



Sister Chieko Okazaki

1st Counselor, General Relief Society Presidency

“It is very likely that every person in the Church knows someone--a family member or a friend--who is gay, lesbian, or bisexual. I also think it is very likely that many people do not know that they know a homosexual or bisexual person because that person is afraid to reveal that part of himself or herself for fear of being rejected, punished, or excluded.

Nothing has suspended the commandment of Jesus to love one another and to bear one another’s burdens.”

- *Disciples, p. 121*



Sister Neill Marriott

2nd Counselor, General Young Women Presidency

“This movement [for LGBT rights] arose after centuries of ridicule, persecution and even violence against homosexuals. Ultimately, most of society recognized that such treatment was simply wrong, and that such basic human rights as securing a job or a place to live should not depend on a person’s sexual orientation.”

- *mormonnewsroom.org, Transcript of News Conference on Religious Freedom and Nondiscrimination, January 27, 2015*



Elder D. Todd Christofferson

“One thing that’s always important is to recognize the feelings of a person, that they are real, that they are authentic, that we don’t deny that someone feels a certain way. We take the reality where it is, and we go from there. And we want people to feel that they have a home here, that we have much, much more in common than anything that’s different about us.”

- *“Purpose of This Website,” mormonsandgays.org*

“The inclination, the temptation that people have often is anger or rejection. Sometimes it’s simply denial, on both sides of the question, whatever it may be. And it’s important to have enough self-control to lay all that aside and to have a little patience, and to begin to talk and begin to listen and begin to try to understand better. We lose nothing by spending time together, by trying to understand, even where there’s not agreement on a course to follow at the moment or how to respond or how to react.”

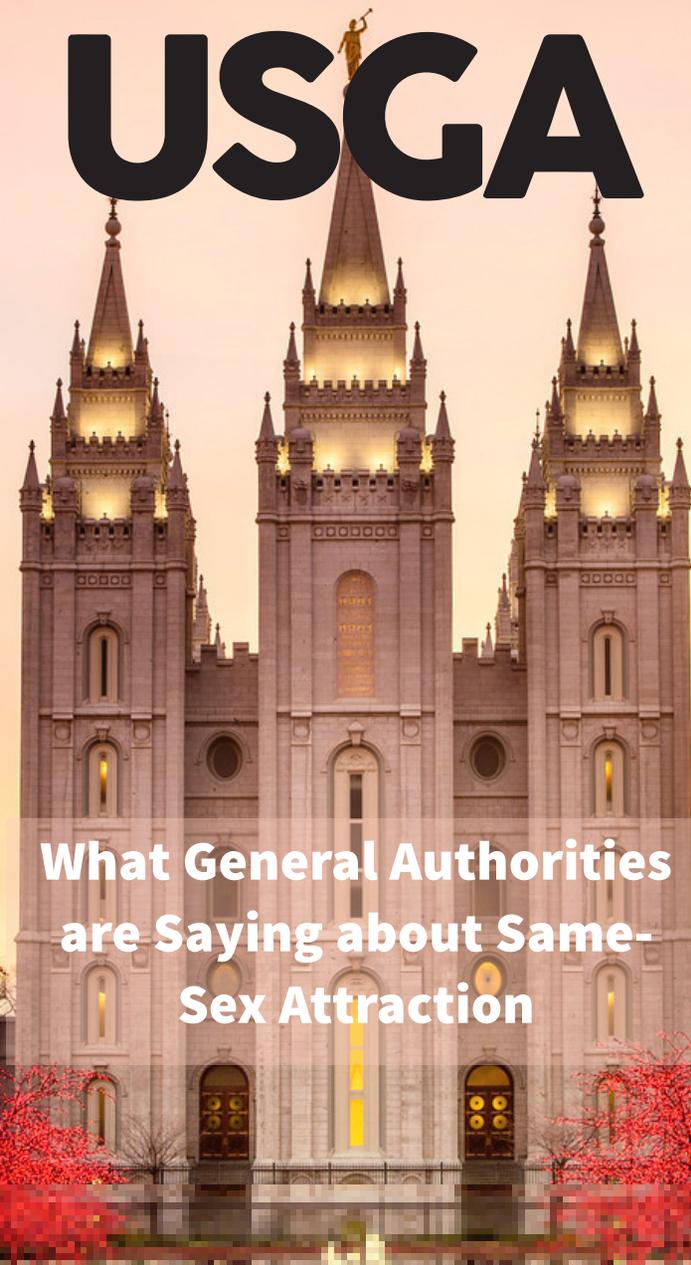
- *mormonsandgays.org*

-  [USGA at BYU | Faces of USGA](#)
-  [youtube.com/byuitgetsbetter](#)
-  [byuusga.wordpress.com](#)
-  [@byuusga](#)
-  [usgaatbyu.tumblr.com](#)
-  [@byu.usga | @facesofusga](#)
-  byu.usga@gmail.com



USGA

What General Authorities are Saying about Same-Sex Attraction





Elder Dallin H. Oaks

“There is so much we don’t understand about this subject, that we’d do well to stay close to what we know from the revealed word of God. What we do know is that the doctrine of the church, that sexual activity should only occur between a man and a woman who are married, has not changed and is not changing. But what is changing and what needs to change is to help our own members and families understand how to deal with same gender attraction.”

- *The Eternal Family Teacher Manual 2015 Lesson 8: Gender and Eternal Identity*

“The Church does not have a position on the causes of any of these susceptibilities or inclinations, including those related to same-gender attraction. Those are scientific questions — whether nature or nurture — those are things the Church doesn’t have a position on.”

- *“Same-Gender Attraction”*
<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/>

“Our Doctrines obviously condemn those who engage in so called “gay-bashing” -- physical or verbal attacks on persons thought to be involved in homosexual or lesbian behavior. All should understand that persons (and their family members) struggling with the burden of same-sex attraction are in special need of the love and encouragement that is a clear responsibility of Church members, who have signified by covenant their willingness “to bear one another’s burdens” (Mosiah 18:8) “and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2)”

- *“Same-Gender Attraction,” Ensign, Oct. 1995*



Elder Neil L. Anderson

“Of special concern to us should be those who struggle with same-sex attraction. It is a whirlwind of enormous velocity. I want to express my love and admiration for those who courageously confront this trial of faith and stay true to the commandments of God. But everyone, independent of his or her decisions and beliefs, deserves our kindness and consideration.”

- *“Spiritual Whirlwinds,” Ensign, May 2014*



Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

“...some members exclude from their circle of fellowship those who are different. When our actions or words discourage someone from taking full advantage of Church membership, we fail them—and the Lord. The Church is made stronger as we include every member and strengthen one another in service and love.”

- *“Helping Those Who Struggle with Same-Gender Attraction,” Ensign, Oct. 2007*



President Gordon B. Hinckley

“Our hearts reach out to those who struggle with feelings of affinity for the same gender. We remember you before the Lord, we sympathize with you, we regard you as our brothers and sisters.”

- *“Stand Strong against the Wiles of the World,” Ensign, Nov. 1995*



Elder Quentin L. Cook

“As a church, nobody should be more loving and compassionate. Let us be at the forefront in terms of expressing love, compassion and outreach. Let’s not have families exclude or be disrespectful of those who choose a different lifestyle as a result of their feelings about their own gender.”

- *mormonsandgays.org 2012*



President Boyd K. Packer

“We do not reject you . . . We cannot reject you, for you are the sons and daughters of God. We will not reject you, because we love you.”

- *“Ye Are the Temple of God,” Ensign, Nov. 2000, 74.*