

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Al Denson Show and for tuning in every week to our program. My prayer for you is to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ through the words of this booklet. Our hope is that in turn you will tell others of what God is doing through our ministry to youth and parents on TV. I am convinced you will not find another program on any network anywhere that deals with issues today's youth and their parents are facing, and provides answers from a Godly perspective.

In addition, we would love for you to help us by going to our web site at www.aldenson.com. Here you can write to us, order additional material like this booklet, check out all my music, have a daily bible study, and stay up to date on the ministry. You can also send us a prayer request and questions for the TV show. But more importantly, please continue to be in prayer with us as we work together to help those that are in need.

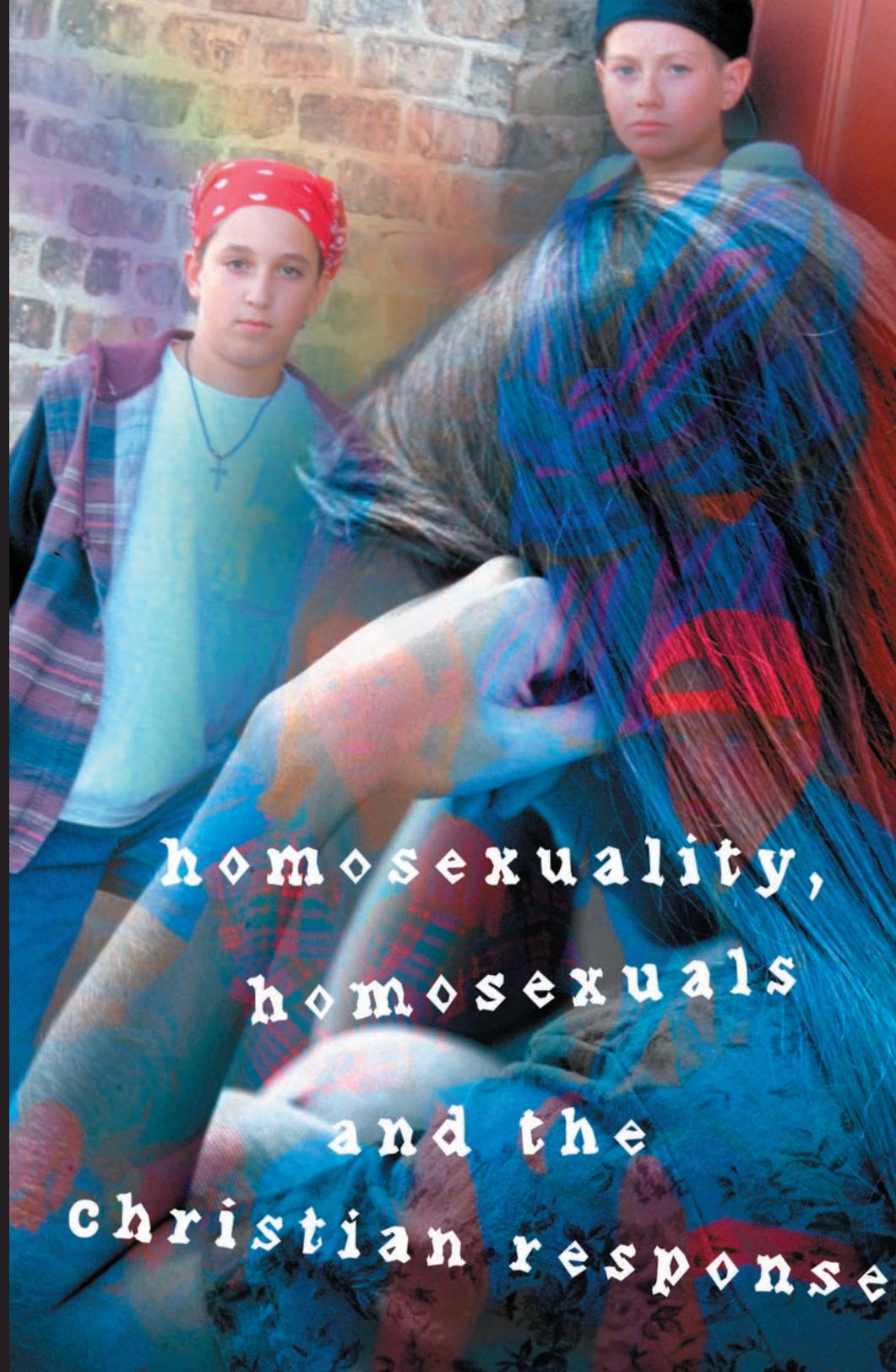
Thanks for watching and God Bless!

Sincerely,



An Outreach of Celebration Ministries

The Al Denson Show
Box 220 Grapevine, TX 76099
Toll Free 1-877-HOPE101
Email: aldenson@aol.com
Web Site: www.aldenson.com



homosexuality,
homosexuals
and the
christian response



Most artists create for only a brief moment in time. That phenomenon was once known as “15 minutes of fame”. Yet even in a fickle world, there still emerge a talented few that transcends time and trends. With nearly 15 years as a major label recording artist and seven hit

albums to his credit, Al Denson is that kind of artist.

But the attention and acclaim his artistry has brought him over the years are anything but the routine rewards of worldly success. Rather, they are the fruits of a life of purpose and passion, and a mission that has always reached far beyond merely making music.

The millions of young people Al has performed for, befriended, counseled, consoled and clowned around with in his career already know that. And thousands more are finding out every day.

This past year has seen Al expand his efforts to a global audience through the reach of his daily syndicated television production, “The Al Denson Show.” “You’ve got to reach out to people where they are with the most powerful means and this form of media allows you to build trust and a rapport,” says Al. “This has all been so amazing. I can’t imagine what lies in store when the Lord finally calls me home, but I don’t have to wait for heaven to receive rewards. I get them every time a kid comes up to me and says, ‘I heard what you said, and I accepted Christ.’ You can’t ask for anything more or better than that.”

Write Al at: Box 220 Grapevine, TX 76099
Email: aldenson@aol.com Web Site: www.aldenson.com

homosexuality, homosexuals and the christian response

The title of this booklet makes a distinction between the Christian’s response to homosexuality and to the homosexual, because we believe that this is what the Bible does. This is a very difficult subject to deal with, simply

because there are such strong feelings in the Christian community, and because there has been so much hurt in the gay community. The opinions on this issue are as different as the people and groups that hold to them. You will hear many voices saying things like, “There is nothing wrong with being gay. You need to accept the homosexuals as they are, lifestyle and all.”

Or, “Homosexuality is a sin and homosexuals are sinners.” Or, “They can’t help it, they were born that way.” Or, “Of course they can help it, it is a choice.” To which voice do you listen? As in any issue, that only voice that matters is the voice of God. Our voice is meant only to be a voice of encouragement to those on both sides of the issue to listen to the voice of God.

It is easier to define homosexual behavior than it is to define a homosexual. Of course we know that homosexual behavior involves sexual intimacy with someone of the same sex. But a person can behave this way and not be a homosexual. Homosexual experiences do not make a person a homosexual. Neither do

occasional same sex fantasies or “crushes.” Too many times Satan will use a thought, an infatuation, a temptation or even an experience to convince a person that they are not “normal.” Sometimes the cruel remarks, labels

or insinuations of others will put doubts in the mind of a young man or woman that maybe they are “different.”

Sometimes, when a person is already struggling with insecurities and self-esteem issues, this is all it takes to convince them that they are gay, when in reality they aren’t. One man who was living a homosexual lifestyle as an adult, said that as a

teenager he was very creative and sensitive. He never had any homosexual thoughts, but because he was called “queer” by the other guys for so many years, he finally decided that maybe they were right and he became what they had labeled him as being.

Sometimes, usually with help, a person can discover the origin of their homosexual behavior. There can be many contributing factors, but the two most common seem to be past sexual abuse and a disruption in the relationship with the same sex parent. Elizabeth Moberly, Ph.D., is a researcher who has observed that human beings develop in stages. As we mature, moving from one stage to the other, we eventually reach the maturity level where,

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as it says in Genesis 2:24, we can “leave our parents and cleave to an opposite-sex partner.” In order to advance to the next development stage, a person’s needs and desires of the current stage must be met. Moberly suggests that when something disrupts the attachment to the same-sex parent, some people get “stuck” at that stage and seek to make up for that deficit in their life through same-sex relationships.

The disruption may be caused by the same sex parent’s physical absence through death, divorce, abandonment, or being away because of business, illness or other circumstances. The disruption can also be the result of a parent who is emotionally absent by being cold, harsh, neglectful, or indifferent. One child in the family may be upset by this absence, but able to move on to the next stage of development, while another child in the same family will seek unhealthy attachments to fill this void in his or her life. The mistake they make next is

when they buy into Satan’s lie that says the only way to meet the need for same sex closeness is through sexual intimacy.

We all know what it is like to be denied something that we are really hungry for. It is not sick or sinful for a child to desire a satisfying, secure, close relationship with a same-sex parent. It is sick and sad whenever a parent doesn’t meet that emotional need in the life of his or her child. In order for a homosexual to be able to relate and move on to relate to the opposite sex, the deficit of same-sex love must be filled, without a sexual relationship. When the needs are met, healing can begin.

The Bible says that sexual immorality specifically refers to fornication (premarital sex), adultery (extra marital sex), prostitution, incest, bestiality (sex with animals), and homosexuality. God tells us in I Corinthians 6:18-20, “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins that a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God in your body.”

Though we ALL sin, we are precious and deeply loved by God. God deeply loves the

gay person and longs to help them overcome their sin, just as he does the adulterer or the prostitute. Homosexuals do not have to stay trapped in a sinful lifestyle any more than any other person. Christ promises forgiveness and healing. God has compassion on the person with a homosexual orientation, but every Bible passage about homosexuality soundly condemns gay sex acts. As in everything else in life, to have minimum problems and maximum pleasure, a wise person will follow the manufacturer’s instructions. In this case the chief designer is God. The Scripture clearly teaches that men or women who participate in a sexual relationship with the same sex deny the order that God created. He says it is sin (Romans 1:24-25). God designed two sexes for a purpose. At creation God only declared that humankind was good after woman was created for man.

Today, there are those who insist that homosexuals are born that way and that they cannot change their sexual preference. Romans 1:23 says, “Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things, but approve of those who practice them.” Of course practicing homosexuals who feel that there is no way out of their lifestyle

do not want others to realize that there is a way out. Convinced that they cannot change, their self-esteem demands that they fight to prove that they are right in their belief.

God can reorient a person to a heterosexual lifestyle miraculously and instantaneously. More frequently, however, is it a long, slow task. For some, the victory may be in not ever engaging in homosexual behavior again, but living with the knowledge that the homosexual desires may be with them for the rest of their lives, much like an alcoholic must accept his life-long vulnerability to alcohol. Sometimes, healing means the grace to live with your situation. Paul said in II Corinthians 12:7-8 that he had a “thorn in the flesh” that he prayed “three times for God to take it from me.” God didn’t take that thing out of Paul’s life. Instead he said in verse 9, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” There is victory and hope for anyone who struggles with sin. In Romans 6:17-18 it says, “Thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.”



If you are a Christian who is struggling with homosexuality, there may be two things that are keeping you from breaking free...

Unforgiveness...

Unforgiveness might be a problem in your life for a couple of reasons. The first reason may be that you have been sexually abused at some point in the past. Sexual abuse takes many forms and is defined as any verbal, visual or physical activity engaged in without consent that is emotionally or physically harmful. Sexual abuse occurs anytime one person exploits another person in order to meet their own sexual or emotional needs. This abuse knows no barriers. It touches every race and nation, male and female, rich and poor, young and old, educated and uneducated, Christian and non-Christian, alike.

Regardless of who these victims are, they all have one thing in common, which is the devastating effects of the abuse on their lives. Dark feelings such as:

- confusion, shame, guilt, rage, worthlessness and hopelessness;
- powerlessness, especially if the abuser was or is an authority figure in the victim's life;
- self-condemnation and self-hatred, because it is much easier to blame yourself than it is to blame someone you were supposed to be able to trust;
- betrayal, because those you should have been able to count on have let you down;

- sexual confusion because God created us all with the need for love, acceptance and affection, and the abuser has taken these normal desires and perverted them.

The result of all these devastating feelings drives victims of sexual abuse to find ways of protecting themselves as they relate to other people.

Some will become "people-pleasers" by trying to be perfect and having an ideal life. They believe this will keep them from ever displeasing anyone, and by doing so, protect themselves from ever being abused again.

Others will be fiercely independent so it would appear that they have no need of anyone and show no signs of weakness. In their minds, the abuse would not have happened if they had not been weak.

Many people will appear to be outgoing and friendly but they will not allow others to get close to them, because they are so afraid to be known and feel so unworthy of being loved. These people may be funny and fun to be with, but underneath there is a fear of commitment and intimacy.

Some people just simply withdraw emotionally and socially, or keep others at a distance with their anger or defensive attitude, all in an attempt to avoid more pain.

Victims of childhood sexual abuse usually come from homes that are conservative and more authoritarian than most. Unfortunately, this describes a lot of Christian homes. As a result, this causes a great deal of spiritual confusion. As the child grows up she may try to live a Christian life, or she may want nothing at all to do with Christianity. Those who do attempt to live a Christ-like life may look very spiritual on the outside, but on the inside their lives are a mess.

Sexual abuse sends many wrong messages to a child who is not mature enough to understand what is truth and what is a lie. Here are some examples of the wrong thinking with which victims are left to deal:

- It was my fault.
- I deserved what I got.
- I was a bad child.
- There must have been something wrong with me.
- I am not as good as other people.
- I am a failure.
- I can't trust anyone.
- If I get close to anyone I'll get hurt again.
- I am dirty and can never be clean.
- My body makes me sick.
- I can't do anything right.

The aftermath of sexual abuse is always emotions that are overwhelming and sometimes explosive. Feelings of anger, rage, bitterness, despair and hopelessness are common. Most victims have at one time or another experienced suicidal thoughts and feelings. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, you may find that one reason you can't get free of the grip of homosexual thoughts is because forgiveness at this point may look like an impossibility. You may still be overwhelmed by the pain of the abuse. You need to understand that while forgiveness will be hard, it is not an impossibility, because God NEVER asks us to do the impossible.

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God promises to “be near to the brokenhearted, and save those who are crushed in spirit.”

The second reason that you may have unforgiveness in your life is because you have been hurt by a same sex, absent parent. The one person you needed to turn to for love, security and comfort wasn't there for you. As a result, you have anger and bitterness that you have never dealt with. Whether because you have been wounded by abuse or by neglect, if you are a Christian, then forgiveness is the only thing that will set you free. Are people who forgive superhuman individuals who have this incredible ability to overlook or excuse horrible wrongdoings on the part of others? No, they are just normal people who have chosen to live above the “norm.” They understand some things about forgiveness that most of the world doesn't:

Forgiveness is not a feeling. It is a decision you make with an act of your will. It has nothing to do with the person who has offended you. It is first done for your own good.

Forgiveness is undeserved pardon and an undeserved release. If you think forgiveness is only for those who ask for your forgiveness, or deserve your forgiveness, then you don't understand forgiveness at all.

Forgiveness is not denial, or excusing, or minimizing what happened. It is being honest and objective about the offense, the pain and the consequences caused by the offender.

Some Christians have a hard time with forgiveness because they believe that if they forgive they are excusing the behavior, or letting the other person off the hook. Nothing could

be further from the truth. Forgiveness is acknowledging that what was done is wrong and inexcusable, but choosing to show someone else the same kind of forgiveness God showed us. Colossians 3:13 says, “Bear with each other and FORGIVE whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as God forgave you.” The forgiveness that Jesus offers is unconditional and complete. We don't deserve it, and He provided it before we ever asked for it or even knew we needed it.

Forgiveness is not a suggestion, it is a commandment, and God gives it to us for our own well-being. When we have been offended, we experience the pain of the offense when it happens. But the initial pain of the wrong done to us is usually quite small compared to the pain of reliving the offense over and over again in our minds. Unforgiveness is like a tape recorder on automatic rewind that plays the hurtful experience again and again.

God knows that unforgiveness is also the soil in which bitterness grows. Bitterness is a poisonous plant with deadly fruit: depression, anger, hostility, resentment, rage, physical, mental and emotional disorders, and the inability to love and trust others. Bitterness makes a person extremely vulnerable to unwise decisions and destructive patterns of living. It is like a cancer of the soul that will go on to destroy you physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally. This is a highly contagious condition that will spread down through generations if left unchecked.

People who choose to forgive are those who have simply said, “I refuse to allow the actions of another person to control and destroy my life. Life is precious and not to be wasted in anger and bitterness. Someone may have meant this for evil in my life, but I choose to use it for good. Someone may have meant for it to destroy me, but I choose to let it grow me instead. Someone may have meant for it to tear me down, but I choose to let it help make me stronger, wiser and more mature.”

Forgiveness is always a three-fold process. First, you ask God to forgive you for the unforgiveness in your heart. Second, you receive God's forgiveness and third, you forgive the one who has hurt you. In Psalms 147:3, God promises to “heal the brokenhearted, and bind up their wounds.” In Psalms 34:18, He promises to “be near to the brokenhearted, and save those who are crushed in spirit.” You may be wounded, heartbroken, and have a crushed spirit because of the harm someone else knowingly, or unknowingly, inflicted on you.

In Isaiah 57:18 it says that God will make you whole by giving you comfort. It is our prayer that you will allow God to comfort you in some way through this booklet and begin the process of making you whole.

Jesus said that “the truth will make you free.” Well, the truth can only set you free if YOU are truthful. God loves you and wants you to be healed and free. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” There is only one thing that overcomes darkness and that is light. You must be willing to let the light expose all of the secret places in your heart if you are going to get out of the darkness.

God promises in Isaiah 42:15b that He will “make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.” God's love and healing power have liberated thousands and thousands of people from the guilt, fear and shame of homosexuality. He will do it for you, too, if you will let him. The choice is up to you. May God bless you and give you the courage to make that life-changing decision. You make the choice, and God will make the change.



Shame...

You may be having difficulty breaking free from homosexuality because whether you have been harmed by sexual abuse, or by a neglectful or absent parent you may be struggling with deep feelings of shame. Shame is the painful sense that you lack value as a person. It is the belief that you are defective, worthless, and unlovable. It is not simply that something is wrong with your behavior, it is that something is wrong with you as a person. Shame is often used by people as a means of placing themselves over others. When I give you the message that you are bad or defective, I am placing myself in the position of being more valuable, or more powerful, and the judge of your value as a person. Shame is also used in an attempt to control the behavior of others. You play on a person's sense of defectiveness so they will change their behavior to escape the feelings of worthlessness.

Unfortunately, our first experience with shame usually begins at home. In families where shame is the weapon of choice,

- love is conditional, based on performance;
- acceptance has to be earned;
- behavior matters more than people;
- the measuring sticks are "what will people think" and "how will this look;"
- feelings are wrong, selfish or unnecessary;
- blaming is elevated to an art form;
- the one being shamed becomes an expert at rationalizing, minimizing and denying to try and protect whatever fragile sense of self-worth they have left.

Shame is a terrible, terrible thing because it says that you are what you are, and you cannot change. Shame causes us to believe that our past failures have permanently scarred us, and that we will have to always live life as it is at this very moment. Whenever we feel guilty about what we consider to be too many failures or disappointments in our life (even if many of these were out of our control) we begin to expect only failure in the future. This then becomes a deep sense of shame and hopelessness.

The only way we think that we can cope with the dreadful, emotional pain that shame brings is to lower our expectations. We make decisions that will avoid risks and keep us from further failure and rejection that it brings.

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We then get locked into the feeling that we can never change. At that point, we usually begin to look around and compare ourselves to others who appear "normal." As a result, we begin to feel more ashamed that we have not measured up, and we believe that the way we are has kept us from being normal or successful.

God has a solution for people living in shame. That solution is called "regeneration." Regeneration is a supernatural work of God that literally makes a person brand new the split second that he or she trusts Christ as Savior. II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Regeneration is not something that we can do for ourselves to "clean-up our acts" or improve our lives. Regeneration is something that only God can do and is the beginning of a completely new life in Christ. It simply means that who we were and what we did in the past are gone forever.

Titus 3:4-7 says, "...but when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things that we have done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth, and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ, our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the HOPE of eternal life." You see, our regeneration in Christ is complete and perfect, and if we have been saved, God has made us new. He accepts us totally, based on our new life in Christ.

Because God has made us new people, it is no longer accurate to see ourselves as failures or losers. We don't have to live life the way we always have. If God says that we are new creatures, perfect and acceptable in His sight, then we are not doomed to be the way we have always been. We can change and begin to live like who God says that we are. You may already be a Christian today, but are still struggling with feelings of shame. You need to be aware that there is one who wants us to believe that our past failures and bad choices make us hopeless to change. This is the same one that the Bible calls, "the accuser of the brethren," Satan. He is the one who wants you to believe that this is as good as life will ever get for you. God says that is a LIE.

Regeneration means that God has made you a brand new person, and when He looks at you, that is all He sees. God sees you as completely forgiven, unconditionally loved, totally accepted, fully pleasing and complete in Christ. When you begin to understand and believe these truths, you can begin to get free of all the shame that has kept you bound to the past. This isn't easy, not because God hasn't provided a way out for you, but because you may be afraid to change. Let's illustrate this way:

The good news that God sends us through Jesus Christ is the message of grace.

Suppose a certain man has lived in a very bad neighborhood in a large city up north for his entire life. His neighborhood is run-down and overrun with crime. He has three locks on his door and bars on his windows. Every night he hears yelling, gun shots or sirens. If I were to move that man to a beautiful retirement community in southern Florida where there was warm weather, no crime and only peaceful nights, what do you think he would do? You'd think that moving from a bad, depressing, scary place was a good thing, right?

Believe it or not, depending on how long he had lived the other way, in just a short time he would want to be moving back up north. Why? Because we find comfort, security and a measure of control in the familiar, even if the familiar is lousy. Stupid, you say? Maybe, but it is still true, and you may find that it is true in your life, too, if you are having trouble moving from where you are to where God wants you to be. Do you have the courage to move and leave the fear, shame, hopelessness and depression behind? Or are you holding on to your old address simply because it is familiar? Fear of change is sometimes really just an excuse not to have to "do" life.

What kind of excuses are you making? Now is the time to respond to His invitation for a new way of living. The decision you make today will determine what is on the other side of tomorrow for you. You can decide today to begin to live life the way God intended for it

to be lived. No one is saying that it will be easy, but it is possible. God does not want you to live in guilt, shame, hopelessness, depression or confusion.

If you are a Christian He has put a new heart and a new spirit within you (Ezekiel 36:26). You can make the choice to change. Remember, you may fight homosexual desires for the rest of your life, the same way that an alcoholic fights his desires. But just because you are tempted, does not mean that you are ungodly, defective, or that you have to act on those temptations. Temptation is not a sin. Will you accept the victorious life that Jesus has graciously provided you as fact, even though your feelings or old belief system may tell you differently? Trust Him.

If you are a Christian who is struggling with your attitude toward homosexuals, then God has a word for you...

In Titus 3:3-7, it says, "For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by men and hating one another; but when the goodness and loving kindness of God appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but by virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Christ Jesus our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life."

Some Christians have forgotten what they were like before they met Christ. "Foolish and disobedient," it says here. But, it goes on to remind us, that the goodness and the loving kindness of God saved us, not because we deserved it, but because of His mercy and grace. Thank God that Jesus always makes a distinction between the sin and the sinner.

Where would we be if He had not? Unfortunately, the ostracism of the homosexual by Christians and churches today bears no resemblance to the ministry or compassion of Jesus. Jude 23 says, "...Hate every trace of their sin while being merciful to them as sinners."

I Corinthians 6 :9-10 says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God." Please take note that homosexuals are not the only ones on this list. All of us have been greedy, have put other things ahead of God (idolaters), or have been immoral in one way or the other. No one should feel self-righteous. Verse 11 says, "That is what some of you were. But you were washed, and you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

In most religious circles condemnation has been refined to an art form. We use it as a tool to shape the consciences of the young, influence the decisions of adults, and correct

those we feel are wrong. So often today the gospel seems to be presented more as a challenge to "do better," "try harder," and "stop sinning," rather than as "good news." Is it any wonder that the hurting masses of the world have for the most part rejected the church entirely?

People are looking for solutions for their problems and cures for their pain, but too many times the church has just given them more rules to keep, more expectations to fulfill, and more work to do. And yet God does have a "good news" message for the world and for the believer, and it is just the opposite of "do better, try harder". The good news that God sends us through Jesus Christ is the message of grace. Grace is simply defined as the gift of God's unconditional love freely offered to the undeserving and the unworthy.

Grace is God's love in action toward ALL of us who do not deserve it.

God does NOT say,

I love you because

I love you since

- or -

I will love you if

I will love you when

I will love you after

I will love you provided

I will love you presuming

Any of these statements would make God's love conditional. But, God's unconditional love flows out of God because of His nature. His love depends not on what we are, but on what He is. He loves unconditionally because He is love. God's love is an action toward us, not a reaction to something good in us. As we have received this love, we are also to walk in it. In other words, we are obligated by grace to pass it on to others.

How does the brand of love and grace that you have offered others compare to what God has freely given you? If you have difficulty loving and accepting those who are different, perhaps it is because you have never really known experientially the love and grace of your Heavenly Father. We can say we believe in grace, but if that grace is only head knowledge, then we will be condemning and unloving. Grace must be an experience with God, not something we believe about God.

The biggest enemy of grace is the performance lie. It tries to make us believe that every relationship in life is based on performance, on what we do. A person who has not received grace, or doesn't understand what grace is, has no grace to give and will be graceless toward others. Performance-oriented Christians are hard on themselves and on other people. We are ALL fallen sinners, both by nature and by choice, and stand in need of God's saving grace.

Romans 5:21 says, "...so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also GRACE might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

It is the will of our Father that grace reign in our relationships. The way we love and forgive, and the way we accept each other will either turn people to the Lord or away from Him. Just as Ephesians 2:8 reminds us that it is grace and grace alone that will ALWAYS be the basis of our relationship with God, grace and grace alone must ALWAYS be the basis of our relationships with each other. Ephesians 4:32 tells us "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ forgave you."

Some well meaning Christians in an effort to "take a stand," believe that if they can just pour on enough guilt and shame, raise their voices high enough, frown hard enough, that they will get their message across. But, James 1:20 says "man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires". On the other hand, Romans 2:4 says that "kindness, tolerance and patience lead to repentance, and to God."

The homosexual community must know and be assured of our unconditional love and acceptance. They must be secure in the fact that we will always love and accept them, even when we cannot accept their sinful behavior. Some Christians have a hard time with this because they believe that if they accept the individual that they are excusing the behavior, or letting the other person off the hook. Nothing could be further from the truth. Unconditional love and acceptance can acknowledge sin that is wrong and inexcusable, but show someone else the same kind of forgiveness and grace that God has shown us.

The most important key to imparting our values is our attitude, and it must be a reflection of our Heavenly Father's relationship with us, which has nothing to do with our performance and everything to do with grace. His grace — His unmerited favor and acceptance — is extended to us despite our failings, weaknesses and sin. God's unconditional love was proven 2000 years ago in that "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Roman 5:8). God hates mean-spirited bigotry toward homosexuals just as much as He hates the sin of homosexuality.

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