

# Review of: "Cults and the LGBTQ Community: A Systematic Review Using PRISMA"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

1. Just as some religions are moving toward acceptance, other groups have a long way to go. An estimated seven hundred thousand Americans have participated in sexual orientation change efforts, AKA conversion therapy (Bracken, 2020). This is not a strictly American issue, as support for gay conversion therapy in Brazil was very strong as recently as 2020 (Tenório de Souza et al., 2022). → If possible, please provide Pew Research data to show the percentile proportion between religious affiliations that accept or do not accept the LGBTQ community. By providing numerical data, it gives a better and more objective picture to readers.
2. The purpose of this research was to conduct a structured literature review of articles regarding cults and the LGBTQ movement. Given the often polarized or fringe viewpoints of cults, I expected to find extensive literature on the subject. → The purpose of the research is not the content of the research itself, but the higher purpose to also show the urgency in the problem of acceptance or denial of the LGBTQ group in religious groups.
3. Please be careful in using the terms "LGBTQ community," "LGBTQ movement," "LGBTQ individuals." Individuals are individuals. A community is a social group but non-political. A movement is a political agenda. Each of them is different and cannot be put into the same box or used as "inclusive terms" for all.
4. Right or wrong, clergy and other religious leaders shape the views of congregants on ambiguous matters (Burack, 2014; Kirby et al., 2017; Perry & Snawder, 2016). Some congregants' interpretations or misinterpretations of religious texts or "traditional" views on marriage can complicate matters (Kirby et al., 2017; Townsley, 2013). Townsley (2013) argued some Biblical passages used to condemn homosexuality are actually misinterpreted. Kirby et al. (2017) found some religious people are more accepting of same-sex partnerships vs. marriage because the latter challenges their definition of the institution of marriage. → There are various Biblical or religious interpretations of the Judeo-Christian text (I'm assuming this is a Christian group). Please describe the various gradations of the church reactions towards these texts. "Hardcore" church followers tend to use Sodom and Gomorrah as an exemplar of anti-homosexuality (when in fact that is not the main issue of the religious text). By providing these gradations of varying interpretations, we can put religious views on LGBTQ into a scale and locate which kind of interpretation is most hostile towards LGBTQ. Please look into the book "God and the Gay Christian" by Matthew Vines. And look into the opinions of Justin Lee (pro-gay marriage and devout Christian) and Ed Shaw (pro-celibacy and same-sex attracted Christian pastor).
5. The data provided only provide a statistical description in brief forms of how each religious group views towards

LGBTQ. I would highly suggest the writer to focus on one particular religious group, that is, the Christian group. If the writer attempts to “widely brush” every religious view, the main focus on the problem of religious acceptance will be blurred, particularly in the mainstream Christian group, since I find that the writer began with the problem of the church towards LGBTQ. Thus, it is better to focus on the problem of LGBTQ in the church. The depth of analysis will also be better with such an approach.