

Queer Intersections with Matthew 25

Exploring the intersections between the Matthew 25
vision of the PC(USA) and LGBTQIA+ neighbors

Intersectionality

A term coined 30 years ago by Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw

Oxford Dictionary: the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage



Intersectionality

The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage

Examples

White - Male - University

Black - Male - Public schools

Brown - Male - Spanish speaking

Indigenous - Male - Residency on a reservation

Intersectionality

The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage

Examples

White - Female - University

Black - Female - Public schools

Brown - Female - Spanish speaking

Indigenous - Female - Residency on a reservation

Intersectionality

The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage

Examples

White - LGBTQIA+ - University

Black - LGBTQIA+ - High School

Brown - LGBTQIA+ - Spanish speaking

Indigenous - LGBTQIA+ -
Residency on a reservation

Image from LA County Department of Mental Health

LGBTQIA+

L - Lesbian

G - Gay

B - Bisexual

T - Transgender

Q - Queer

I - Intersex

A - Asexual

+ - Recognizing that identity and orientation exists on a spectrum



lesbian



transgender



bisexual



pansexual



nonbinary



genderqueer



intersex



genderfluid



aromantic



asexual



polysexual



neutrois



androgyne



bear



agender



rainbow
(present)



rainbow
(original 1978)



rainbow
(without pink stripe 1979)



rainbow
(Philadelphia 2017)



rainbow
(“progress” flag 2017)

Matthew 25 Foci & Intersectional Priorities

- **Building congregational vitality**
- **Dismantling structural racism**
- **Eradicating systemic poverty**
 - Climate Change
 - Gender Justice and Heteropatriarchy
 - Militarism



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- **Building congregational vitality**
 - 2011 - change in ordination standards
 - 2014 - ministers can officiate at same-gender weddings where legal
 - 2015 - definition of marriage broadens to “two people”



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- **Dismantling Structural Racism**
 - The Trevor Project's own research focused on Black LGBTQ youth found that 44% seriously considered suicide in the past year and 17% reported a suicide attempt in the past year. This is even more alarming for Black transgender and nonbinary youth, who are often subjected to even harsher forms of stigma and violence. More than half, or 59%, of Black transgender and nonbinary youth have seriously considered suicide in the past year, and more than one in four attempted suicide in the past year.



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- **Dismantling Structural Racism**
 - Fatal violence disproportionately affects transgender women of color, and that the intersections of racism, sexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and unchecked access to guns conspire to deprive them of employment, housing, healthcare and other necessities, barriers that make them vulnerable.
(*Human Rights Campaign*)



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- **Eradicating Systemic Poverty**
 - 28% of LGBTQ youth reported experiencing homelessness or housing instability at some point in their lives, including nearly half of Native/Indigenous LGBTQ youth and 37% of transgender and nonbinary youth. (*The Trevor Project*)



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- **Eradicating Systemic Poverty**
 - LGBTQ youth who reported housing instability or homelessness had two to four times the odds of reporting depression, anxiety, self-harm, considering suicide, and attempting suicide compared to those who did not report any housing instability. (*The Trevor Project*)



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- **Eradicating Systemic Poverty**
 - LGBTQ youth who reported experiencing homelessness or housing instability also had higher rates of victimization, being in foster care, and food insecurity.
(The Trevor Project)



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- **Climate Change**

- Research on the impact of disasters on LGBTQI+ people in the United States found that they experience barriers to proper healthcare, difficulty accessing food and water rations, and securing emergency shelters after being displaced by environmental disasters (earth.org)



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- **Climate Change**

- Religious persecution puts LGBTQI+ communities at risk of violence and death in the aftermath of environmental catastrophes (earth.org)



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- **Climate Change**

- Climate change has been widely described as a “threat multiplier” because of its role in exacerbating existing socio-economic inequalities. Due to their position at the margins of society, LGBTQI+ people are especially vulnerable to widening inequalities. (earth.org)



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- **Gender Justice and Heteropatriarchy**
 - [Heteropatriarchy] postulates that in heteropatriarchal societies, cisgender heterosexual men generally occupy the highest positions of power in society, causing women (including transgender women), non-binary people, transgender men, and other LGBT people to experience the bulk of social oppression in relation to gender and sexuality. (*Wikipedia*)



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- **Militarism**

- A new Center for American Progress analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Federal Reserve Board finds that the roughly 79,000 LGBT individuals currently serving in the armed forces*—and an estimated 1 million LGBT veterans—face higher levels of economic insecurity, housing instability, and mental health concerns than their non-LGBT counterparts. (*American Progress, April 28, 2022*)



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- **What intersections do you see in your communities?**
- **What parts of the Matthew 25 vision do you feel you are already incorporating in your mission and ministry?**
- **What parts do you feel called to dig deeper into?**



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