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Queerness and Christianity

Chris Parks

Eastern Mennonite University

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QUEERNESS AND CHRISTIANITY

Christian Parks and EMU Safe Space

Q Summit University of Richmond '14

A decorative scrollwork border in white on a black background, framing the central text. The border features intricate floral and vine patterns, with a central crest-like element at the top and bottom.

GROUND RULES

- ❖ Step up, step back
- ❖ Don't yuck a yum
- ❖ Oops, Ouch
- ❖ Neighbor!
- ❖ Ask
- ❖ Respond
- ❖ Be free and
liberated



INTRODUCTIONS







WHAT MAKES YOU
HAPPY?



WHAT DO YOU THINK
OF THE BIBLE?



WHAT'S YOUR FAMILY
LIKE? (RELIGIOUS/NON-
RELIGIOUS)



HOW WOULD YOU
CONSIDER YOURSELF
RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL?





WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST
EXPERIENCE WITH THE
CHURCH?





WHAT IS YOUR
CONNECTION TO THE
RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY
YOU GREW UP IN?



I KNOW WE'RE QUEER, BUT
WE CAN'T BE THAT
SIMILAR



I AM STILL VERY
CONNECTED TO MY
FAMILY



WHEN I CAME OUT MY
FAMILY WAS SUPPORTIVE



I GREW UP IN A
RELIGIOUS CONTEXT



I FIND RELIGION
REPULSIVE



GROWING UP, I REMEMBER
LEARNING ABOUT ADAM
AND EVE



THE BIBLE DOESN'T
EMPOWER ME



I FIND RELIGIOUS SPACES
TO BE A PLACE OF GREAT
JOY AND HOPE



CHURCH IS FUCKED UP
AND NOT WORTH MY TIME



I SAY GRACE BEFORE
MEALS



THE CHURCH HAS ADDED
MORE TO MY PERSONAL
OPPRESSION



WHEN I HEAR THE WORD
ABOMINATION I KNOW
WHAT IS BEING SAID



I'VE TRIED THE CHURCH
THING AND IT'S NOT FOR
ME





THE CHURCH HAS LEFT
SCARS

An ornate, white, decorative border with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns surrounds the central text. The border is set against a dark background.

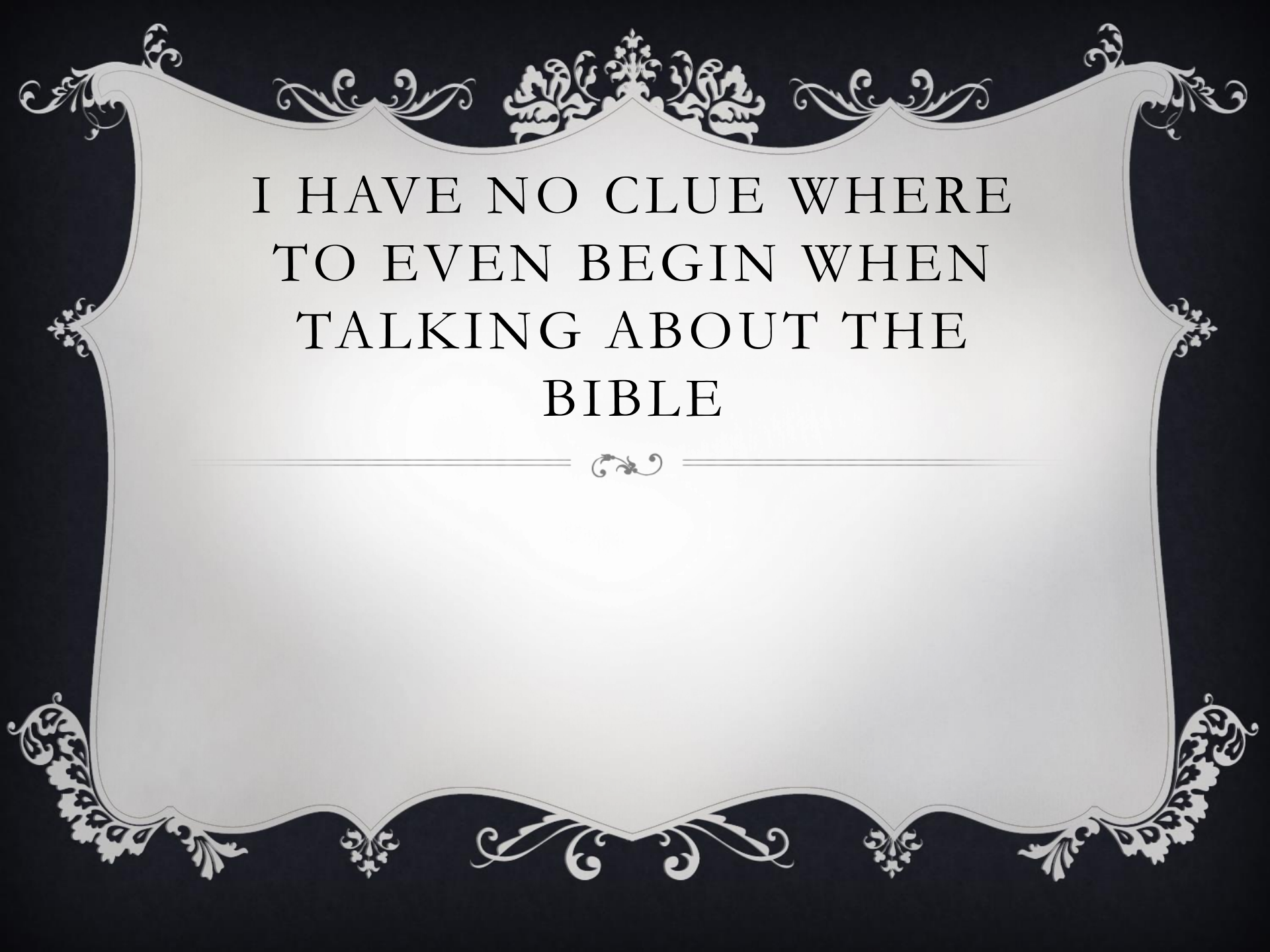
THE BIBLE IS A LOAD OF
BULLSHIT



I FREEZE UP WHEN
SOMEONE STARTS
TALKING BIBLE AT ME

An ornate, white, decorative border with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns surrounds the central text. The border is set against a dark background.


FUCK BIGOTS



I HAVE NO CLUE WHERE
TO EVEN BEGIN WHEN
TALKING ABOUT THE
BIBLE



CHECK IN



STORY TIME

LEVITICUS 18:22-25 (RSV)

❖ You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. You shall not have sexual relations with any animal and defile yourself with it, nor shall any woman give herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it: it is perversion. Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, for by all these practices the nations I am casting out before you have defiled themselves. Thus the land became defiled; and I punished it for its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.

A decorative white scrollwork border frames the entire page. It features intricate floral and vine patterns, with larger, more complex designs at the top and bottom centers, and smaller, simpler motifs at the corners and along the sides.

Sodom and Gomorrah

A small, ornate decorative flourish is centered between two horizontal lines.

EZEKIEL 16:49

This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.



ROMANS 1



BIBLE F.A.Q

- ❖ More than 3500 years old
- ❖ Written after events in to explain or give an account
- ❖ Written by humans inspired by the Divine

A decorative scrollwork border in white on a black background, framing the central text. The border features intricate floral and vine patterns, with a central crest-like element at the top and bottom.

F.A.Q CONT....

- ❖ Its original form is Hebrew and Greek
- ❖ Interpretation after reinterpretation
- ❖ In the wrong hands, a destructive tool
- ❖ In the right hands, a source of liberation

F.A.Q

- ❖ People of the bible were a part of a developing nation
- ❖ Cum was holy and sacred
 - Bent on purity, holiness, and separateness



THE POWER OF CHRISTIANITY

❖ “Religion is the Opium of the Masses?”

- Who said it?
- Why?
- What does it mean?



L.A.R.A.

- ❖ Assumes we are against misinformation and not people
- ❖ Each person is beloved by the universe
- ❖ Common human experience, common oppression
- ❖ Holy pause, centering breath
- ❖ +1



LISTEN

- ❖ Hard to do in the face of a raging bigot
- ❖ Open your ears and your heart
- ❖ Remember they are divine as you are divine
- ❖ Nonviolence in all you do



AFFIRM

- ❖ Find commonalities
- ❖ Speak those commonalities
- ❖ Connect with your story



RESPOND

- ❖ Speak from your truth
- ❖ Be honest and open
- ❖ Clearly articulate how you feel in the moment
- ❖ Invite into your humanity and experience
- ❖ Tell a story



ADD

❖ Challenge

❖ Ask more questions

❖ Poke holes

❖ Articulate what the
situation needs

❖ Educate

❖ Offer alternatives

❖ Unpack



TAKE A MOMENT

- ❖ Check in with yourself
- ❖ Give yourself grace
- ❖ Remember +1



Practice!!

CHECK IN



WRAP UP

❖ Places to go:

- Soul Force, Equality Ride
- HRC Faith and Religion
- Denominational groups
 - Dignity
 - Pink Menno



LOOKING AHEAD

- ❖ Frontier to full inclusion
- ❖ Let's Queer the gay and lesbian movement
- ❖ Where are the Trans folk?
- ❖ Who's at the table?



CONTACT INFO

❖ Personal email:

❖ Chrisparks.rainbow@gmail.com

❖ Organizational email:

- emusafespace@gmail.com