# Sufjan Stevens sparks backlash over 'very gay' Bible comments following personal revelations



Sufjan Stevens, an acclaimed artist known for his introspective and emotionally charged music, has ignited controversy following bold remarks about the Bible, which some fans have branded as 'blasphemous.' In a recent interview with Vulture, Stevens asserted that the Bible is “inherently sexual” and described it as “very gay,” drawing criticism from certain corners of his fanbase who feel that his comments show a level of disrespect towards the sacred text.

The singer, who publicly came out as gay in October 2023, dedicated his latest album, *Javelin*, to his late partner, Evans Richardson, who passed away in April of the same year. This dedication marked a poignant moment in Stevens' life and career, reflecting a deeper emotional landscape shaped by personal grief and the exploration of love. He described Richardson as “an absolute gem of a person, full of life, love, laughter, curiosity, integrity, and joy”—a testament to their meaningful bond which has undeniably influenced his artistic expression.

In discussing the erotic nature of religious texts, Stevens cited the sensuality embedded in religious sacraments. He provocatively likened participation in the Eucharist—where believers partake in bread and wine symbolising Christ’s body and blood—to the ultimate 'erotic experience.' Such statements have resonated deeply within certain groups, leading to backlash on social media, where fans have expressed disappointment and anger over what they perceive as an affront to traditional religious values. Comments like “Sad to see my favorite artist say something with this level of disrespect” encapsulate a growing sentiment amongst detractors who feel his words undermine the sacredness associated with religious beliefs.

Stevens, who identifies as a Christian, has long navigated the relationship between his faith and his art. His previous works have often touched upon themes of spirituality, with Stevens arguing that a “Christian Nation” is fundamentally heretical, warning against blending religion with statecraft. He has consistently urged a return to the core tenets of love and humility that lie within the teachings of Christ, distancing himself from dogmatic interpretations that can distort these messages.

This recent fallout appears to coincide with a broader cultural shift wherein artists feel empowered to express their identities more candidly. Reviews of *Javelin* have noted the album’s profound exploration of loss, love, and identity, spotlighting Stevens' openness about his sexuality as a pivotal element of his current artistic journey. Critics have acknowledged that his public coming out and the vulnerability displayed in his music mark a significant evolution in his career, adding depth and nuance to narratives that were once more reserved.

While some fans have expressed their intent to boycott his music, others remain supportive, understanding his remarks as part of a larger dialogue about faith, sexuality, and personal experience. In an era where discussions around identity and spirituality are increasingly intertwined, Stevens' comments challenge listeners to reconsider preconceived notions about both the sacred and the sexual.

As the discourse around Stevens' statements unfolds, it highlights not only the complexities of faith and identity but also the potential for pushback against artists who choose to venture into controversial territories. Amidst the uproar, Stevens seems poised to carve out a space for dialogue, challenging both his supporters and detractors to engage with the often contentious intersection of religion and sexuality.

### Reference Map:

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14716655/sufjan-stevens-fan-backlash-bible-gay-comments.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
2. Paragraph 2: [[2]](https://people.com/sufjan-stevens-dedicates-new-album-javelin-to-late-partner-evans-richardson-8349217), [[3]](https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2023/10/08/singer-composer-sufjan-stevens-reveals-he-has-guillain-barre-syndrome-and-his-gay-partner-died-this-year-at-age-43/)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14716655/sufjan-stevens-fan-backlash-bible-gay-comments.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
4. Paragraph 4: [[4]](https://pitchfork.com/news/71406-sufjan-pens-another-passionate-religious-message-a-christian-nation-is-absolutely-heretical/)
5. Paragraph 5: [[5]](https://www.metroweekly.com/2023/10/sufjan-stevens-javelin-review-coming-out/), [[6]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/news/sufjan-stevens-gay-javelin-evans-richardson-b2425590.html), [[7]](https://spectrumculture.com/2023/10/11/sufjan-stevens-javelin-review/)
6. Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14716655/sufjan-stevens-fan-backlash-bible-gay-comments.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://pitchfork.com/news/71406-sufjan-pens-another-passionate-religious-message-a-christian-nation-is-absolutely-heretical/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14716655/sufjan-stevens-fan-backlash-bible-gay-comments.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://people.com/sufjan-stevens-dedicates-new-album-javelin-to-late-partner-evans-richardson-8349217> - Sufjan Stevens released his 10th studio album, 'Javelin,' dedicating it to his late partner, Evans Richardson, who passed away in April 2023. In an Instagram post, Stevens described Richardson as 'an absolute gem of a person, full of life, love, laughter, curiosity, integrity, and joy.' He emphasized the importance of cherishing such rare and beautiful love, encouraging others to 'hold it close, hold it tight, savor it, tend to it, and give it everything you’ve got, especially in times of trouble.'
3. <https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2023/10/08/singer-composer-sufjan-stevens-reveals-he-has-guillain-barre-syndrome-and-his-gay-partner-died-this-year-at-age-43/> - Sufjan Stevens revealed he has been diagnosed with Guillain–Barré Syndrome, a rare autoimmune disorder, and that his partner, Evans Richardson, passed away in April 2023. Stevens shared his experience of waking up unable to walk and undergoing treatment, expressing gratitude for his medical team and optimism for recovery. He also dedicated his new album, 'Javelin,' to Richardson, describing him as 'an absolute gem of a person, full of life, love, laughter, curiosity, integrity, and joy.'
4. <https://pitchfork.com/news/71406-sufjan-pens-another-passionate-religious-message-a-christian-nation-is-absolutely-heretical/> - Sufjan Stevens addressed the concept of a 'Christian Nation' in a recent Tumblr post, stating, 'A 'Christian Nation' is absolutely heretical. Christ did not come into this world to become a modifier.' He referenced the Holy Roman Empire as an example of the dangers of intertwining religion and state, emphasizing the need to 'die to yourself, to your family, your heritage, your narrow-minded ideology, your ego, your ill-conditioned consciousness, and your false identity' to access true love and self.
5. <https://www.metroweekly.com/2023/10/sufjan-stevens-javelin-review-coming-out/> - In a review of Sufjan Stevens' album 'Javelin,' Metro Weekly highlights Stevens' openness about his sexuality, noting that he 'seems ready to say the quiet parts out loud.' The album is described as a collection of beautifully written songs that reflect Stevens' personal experiences and emotions, marking a significant moment in his career where he embraces his identity more openly.
6. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/news/sufjan-stevens-gay-javelin-evans-richardson-b2425590.html> - The Independent reports that Sufjan Stevens dedicated his new album, 'Javelin,' to his late partner, Evans Richardson, who passed away in April 2023. Stevens' Instagram post, which accompanied a photo of Richardson, served as a public acknowledgment of his sexuality, marking the first time he had publicly discussed his partner and his own identity.
7. <https://spectrumculture.com/2023/10/11/sufjan-stevens-javelin-review/> - Spectrum Culture's review of Sufjan Stevens' album 'Javelin' discusses the personal themes of love and loss present in the music. The review notes that Stevens' queerness is a significant aspect of the album, as it is the first time he has publicly confirmed his sexuality, adding depth to the exploration of grief and love in his work.