



Correct Terminology When Debating Homosexual Issues

Our choice of words can be influential to a reader or listener. We are called to be savvy in our use of language in order to be effective. In Matthew 10:16 Jesus tells us to be “*wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*” Choose words carefully when communicating the truth in love.

YOU SHOULD SAY

YOU SHOULD NOT SAY

Homosexual or

so-called homosexual “marriage”

The public instinctively rejects “homosexuality” and the activists know this, which is why they try to insert the less threatening words. When we call a spade a spade, we win.

Gay or lesbian

Gay, lesbian, or same-sex marriage

Civil unions –

“a form of homosexual ‘marriage’”

This reminds people that civil unions or domestic partnerships are just as harmful to society as “gay marriage” because they mean state approval of homosexuality, a threat to children, especially in adoption and custody cases, and mandatory recognition by businesses and private groups.

Civil unions, a middle-ground.

Marriage ceremony

“Marriage” describes either marriages performed in a civil ceremony (Justice of the Peace) or a religious ceremony. Homosexual activists are asking for civil “marriage,” which includes legal recognition and all the benefits, rights, and responsibilities as one-man and one-woman marriage.

Civil marriage or religious ceremony

Sexual preference

Sexual preference indicates homosexual behavior is a choice. Sexual orientation suggests the behavior is innate and unchangeable, like race or ethnicity.

Sexual orientation

Homosexual lifestyle

Lifestyle signifies one has a choice in their behavior.

Gay or lesbian

Special rights

Those who practice homosexual behavior already have the same rights as everyone else.

Equal rights or equal protection