

**Billy Graham Evangelistic Association  
Communications – Cissie Graham Lynch  
Fearless – Ep 125 – Pride Month: How to Love Without Compromising?  
Final Transcript**

**MUSIC STARTS**

**Cissie Graham Lynch:**

**00:00:02** Hi, I'm Cissie Graham Lynch. Welcome to *Fearless*, helping you have a fearless faith in a compromising culture.

**MUSIC TRANSITION**

**Cissie Graham Lynch:**

**00:00:22** Welcome back to *Fearless* and this month marks five years of *Fearless*, and I am excited for an upcoming episode to mark that five-year anniversary with just a special occasion with a special guest—and that'll be the next episode here on *Fearless*, so check that out and be looking for it. But if you've been with me since the beginning of *Fearless*, you know my [second episode](#) kind of out of the gate was about homosexuality inside the church 'cause, you know, why not start a podcast and come out with a bang. But I've shared with you why I started *Fearless*, and that was part of the issue was how do Christians navigate through the homosexuality world as it's grown into LGBTQ and how do we navigate? Because we all know and love somebody that's a part of that community now and that has just always been a heart and passion of mine, even since I was a teenager.

And, you know, these aren't always fun topics for me. This is not enjoyable to discuss this, but I have felt called to speak on some of these issues, to share that balance of grace and truth and how do we live with compassion without compromising it? And so that has been my heart behind *Fearless* for five years.

So once again, though, we find ourselves in June. It is Pride Month and how do we respond in Pride Month? And I did an episode last summer, [episode 99](#)—you can check it out: the history of Pride Month, the history of the pride flag, and how do we as Christians respond? Some of y'all responded in boycotting, and we saw on the news that Target *did* draw back or scale back their pride merchandise and that only certain things that they were going to sell would be in certain markets. So, some of those boycotts—that worked and applaud to those who stood strong and stood faithful to that.

But my heart here has always been to help believers in Jesus Christ to navigate through times like this. And how do we show love yet not compromise our standards when it comes to this issue?

There was a recent Gallup poll that just came out that said more than one in five Gen Z—that would be people born from 1997 to 2012—adults identify as LGBTQ community. That's more than one in five. The LGBTQ+ identification in the U.S. continues to grow with 7.6% of U.S. adults now identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or some other sexual orientation besides heterosexual. The current figure is up from 5.6% four years ago—and we've been doing *Fearless* for five years. So, that's how much has jumped just in four years—and it was at 3.5% in 2012. So, it just shows you when we talk about these issues, whether it was politically, socially, culturally, we'd say, "Well, that was just such a small percent."

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And that percentage has grown tremendously. You know, we just think how much has changed in just four and five years when it comes to this subject. We see it in the news and on our social media all the time, changing—it's like we can't even keep up.

But doesn't it feel like we have entered into a moral and cultural time that just lifts up the faithless? It feels like God's people are truly the minority in this world, especially in our culture here in America. And I just want to remind you that God will remember the faithful during the faithless times.

And the LGBT agenda continues to be one of the tip-of-the-spear issues that anti-God culture is using to attack God's people. We see that in court cases. We see people's businesses being coming after personally, publicly, and they are the target. They are in the crosshairs of it. And culture says that if we don't accept the behavior of the LGBT community that we're bigots and of course that ignites fear in so many of us—when they come after our businesses, things that we've worked for our entire lives, when they come after our children, they come after our children's scholarships, and they come after our children and their sports.

And I believe that the Bible speaks very clearly on this issue. I've shared that here on *Fearless* many times. I'll put those former episodes in the show notes if you'd like to listen. And I do believe that it's a sin against God, who established man and woman to exist together and that there is no space for compromise on the topic of homosexuality when it comes to Christians and those who believe in Jesus Christ. There's a space for compassion, yes—and I've always talked about that, that Jesus Christ was 100% truth and He was 100% grace—so yes, there's a space for compassion, but compassion cannot be allowed to spill into compromise of your belief in God's promises and God's plan for us.

And this issue—if you do compromise it—can attack the core identity of a Christian. A believer in salvation through Jesus Christ has to hold firm to God's *original* plan—and that was His perfect plan, and His perfect plan was to protect us, that He knew better. He knew what would bring us harm. And we've seen that Satan has been trying to come in between man and woman since the beginning of time when he came to divide Eve and Adam there in the garden, you know, promising Eve knowledge and wisdom, and he's been trying to attack that union since the beginning. And we know that sin is never enough. Sin is never satisfied. It continues to grow and grow. And we see that in our culture now when it comes to this topic.

So on today's episode of *Fearless*, we're going to talk about, I think, one of the many coordinated attacks on the Christian worldview when it comes to this subject. Why Christians constantly feel defeated on this issue, and we're going to talk about a new argument arising that I think we *must* be aware of. And then just simply, how do we talk to our kids on this topic?

Recently on social media, I saw somebody posting getting ready for Pride Month and—I think it was at a Sephora or an Ulta makeup store—and in the advertisement of celebrating Pride Month at the very bottom was a sponsored advertisement by

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GLAAD. And if you don't know what GLAAD is, GLAAD stands for Gay Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. And this is an organization that started in 1985. It was a group of people that met in a New York apartment, and they came together on how can they change the view of America when it comes to homosexuality? And their goal of the organization was to put pressure on media organizations to end what it saw as homophobic reporting. And *then*, organizers went from New York and to LA and spread across America to really put pressure on the entertainment industry, to be in those meetings, to be talking and communicating with them, and how to strategize with this, and how gays and lesbians would be portrayed in Hollywood. And we have seen that. And their mission on their website says, in their own words, is "100% LGBTQ acceptance" in this world. That means there's 0% acceptance as you as a Christian who believes marriage between a man and a woman, the way that God created it, there's zero acceptance for you. And they will do anything that's in their path and in their way; they will destroy it all—and that's not to strike fear. That's their goal is 100% acceptance. They knew if they could infiltrate the entertainment industry that they could change the next generation.

You think of just the power and the influence that one TV show—let's talk about Ellen DeGeneres, her talk show. Just years before that, you know, 10 years before that, maybe less than that, her show was canceled when she came out as being openly gay on her TV show and it got canceled. Now fast forward a few years later, she gets her own talk show and think of the influence that she had. That every, you know, stay-at-home American mom and woman was watching in their living rooms with their children as they're folding laundry or eating lunch in the afternoon. Her face is on Wheaties boxes. Just the acceptance of that because she *is*, she was lovable. She was enjoyable. She made you laugh and brought joy into your home. But you think what just her influence alone did to the American household and how that began to change the point of view and the worldview, through the lens of so many women at home.

But behind all of that was GLAAD, and GLAAD had this plan, and they had a plan to change the standards, to change the view of Americans when it came to the acceptance of the LGBT community. They had a plan, and they executed that plan, and they have been *successful* in that plan when it comes to the entertainment industry. And *because* of the entertainment industry and how fast it happened, we see it in almost every TV show now, into commercials, into advertising, into songs—and you can't protect your children from all of that.

And it has begun to change a generation. And so, then we find ourselves as Christians on the defense. And why do we find ourselves on the defense all the time? And I believe in Matthew 13:25 is, "*But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.*" That Christians, we were not prepared. We were sleeping while the enemy was fast at work with a plan that they executed. And so then on top of it, Christians aren't reading the Bible. They're not studying the Bible. Their pastors from the pulpit aren't teaching the Bible and a Biblical worldview. When the world came against them, that they weren't prepared to give an answer.

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And so I believe too, that we've abandoned what God's Word has said, that we're trying to use our finite wisdom to kind of argue with God, you know, because all of this sin now has become personal to us and because it's personal, because we know or love somebody that's a part of this community, we kind of start wrestling and arguing with God and God's perfect plan that He has for man, all from our finite wisdom.

And I also believe that I've shared here before is that we've used the second greatest commandment as a stumbling block here in the church. And God says, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*" This is the [greatest and first] commandment. And the second is like it: "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" And I believe the enemy was using our language, the language that God created, against us; all about love, all about acceptance, "love your neighbor." But the first part of that is that you are to love God with all of your heart. You are to love all of His commandments and with that is His standards and we are not to waver from that, and *then* we are to love our neighbor. So, I believe that they used our own language against us and we have since used that as a stumbling block—and just a reminder, we are to love God first.

And there's also this new argument coming around and you're going to kind of like, maybe roll your eyes when I state it; somebody brought it to my attention the other day. And this argument that God is changing His mind and you'll kind of be like, "OK, Cissie, we've heard that before. You know, people are saying that. God doesn't change." But I do think it's something that we should be on the lookout for. I didn't know this name. His name was Richard Hays. And since 1996, he's been used as a theological reference when it came to the argument that the Bible was *clear* on the issue of homosexuality. And Hays—if you're in the academic world—Hays is considered one of the world's leading New Testament scholars. And so he wrote this book in 1996 called, *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: Community, Cross, New Creation*. And he just said the Bible was so clear of homosexuality was a sin.

But *now* fast forward—he's in his 70s, and in the recent years, he's begun to change his mind on the issue and he and his son are coming out with a book—I believe it's this fall—that it cast God as being, "One who is willing to change His mind." And because this is a man that so many scholars used as an example in his work that now he's changing his mind, I think this is going to have a bigger impact than many of us might believe, so don't kind of roll your eyes at it.

But I think Christians often feel attacked from the anti-God culture, right? From the outside, from the enemy, from the world, we can feel attacked—especially when it comes to this issue. And I believe the enemy is maneuvering to use us people who call themselves believers to attack from the inside out now. And I think that's the next wave that we're going to see. And this new argument may very well become that God is changing His mind and kind of widening His mercy. And, of course, we know in Scripture that that's not true. We're going to get into that in a little bit.

But we don't share this here on *Fearless* to strike fear. We share this to kind of prepare your hearts, to encourage you to prepare the hearts of your children and

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your grandchildren, for those who are listening. So, we do live in an upside down world where right is wrong and wrong is right. There is no truth. And so how do we live in that? You can't hide from it anymore.

So, when it comes to our children, how do we talk about it? The other day I was sitting, just flipping channels on TV. We don't even have cable anymore. We're just scrolling through on YouTube TV and I was on a channel for about 1.3 seconds and in that moment, there were two men kissing. And so I flip it so fast and just kind of played it off like, "Oh my goodness, what was that?" And my son goes, "Just two men kissing." And it just struck me how casual he said it. I know I live in a world that I can't protect them. It's everywhere. He's going to see it. It's on our streets. It's in, you know, anywhere you go, children are going to see it. So, I can't protect them. I just have to prepare them for it and to teach them what God's Word says and what God created. I always go back: How did God create man and woman? So, we just had that conversation. It just struck me really hard of just how he casual said it. We're entering that age now. He's about to turn 8, that those are the tough conversations I'm going to have to have with him. But, we are to stand on God's truth and to teach our children that we are to do it in a loving and kind and gracious way, but never to compromise with our compassion.

I've often said when it comes to our children, the LGBT community is coming after them relentlessly. They are—it's like I said earlier, sin is never satisfied, so sin will continue to grow. And we see that they're going after our children because they can't reproduce, so they have to recruit, and they're recruiting after our children, that younger generation for that 100% acceptance that GLAAD says that they want.

I just recently saw on social media a gay parade in Switzerland. They were chanting, "Your kids will be like us. Your kids are all queer." And it is so demonic and so evil to see men walking down the streets dressed as women or in leather and chains with children and chanting with our children that they're all queer. And so sadly, once again, this is the world we're in. So, I don't want you to be fearful, but I want you to use this as a moment that you have with your children to build your children's theology, to build your family's theology.

This is a time that I build my own understanding of God, and who God is, the characteristics of God, and a family that's focused on serving God, to be actively aware of our surroundings and, you know, look at these times not in fear, but we're excited that we live in these times, that God can prepare us to live in these times and equip us. And to seek a closer understanding of a relationship with our Creator who created a perfect way and sadly, our sin has gotten in the way, but I encourage you to take this extra time this summer. I'll post it in my show notes and maybe on social media, but we have, what we call in our family, the "ABC Gospels." And it's very close to our family and it's for children to memorize Scripture. A. "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" B. "*Behold, the Lamb of God, [for He] takes away the sin of the world!*" C. "*Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden ... I will give you rest.*" So, it's a great tool with your children or there's another website—I've never ordered anything from them—it's called Tiny Theologians. That is one of the things I want to check out for my summer. They have great things for different ages

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for your children but teaching your kids what to believe and why believe it. So I don't know them; I've never spoken with them. That is not an ad but check out Tiny Theologians.

But my challenge to you as parents and listening is considering reading the book of Malachi. A co-worker/producer here on *Fearless* challenged me last week to read the book of Malachi, so I challenge you. It's going to take you 10 or 15 minutes. Read it and then read it with your children because it's jam-packed truth of like just core truth of God's people who came back after being exiled, the Temple was rebuilt, but they of course fall back into just a sinful way of life and they argue with God and they kind of go back and forth with God. So, I encourage you in it because in it, in the argument, it is reminded in Malachi 3:6, "*For I am the Lord [and] I do not change.*" So, in this new argument that we're going to see in the church that God can change, His mercy can widen—that God does not change. And so I encourage you to read the book of Malachi.

He completes what He says and we need to remember that, that God gives us promises. He will complete it and He will do it. And reading in a book with your family, like Malachi, is so important because this book shows God—despite our efforts to ruin His plan by disobeying and living in sin—He will fulfill His promises. And that's what we need to hold onto in this world that seems so upside down, that we are to stand faithful and faithful to Him and to His standards.

But when we're talking about this, how does it all relate to the LGBT community and the culture? And just a few final thoughts of mine are to remember God's standard of sexuality is clear. It's one man, one woman, united. We read that, first book of the Bible, in Genesis. We've talked about that here on *Fearless*, that God's perfect design and His perfect plan for us—and if we venture outside of that design, it's dangerous. He gave us that design to protect us. Look at the things we're seeing in this world and the dangers we're following because sin will continue to grow. It's never satisfied. So, to remember that God's standard on sexuality is very clear.

The next is when we're talking about love to remember love is walking in His commandments—and that means all of His commandments. We don't just get to pick and choose which ones we're going to obey and which ones we like. We trust Him and His design and that love is walking in His commandments because 2 John 6 says, "*This is love, that we walk according to His commandments.*"

The next is even if we feel like outcasts in our worldview, God has not abandoned us—and to remember that. We might feel like we are the minority, that we're the outcast. The world is coming against us, but that He never abandoned us. "*The Lord himself goes before you and [He] will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid [and] do not be discouraged*" in this world.

The next is remember that God has promised to make a way for us to spend eternity with Him. John 3:16. We all know it. "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*"

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And that God has promised to deal with—He’s not going to overlook it—but He will deal with the sin that exists in the world. Romans 6:23: *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

And another promise is that God promises to forgive and set us free from our sin. No matter what that sin is in our life, that *“if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

And those are promises we need to hold onto during this time and that God keeps those promises. He doesn’t change. No matter what the world’s telling us. No matter what New Testament theologian is saying. God does not change. His Word does not change.

And I just want you to remember that as Christians, we need to hold firm to the belief of God’s original plan, His perfect plan. His only plan for one man and one woman united was not meant as a suggestion. That’s how He created it, and He created it to protect us, and it’s because He loved us—not because He hated us and didn’t want us to have any fun. He created that to protect those that He loves and we are the ones that have tried to destroy that plan.

And as we close, I just to read this last Scripture. 1 John, it says, *“We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with [his] Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life. Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God’s place in your hearts.”* And to remember that we know the true God and He will give us understanding and that we need to stay away from *anything* that will distract us from that standard, His commandments. Remove any of those kind of idols in our life that we have placed that would take away His understanding in our lives.

So I want to remind you to teach your children and to remind yourself that sometimes the hardest thing we have to do is to stand firm on God’s standards, His commandments, His truth, and through your actions and through your words, teach your children that there is *value* when you stand firm on those commandments, to remember that love is when we walk according to His commandments. So, stand firm during these days that we are facing, hold tight to His truth, and show His love to a world that needs to know truth.

### **MUSIC TRANSITION**

**Cissie Graham Lynch:**

**00:21:54** Once again, thank you for joining me on today’s episode of *Fearless*. And I want to remind you the next episode coming out will be a celebration of five years with a special guest from a very special location to share a story that changed my life.

### **CLOSING MUSIC**

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