



LGBTQ

Q&A

Q: So I get LGBT – but I don't understand the Q. I've heard it stands for "questioning" and I've also heard it stands for "queer." So which one is it?

A. The short answer is "Yes." The 'Q' in LGBTQ can stand for either 'questioning' or 'queer.'

Questioning means someone who is figuring out their gender identity and/or figuring out how they want to identify their sexual orientation.

Queer is not specific to sexual orientation or to gender identity but is more of an umbrella term for anything that exists outside of the dominant narrative. Originally pejorative for gay, it is now being reclaimed by some gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons as a self-affirming umbrella term."

You may also see the acronym **LGBTQIA**. The additional "IA" is added to include those who identify as intersex/intergender and asexual. Some iterations of the acronym also add a "+" sign at the end, symbolizing the inclusion of all other identities.

Yes, it's complicated. It is also not at all surprising that as we grow in both our understanding and experience of the complicated continuum of sexual orientation and fluidity of gender identity/expression our language will grow and change as well.

Ultimately, here at All Saints Church the most important message we have to offer is that whoever you are and wherever you find yourself in the alphabet there is a place for you here.



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