

9 Ways to Connect with LGBTQ Family by Holy Spirit Power

In the realm of Christian faith, navigating relationships with family members who identify as LGBTQ can present unique challenges.

It is in these moments that believers are called to embody the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their interactions, allowing them to guide their actions.

By embracing these virtues, Christians can foster a compassionate and supportive environment for their loved ones, as they strive to establish a relationship that will lead their loved ones to Jesus Christ.

Love:

As a foundational aspect of Christian faith, love is essential in our interactions with family members who are LGBTQ. Love transcends differences and embraces others unconditionally. Reflecting on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, which states, "Love suffers long and is kind; love envies not; love flaunts not itself and is not puffed up, does not behave itself improperly, seeks not its own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things," Christians are reminded to exhibit patient, kind and enduring love toward their LGBTQ family members.

Joy:

While grappling with complex emotions and situations, maintaining joy can be challenging. However, Christians are encouraged to find joy in their relationships with their LGBTQ

family members. Galatians 5:22 reminds believers that the Holy Spirit bestows joy upon them, saying, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy..." This joy is rooted in the knowledge that God's love and grace extend to all, regardless of their life choices.

Peace:

In the midst of differing perspectives and tensions, it is vital to pursue peace in our interactions. Philippians 4:7 affirms the peace that comes from God, stating, "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will protect your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." By seeking God's peace, Christians can approach conversations with their LGBTQ family members in a calm and understanding manner, fostering an atmosphere of love and respect.

Patience:

Building bridges and nurturing understanding often require patience. Christians are called to demonstrate patience when engaging in conversations about sexual orientation or gender identity with their LGBTQ family members. Ephesians 4:2 encourages believers to "be patient, bearing with one another in love." Through patient listening, refraining from judgment and allowing for the growth and spiritual healing of their loved ones, Christians can cultivate trust and foster open communication.

Kindness:

Kindness is a powerful tool in building and maintaining healthy relationships. Christians are reminded in Colossians 3:12 to "put on, therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, a heart of mercy, kindness..." Demonstrating kindness toward LGBTQ family members means treating them with respect and compassion, regardless of differences in beliefs or values. This kindness can serve as a beacon of God's love, creating an environment of trust and support.

Goodness:

Goodness goes hand in hand with kindness, as it reflects moral excellence and virtue. Christians are called to display goodness in their interactions with LGBTQ family members, treating them with fairness, integrity and genuine care. In Matthew 7:17, Jesus reminds us that “a good tree brings forth good fruit.” By exemplifying goodness, believers can demonstrate the transformative power of God’s love and inspire positive change within their families.

Faithfulness:

Faithfulness encompasses loyalty, commitment and trustworthiness. In our relationships with LGBTQ family members, it is crucial to demonstrate unwavering faithfulness. This includes remaining steadfast in our love and support, even during challenging moments. Proverbs 3:3-4 encourages believers to “let loyalty and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.”

Gentleness:

Gentleness is characterized by a tender and compassionate demeanor. When engaging with LGBTQ family members, Christians are called to exercise gentleness in their words, actions and attitudes. First Peter 3:15 urges believers to “always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you for a reason concerning the hope that is in you, with gentleness and respect.” By approaching discussions with humility and understanding, Christians can foster an environment where genuine dialogue and mutual respect can flourish.

Self-Control:

Self-control is the ability to restrain one’s impulses and emotions. In conversations about sexual orientation or gender

identity, it is crucial to exercise self-control to avoid reacting impulsively or judgmentally. Proverbs 16:32 states, “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit is better than he who takes a city.” By practicing self-control, Christians can ensure that their words and actions reflect the love and grace of Christ, promoting understanding and healing within their family relationships.

By embracing the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our interactions with LGBTQ family members, Christians can create a nurturing and loving environment where faith and personal identity can be explored and understood. Each fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control—plays a vital role in fostering understanding, repentance and growth.

As believers, we are called to extend unwavering love, walking alongside our loved ones as they navigate their own spiritual paths. May the fruit of the Spirit guide us in embodying Christ’s love and grace in our relationships, reflecting the transformative power of God’s love and compassion.

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