation. Yet as you look to the quieter middle, where most of us live, you will find a more constructive and hopeful narrative playing out in the church.

Since "coming out" 15 years ago as a gay man committed to his faith in Jesus, Brian has consulted with evangelical churches big and small to help advance more productive conversation. He knows the tension of reconciling longheld beliefs with compassion for LGBTQ+ loved ones. From his vantage, many leaders are braving that journey, and rethinking their responsibility to LGBTQ+ individuals in and outside their congregation.

Brian invites us on that journey. Through statistics and stories, he presents the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ people, many with unresolved wounds from church and family. With empathy and mutual respect in place, we can better discover the Christian response and responsibility to the LGBTQ+ community.



In 2021, Brian launched *Making Things Right* to invite and equip Christians to better love and serve the LGBTQ+ community. His podcast mini-series was featured by Christianity Today and has over 15,000 downloads. His oped "*Defending Positions or People?*" was published exclusively by The Dallas Morning News, a Top 15 US newspaper. Brian lives with his husband, Dan, and two daughters in Atlanta, GA.

## **Example Topics**

- **Brian's Story:** Three key chapters to navigating his love for Jesus and being gay.
- **LGBTQ Stories:** 86% were raised in the church. 54% left at age 18. Why?
- **Church Conversations:** Stories of churches examining LGBTQ+ positions/practices, without splitting their congregation.
- Quieter Middle: Extreme voices do not represent the majority. Most want a better, redemptive dialogue.
- **Hesitations:** Two key hurdles that keep Christians and LGBTQ+ people from reconciliation.
- **Integrity:** Loving LGBTQ+ people while staying true to your faith.

## **Example Questions**

- What are 3 things Christians need to know about the LGBTQ+ community?
- What are 3 things LGBTQ+ individuals need to know about Christians?
- Why is reconciliation between the church and the LGBTQ+ community important? What are the hesitations and hurdles on both sides?
- How do Christians love and serve LGBTQ+ people and not compromise their beliefs?
- How do LGBTQ+ individuals hurt by church/Christians find healing and faith?
- What are practical ways to help "make things right"?

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HEAR:

MTR Podcast excerpt

SEE:

Intro to Making Things Right

Get to Know Brian

**EXPLORE:** 

MTR Website

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