

LIVING HOPE

MINISTRIES

Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in Living Hope Ministries. We hope the resources that we provide will be of help to you. We exist to minister to those who struggle with homosexuality, sexual addiction, pornography addiction, victims of incest and childhood molestation, and to those who are affected by sexual brokenness in the lives of their loved ones. We hope our information will be helpful in your journey to walk away or in your journey to understand those you love.

We have included some helpful articles and resources to get you started, but this is by no means all that exists. If you are in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and would like to know more about us, please call or email us to speak with someone personally. If you are outside the DFW area or if you don't have access to a local support ministry, we encourage you to check out our online forums at www.livehope.org. Please check out our website for articles, great resources and the latest newsletter.

We will be praying for you and your loved one.

Grace and Peace,

Brady Cottle

Interim Director, Living Hope Ministries

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Who we are

- Established in 1989 and partnered with Exodus International since 1991, Living Hope provides support groups and pastoral counseling for people affected by sexual and relational brokenness. Including:
 - Pornography Addiction
 - Homosexuality
 - Sexual addiction
 - Victims of childhood molestation and abuse
- As a para-church organization, we seek to encourage and equip the body of Christ to extend mercy and healing to the sexually broken through:
 - Training and Information for lay ministers, pastoral care ministers and counselors
 - By providing a resource for referral and a safe place to receive healing

Supports

Drop in support groups and counseling

- Drop in support groups are offered twice weekly on both sides of the Metroplex
 - Dallas area: meetings are held on Monday evenings in North Dallas at 7 P.M.
 - Tarrant and Mid-Cities area meetings are held in Arlington on Thursday evenings at 7 P.M.

For confidentiality reasons, the locations of our meetings are not publicized. For more information on attending one of these meetings or about setting up a counseling appointment, please call 817.459.2507 to schedule an intake interview.

Living Waters

What is Living Waters? Living Waters is an in-depth, Christ-centered program for people seeking healing in areas of sexual and relational brokenness. A healing, teaching and discipleship series, Living Waters addresses the reality that we are all broken in our ability to love others well. The goal of Living Waters is to lay a foundation for sexual and relational wholeness in our lives.

Living Free

Living Free is a program designed to educate and bring freedom to people who find themselves trapped in the bondage of habitual sexual sin. Living Free explores the cycle of addiction, root causes, triggers, and actions. The program is scripturally based and teaches the principles regarding surrendering our control and will to God through the Cross in order to reclaim our freedom from sin and its strongholds.

For more information about the groups and services offered through Living Hope, contact the ministry office at 817.459.2507 or email at info@livehope.org

[1 PETER 1:3 "...FOR IN HIS GREAT MERCY, HE HAS GIVEN US NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE..."](#)

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What is Homosexuality?

By Frank Worthen

Understanding the full meaning of the term is essential if we are to minister effectively to those struggling with this issue.

The majority of homosexuals believe they were “born gay.” This comforting belief relieves them of any responsibility to change. However, there is no solid scientific evidence that people are born homosexual. The overwhelming majority of gay people are completely normal genetically and hormonally. They are fully male or female.

Learned Behavior

We believe homosexuality is learned behavior which is influenced by a number of factors, such as a disrupted family life in early years, a lack of unconditional love on the part of either parent, or a failure to identify with the same-sex parent. Later, these problems result in a search for love and acceptance, envy of the same or the opposite sex, a life controlled by various fears and feelings of isolation.

But homosexuality is brought about by a multitude of root causes. It is simplistic thinking to lay the blame on any single cause. Fears of the opposite sex, incest or molestation, dominant mothers and weak fathers, demonic oppression: all of these may play a part in causing homosexuality, but no individual factor alone can cause it. Along with outside factors, a person’s own personal choices play a key role in forming his homosexual identity, though few will admit this.

What Does the Bible Say?

The Bible states clearly in five places that homosexual behavior is sin: Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Cor. 6:9,10; 1 Timothy 1:9,10. Sexual lust and fantasy – both homosexual and heterosexual – are sinful according to God’s Word. On the other hand, 1 Cor. 10:13 assures us that temptation is not sin: “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

There is a difference between experiencing a pull towards homosexual acts and giving in to that pull. We can’t fully control that which tempts us; but we can choose whether or not to pursue the temptation. This power of choice is strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

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Four Components of Homosexuality

- *Behavior.* Many people assume that all homosexuals engage in homosexual acts, but this is not always true. Because of fears or strong religious convictions, they may refrain from sexual behavior, yet experience an intense battle with same-sex attractions. Another wrong assumption is that all people who engage in homosexual acts are homosexual. There are huge numbers of heterosexual men who engage in homosexual acts for a variety of reasons, such as being in prison or somewhere else that heterosexual sex is unattainable.
- *Psychic Response.* This term means “sexual excitation (stimulation) caused by visual perception or fantasy.” Though many people claim they have experienced visual or sexual attraction for the same sex “as long as they can remember,” there is a progression in a person’s life that leads to a homosexual psychic response.

A child may start out with a need to compare himself with others to see if he measures up to societal standards. When he feels he doesn’t compare favorably with others, he develops admiration for those traits and physical characteristics he does not possess. Admiration, which is normal, may turn to envy. Envy leads to the desire to possess others and finally, to consume others. This strong desire becomes eroticized somewhere along the way, eventually leading to homosexual psychic response.

Sexual situations are pictured in the mind. When the first sexual encounter takes place, it may be the result of result of several years of planning and fantasy. On the other hand, homosexual behavior may precede psychic response, which develops as a conditioned response to pleasant encounters with those of the same sex.

- *Identity.* Some people enter into homosexuality through taking on the gay identity. These people may not have experienced sexual attraction for the same sex or have had any homosexual encounters. However, from an early age, they have felt “different” from other people. They feel abnormal, like they do not fit into the heterosexual world. They reason, “If I’m not heterosexual, then I must be gay,” and they accept the homosexual label onto their lives.

Of course, this is a misinterpretation of feelings. A person troubled with shyness, fear of the opposite sex, or lack of athletic or social skills need not accept the label of “homosexual.” However, people do grow into labels. Once a label is accepted, the implied characteristics of the label begin to develop in a person’s life. What we believe about ourselves is of extreme importance.

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- *Lifestyle.* A homosexual may insist that he bears no responsibility for his identity, his psychic response or even his first sexual encounter, which may have been forced upon him. However, every homosexual person must bear the responsibility of his or her choice to enter the homosexual lifestyle.

People enter this lifestyle to varying degrees, however. Some live in the heterosexual world for the most part, seeking out only sporadic, impersonal sexual encounters. Others immerse themselves in the total “gay subculture,” a setting in which the person works, lives and socializes in a totally gay environment.

There are all the varying degrees in between these two extremes, but the gay lifestyle, for many people is the first place where they have experienced any form of acceptance on a below-the-surface level. In spite of the acceptance that is available, however, the homosexual lifestyle often proves to be a painful and unrewarding way of life, particularly for older gays who are no longer desirable sexually.

A Complex Problem

As you can see from looking at these four components, homosexuality is a complex problem with many definitions and variations. If someone tells you, “I am a homosexual,” he has really told you very little about himself. It takes a deeper look in to his life to determine the degree to which homosexuality has become a part of his identity.

The way out of homosexuality is not easy, yet there are thousands who have left homosexuality behind and have become “new creatures in Christ.” Many have married and raised families, others remain celibate, leading joyful lives devoted to God’s service. The Lord gives us the desires of our heart. Satan is not pleased when someone sees through the deception of homosexuality and discovers the way out. God’s power is greater than any problem – including homosexuality. “Do not be afraid or discouraged... for the battle is not yours, but God’s” (2 Chronicles 20:15). May God give you strength and perseverance to fight this battle.

Frank Worthen is Founding Director of Love In Action. Copyright 1982, 1991 by Love In Action, P.O. Box 2655, San Rafael, CA 94912; ph. 415-454-0960

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Trapped in Deception By Stephen Black

“God created us this way,” the gay priest told me, “and he loves us just the way we are.”

Sex became a distorted issue for me at an early age. I was molested about age six by a male friend of the family who was baby-sitting me. I was also exposed to some pornography at the same time. The pornography was heterosexual, yet very devastating to my understanding of real love and God’s design for sexuality.

At age seven, I was exposed to more pornography. My brother’s friends had come over to our house to look at *Playboy* magazines. One of my brother’s friends was reading an article about testing yourself to see if you might have homosexual tendencies. The article asked if you were attracted to men or women in very explicit ways.

My mind was reeling from the pictures and the feelings that I was having. The older boy showed the pictures to me and asked, “Who would you kiss, the man or the woman?” I became very frightened, convinced that I was going to get in real trouble. I remember wanting to answer what I thought he wanted to hear. *Well, we are all boys*, I thought, *and boys are not supposed to be interested in girls*. So I told him, “The man.” My brother’s friends all laughed and began calling me a “queer.” They ridiculed both my brother and me; I could see from my brother’s face that he was ashamed of me. I was confused and felt so dirty as they repeated over and over, “You homosexual, you queer.” Their voices of ridicule rang in my mind for days.

Several years later, our next-door neighbors had some out-of-state visitors. I was playing at their house, and was followed into the garage by the adult male visitor. He grabbed me from behind and began to molest me while warning me to keep quiet. After struggling with him for a few minutes, I got away. I was terrified at what had happened. I went home and never told anyone. I thought it was my fault, because in the heat of the summer, I had been wearing cut-off shorts with no shirt.

About a year later, my family went on a trip to Colorado. We stayed with friends who had a son several years older than me. At bedtime, he began telling me about a “game” he had learned from a friend. That night, I was molested again, except this time I submitted to it because it was just a “game.” A year later, he came to visit my house and we “played the game” again.

When I was 12, I switched from a private Catholic school to public school and soon was introduced to drugs. I started smoking marijuana and listening to hard rock music. I totally rejected what little I knew of God. This opened the door for a constant influence of demonic activity in my life. I became sexually active with a girl from school and surrounded myself with peers who encouraged me to continue to sin.

About a year later, I went into a deep depression because I kept having homosexual thoughts, desires and dreams. My family and friends became very concerned. I wouldn’t talk to anyone, afraid of what they would think.

One night in my depression, I started praying to God to change me. I believed the lie that I had been born gay; I blamed God for making me gay and was very angry with Him. Finally I decided to kill myself. I probably would have succeeded if a friend hadn’t come over that night. I was headed out the front door

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when he drove up and asked, “Where are you going?” I told him the truth: “To kill myself.” “Come inside,” he responded. “I need to talk to you. I know what’s wrong.”

We went into my room. Sure enough, he correctly guessed my struggle – then told me he was bisexual and it was perfectly normal. I was shocked! A false peace settled over me as I realized that one of my closest friends understood my struggles.

I broke off my relationship with my girlfriend and pursued a relationship with this male friend. As I went through high school, I met other homosexual men and started going to gay bars. Soon I had a new goal: to be “married” to another man.

Over the coming years, I pursued a marriage-type relationship with several men. I had one relationship that lasted two years. During this time, I started going back to the Catholic Church. I was going to college and began living openly as a homosexual. My lover, Mike, was very wealthy and we lived in a beautiful home. I drove a new convertible and traveled to a lot of places.

Then a friend from high school heard the reason why I had broken up with my girlfriend and sent me a Christian tract on homosexuality. It was very convicting, but Mike told me to toss it in the trash. “It’s garbage,” he said, and so I threw it away – but continued to think about its message for several days.

Several months later, my little brother died. We were only 18 months apart and for the first time in years, I began praying earnestly. Mostly I complained to God, convinced that He had taken my little brother.

At the funeral I noticed Mike talking with the priest. It ended up that they knew one another well, and the priest knew many other gay priests and ministers. When I talked with this man, he told me that being homosexual was okay with God. “God created us this way,” he said, “and He loves us just the way we are.” Now, more than ever, I believed that my homosexuality was predestined. But I became depressed again for several months. I was filled with guilt, convinced that I should have died instead of my brother.

My relationship with Mike ended in a horrible fight; then I joined a health club, where I met a guy I thought was straight. But he has been exposed to homosexuality one other time earlier in his life, and was plagued with gay thoughts. Before long, we were sexually involved, even though he was married. I was torn up with guilt and developed an ulcer.

This man wanted to divorce his wife and move to another state with me. But I decided to end the relationship – I could not stand the guilt. I tried to force myself to be heterosexual, throwing myself into a relationship with a woman who was trying to help me out of homosexuality. But being involved in heterosexual sin carried just as much guilt for me, and it didn’t work. I still longed for a relationship with a loving fatherly man.

Then I got a phone call from Mary, an old high school friend. The next day she took me to visit her sister who was “real religious.” Several people were there, and they talked about Jesus in a familiar way that I had never heard before. He was real to them, an intimate friend. The Jesus I knew was dead on a cross, and found in a wafer on Sundays.

Suddenly I sensed God speaking clearly to my heart: “If you do not accept me tonight, you will die.” My heart started pounding. Everyone else but a man named Steve left the room. I turned to him and said, “I need to know Jesus like you do.” We prayed together and I accepted Jesus Christ into my life.

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Later that night after returning home, I went to my bedroom with the old family Bible and prayed for God to show me where homosexuality was wrong. I opened the Bible, came to Leviticus chapter 18, and my eyes fell upon verse 22: “You shall not lie with a man as one lies with a woman, it is an abomination.” I didn’t know what “abomination” meant, but I knew it had to mean something that God hated, so I knelt beside my and cried out to God for forgiveness. Then I asked Jesus to totally change me. It was February 6, 1983 and my new life had begun.

The Lord started working in my life, but victory did not come without lots of struggles. My former lover would call me up, crying over the phone and begging me to reconsider my decision to leave him. But the Lord led me to a wonderful church where people really loved Him. I found out later that these people had even been praying for me *before* I arrived! My supervisor at work visited my home one time and noticed some of the things in my roommate’s bedroom. He correctly guessed that we were gay, and asked his prayer group at the church to begin praying for me.

After I became a Christian, I told this same boss that I had been gay. He had been a good friend, and he continued loving me. “Jesus can change your life if you submit totally to Him,” he told me. His in-laws were so excited to hear that I had become a Christian that they invited me to live with them while I became established as a new believer. I stayed with them for the next year.

I began meeting weekly with my pastor, who became a spiritual father to me. He helped me deal with the underlying root issues of my homosexual struggles, such as lust, anger and unforgiveness. I also had to deal with the reality of being sexually abused as a child. When the anger and bitterness came pouring out, several men and women in my church prayed with me and ministered God’s healing to my broken heart.

After I had been a Christian for over a year, I began thinking about marriage. “God,” I prayed, “if You want me to be married, You will have to bring a woman into my life who loves You as much as I do!” Some months later, Robin began attending my church and the Lord revealed to me that she would eventually become my life partner. We became friends and were eventually married on May 25, 1986. Today we have a very fulfilling marriage, and enjoy being parents to three children (Robin had one daughter when we married).

Some may wonder how much my children know about my past. The two youngest (8 and 6) do not know about my sexual past yet; they are too young to know details of my sexuality. I told our oldest daughter when she was ten. My children understand that I was in deep sin before I gave my life over to the Lord and that Jesus Christ has delivered me. They also understand that their daddy helps others be comforted with the same comfort that I have received from the Lord (2 Cor. 1:4).

Marriage has brought me a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man. And marriage has revealed how selfish I really was, and how much I need to die to myself every day and love my wife like Christ loves the Church (Eph. 5:25). From my own experience, I know that deliverance from homosexuality comes only through a new lifestyle of absolute surrender and complete dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ. God’s blessings never cease when we are open to Him, walking in obedience to His will.

Stephen Black is an ordained minister and works as assistant director at First Stone Ministries in Oklahoma City. Copyright 1996 Stephen Black. Used by permission.

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What Do Parents Do When They Discover Their Children Are Involved?

by Barbara Johnson

"Devastated by our son's homosexuality, we found ourselves part of a growing minority of shattered parents in the process of being healed by God." ANONYMOUS

The bundle of homosexual magazines stuffed under our 19 year old son's bed hit me like a sledge hammer and -- without the least hint of warning -- shattered our dreams, pride, "super spirituality" -- and us.

"I hate you!" he shouted, cursing us, when we painfully confronted him with our discovery. Was this the same son we had raised to know the Lord, the popular son who had won scholarships and awards, who even had won other young people to Christ?

"We love you -- but you've got to stop what you're doing! It's wrong. It's sin. How could you? How could you?!"

It all seemed unreal. In recent years fads among young people have run the gamut. First came booze. In the 1960's it was drugs. Today knowledgeable youth workers say the "in thing" is bisexuality, even hard-core homosexuality! But could homosexuality actually touch the child of Christians? I hadn't even known what a homosexual was until I was in my 20's. And only two months before our confrontation with our son, when I'd heard that a local youth adviser at a camp for runaway boys was a homosexual, I had announced rather loudly to the family, "I'd rather die than have that happen!"

Now our son was involved with another boy his age!

Suddenly, all we knew was what we felt: complete, uncomprehending shock, mingled with confused disbelief. We didn't realize then that homosexuality wasn't something you could turn off like a light switch. And, although we tried to convey our love for our son, our over-reaction must have come across as condemnation.

"You're not my mother! I never want to see you again!" he said.

Two days later, our desperate son disappeared for more than eight months, leaving us to piece together our fragmented lives, haunted by the memories of the child we had known before and the child we unexpectedly uncovered.

We've learned firsthand that Christians are not immune to homosexuality. We've also learned that we are not the sole survivors, but part of a growing minority of shattered parents in the process of being healed by God. And God is able to work beauty out of the ugliness of sin -- even out of homosexuality. But it takes time and praise and the power of prayer to surrender to God what somehow seems too painful to bear.

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Terminally ill patients often struggle with denial, anger, and depression before they can accept their own approaching death. But for the Christian, death is ultimately a victory where we finally face our Lord. The reactions of a parent whose child has labeled himself a homosexual often parallel these initial traumatic reactions, but the emotional loss of a child to homosexuality is more far-reaching. It affects one with physical symptoms of anxiety -- chest pains, nausea. It becomes a living grief with an uncertain end, a daily shouldering of self-blame that only God can alleviate, and the nightly drum beat of "why our child?"

Those first few months after we learned about our son, I lost 66 kilos. I could hardly get up in the morning and went into severe depression. Friends would say, "What's wrong? You're just not the same bubbly person!" But how can you be the same? I wrote reams of letters asking everyone from Billy Graham to Oral Roberts why a Christian boy could get involved, and got no positive answers. It was either too hot to handle -- or no one quite knew what to say.

That's when I created my "joy box" -- a shoe box stuffed with any inspirational Scripture, poems, stories and letters I could find. Within easy reach on my kitchen counter, I grab into that box for a dose of praise and hope whenever the negatives seem to outweigh the positives.

At first, there didn't seem to be anyone else in the whole world who was going through what we were suffering -- or who had experienced the same tremendous emotional tug-of-war with depression and guilt! If they had, they weren't willing to discuss it. If they hadn't, they couldn't possibly understand it or handle it.

*Where are all the other suffering mothers, Lord?
There must be one!
Just one
to help me see
it's possible for this wound to heal!*

God answered my prayers in the form of a growing Christian ministry located near Melodyland School of Theology, Anaheim, California. The "Spatula Club" -- a branch of the growing EXIT team -- a group of Christian ex-gays who have developed a ministry to the gay community -- provides Christian parents the fellowship they so desperately need. Attending "Spatula" meetings -- so named because parents have to peel themselves off the emotional ceiling when they first learn of their child's homosexuality -- helped my husband and me realize that we are not alone. We discovered something everyone facing a crisis situation of this proportion needs -- a friend you can be completely open with -- someone you can cry, laugh, share and pray with. And having as a friend another mother going through the same situation is invaluable in gaining strength.

Realizing that others share our problem helped greatly, but it hasn't completely stilled the voice of inner questioning: "Why can a Christian become involved? Lord, I used my best recipe in raising my kids... which ingredient went wrong? Was it my fault? My husband's? Am I being punished for something I did wrong?"

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Answers aren't simplistic, nor are they easy to digest, but one answer comes through loud and clear. If your child is a Christian, then he is God's, not yours. God has bought him with a price. And if he is God's, then God will take care of him -- no matter what. Quit being his babysitter. Give him completely to God!

I had been pretending to myself that my son had gone on a long trip and that he would be returning soon. Now God was showing me I had to surrender him totally -- even if that meant I would never see him again, or that he would never be delivered from homosexuality.

Praise is the active key to that door of surrender which leads to healing. How hard it is to praise the Lord for something so devastating to your child's personality and yours!. Many times I've forced myself to crank out a "I-don't-feel-like-praising-You-for-it-but-thank-You-anyway-Lord!" Involvement in a praise-centered church or prayer group helps parents focus outside of themselves. When you learn to praise God in the midst of the situation, you begin to trust and believe He will bring something very special out of it!

"I wasn't a Christian before I learned my 17-year-old son was a homosexual," recounts Dorothy, one of my "Spatula" friends. "But he and his sister have been Christians for four years and had been praying diligently for the salvation of my husband and me. It wasn't until we underwent this ordeal that I accepted Christ as Savior through a relative of mine. Little did I know that God would answer my son's prayer through this means! But our family has changed and is really growing. It's wonderful -- when we look beyond the problems -- to see how God is bringing beauty out of such an ugly sin."

I find it easy sometimes to dwell on the mistakes of the past or get trapped in emotional obstacles of the present. But there's nothing Satan wants more than to cripple Christian parents emotionally so they're unable to actively love and serve others.

Love heals. It speeds your own healing, and it helps to heal others around you. God wants us to get "unkinked" so love can flow through us to the other people who are hurting -- our child, the rest of our family, others who are suffering problems -- not only for their sake, but for your own, to keep you from freezing up inside from bitterness and hurt. Many former practicing homosexuals say, "I felt guilty. I despised myself and lived in terror of the day when everyone I loved would despise me as, one by one, my family and friends learned the truth."

Your child, maybe, could say that! The outspoken homosexual who has "come out" to crusade for gay rights today is still in the minority. Homosexuality usually is a secret, silent struggle which creates great loneliness and inner turmoil. If your child is into this, he probably has suffered greatly. And he is still your child, no matter what. More than ever, he needs that accepting unconditional love from you that God can keep you demonstrating. While God hates the sin, He loves sinners.

Can a homosexual be "cured"? We have seen answers to prayer with our own son. After

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disappearing for almost a year, he has returned, and a cautious yet loving relationship has been resumed. Through God's "special filter" we know the Lord is quietly working in his life. Homosexuality is too complex and its causes too diversified for pat solutions. But we continue to pray, surrender and praise.

Christ said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move" (Matthew 17:20). Homosexuality is like a mountain. But it can be moved. Like any other sin, Christ paid its price on the cross, dying for our weaknesses and sicknesses -- physical, spiritual, emotional, and sexual.

The "once-gay, always-gay" philosophy is a myth gay activists would like us to believe. But there is a way out. His name is Jesus.

"I just wanted to die when I learned about my son," confessed my "Spatula" friend Dorothy. "Every morning I would check my breasts for lumps, hoping I would get cancer and die. But I wasn't a Christian then, I didn't know there was a God who listens and answers prayer -- a God who is willing and able. Now I know that if God can heal the blind and the deaf, He is able to heal the homosexual.

When Homosexuality Hits Your Home...

Stop blaming yourself! You cannot take blame for the choice your child has made. Remove self-pity by realizing that there is no one factor identified as the root cause of homosexuality.

Don't try to give advice. Rather than play the counselor/psychologist role, unconditionally love and accept your child through his/her struggles with identity.

Start a "Joy Box" collection of inspirational verses and poems to help lighten those days you feel the fog of depression settling in.

Keep communication channels open with your child -- even if he's left home. If you've blown your initial confrontation, reach out to him in love, admitting you made a mistake in over-reacting. Concentrate on making your home a warm, loving place for the rest of your family.

Get involved in a praise-centered church, in a prayer cell, in hobbies, tape ministries, with helping other people through their suffering. This brings your focus outside of yourself and your suffering.

Praise the Lord continually in the midst of the situation. Believe He knows the end result -- and will bring good out of it.

Find a friend with whom you can share, laugh and cry. The common strength you draw from friends is invaluable.

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Uplift your child continually in prayer. Remember that God is in charge.

Hang a big spatula in a prominent place to remind you that your hand and God's are the only ones which can pull you off the emotional ceiling of self-pity.

Barbara Johnson, Spatula Ministries, P O Box 444, La Habra CA 90631.

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Suggested Book List

Understanding Gay Theology

A Strong Delusion Confronting the Gay Christian Movement

by Joe Dallas

Written by a former member of the pro-gay church movement, this book gives clear and forthright rebuttals to "gay theology" issues. It offers the responses in simple, clear, and very logical terms, while taking a powerful, straightforward look at the growing acceptance of homosexuality in the evangelical community. This is a truthful, yet compassionate and practical guide to communicating with those who have embraced pro-gay theology, including some very wise suggestions of dos and don'ts when engaged in a debate over homosexuality.

Understanding Homosexuality

101 Frequently Asked Questions About Homosexuality

by Mike Haley

What causes homosexuality and same-sex attractions? Can a Christian be gay? Is change possible for a homosexual?

Desires In Conflict

by Joe Dallas

The author addresses the needs of the Christian who deals with homosexual temptations. This book is written directly to the person struggling with homosexuality, but it is also a very helpful resource for friends, families and church members who seek to understand how they can assist the struggler.

Homosexuality: A New Christian Ethic

by Elizabeth R. Moberly

The author, a research psychologist, formerly at Cambridge, presents a theory of homosexual root causes that has gained widespread acceptance among Christians ministering to homosexuals. She describes homosexuality as coming out of unmet needs and detachment from the same-sex parent, a description of root causes that opens the way to healing

The Broken Image

by Leanne Payne

When first published, this book provided an enormous breakthrough for Christian ministries to homosexuals. It opened up to such ministries the power of healing prayer; prayer that reaches the deep wounds that lie at the heart of homosexuality. This is a classic that anyone who struggles with homosexuality, or who wishes to minister to the homosexual, needs to read.

Crisis In Masculinity

by Leanne Payne

Some books counsel on "how to be a man." For those who lack a real sense of their own manhood, such books may only increase a sense of failure and inadequacy. This book is different. The author delves into the depths of manhood, areas that the Creator calls forth in every male, areas that, with God's healing power, can be developed in any man at any age.

LIVING HOPE

MINISTRIES

You Don't Have To Be Gay

by Jeff Konrad

This popular book is written as a series of letters from the author, a former homosexual, to a friend who is struggling with whether or not to try to leave the gay life. In an informal, loving way, the author meets his friend where he is, walking with him through all the pain and struggle. An excellent book for the non-believer or skeptic open to considering change

Straight and Narrow?: Compassion and Clarity in the Homosexuality Debate

by Thomas Schmidt

The battle over homosexuality often degenerates into slogans and accusations, losing sight of individual struggles, pain, and faces. Writing with profound empathy and an evangelical Christian perspective, Schmidt addresses the debate's main points: what the Bible says about homosexuality, how homosexual behavior affects one's health, and whether gay orientation is genetically predetermined.

Women

Restoring Sexual Identity

by Anne Paulk

Are you or someone you know struggling with same-sex attraction? Is lesbianism an inherited predisposition? Find answers to this and other critical questions. Women, their families and friends wrestling with this issue will find practical advice for healing and change

Out of Egypt

by Jeanette Howard

A practical and informative book for women who struggle with lesbianism. Jeanette Howard uses her own story and the stories of women she has counseled to explain the roots of lesbianism, how to deal with loneliness, and growth into healthy femininity.

Men

Growth Into Manhood: Resuming the Journey

by Alan Medinger

In Growth Into Manhood, Alan Medinger gives a practical guide to resuming the thwarted journey into manhood that many homosexual strugglers experience. From the context of his own release from homosexuality and his growth into a confident and comfortable manhood, Medinger offers hope to others. Written primarily for homosexuals, heterosexual men will benefit from looking at this often overlooked step in the process of healing from sexual or relational brokenness. This book promises to be a major influence in the area of ministry to the male homosexual overcomer. Medinger is currently the Executive Director Emeritus of one of the nation's oldest ex-gay ministries

Parents/Spouses

Someone I Love is Gay

by Anita Worthen and Bob Davies

Answers for parents, wives of homosexual strugglers, and other family members and friends in a simple, easy-to-understand manner.

[1 PETER 1:3 "...FOR IN HIS GREAT MERCY, HE HAS GIVEN US NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE..."](#)

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MINISTRIES

When Homosexuality Hits Home

by Joe Dallas

Readers will learn:

- The emotional phases they'll pass through when a loved one "comes out"
- How to maintain a balance between compassion and conviction
- What their loved one has gone through feeling "different"
- The probable causes of their loved one's sexual orientation
- How to strengthen, not weaken, their relationship with their family member

Counselors/Clinicians

Reparative Therapy of Male Homosexuality

By Dr. Joseph Nicolosi

In this major and compelling work, Dr. Nicolosi addresses the issue of changing homosexuality with courage and clinical integrity. Refusing to give in to political pressure and attack, he has listened, instead, to his patients--to their developmental dilemmas and to their developmental needs. Basing the treatment plan on this clinical data and on recent advances in understanding gender identity, he offers hope to the thousands of men who do not want to feel coerced by either their own internal conflicts or by outside political pressures to live a life inimical to who they are and to who they want to be.

www.regenbooks.org Most of the books mentioned above can be found at this website. Regeneration books is the online bookstore of Exodus International and the largest single resource for books on this issue.

Web Resources

www.livehope.org Living Hope Ministries, provides support groups and pastoral counseling for people affected by sexual and relational brokenness. Including: homosexuality, pornography addiction, sexual addiction, victims of childhood molestation and abuse. As a para-church organization, we seek to encourage and equip the body of Christ to extend mercy and healing to the sexually broken through training and information for lay ministers, pastoral care ministers and counselors by providing a resource for referral and a safe place to receive healing.

www.exodus.to Exodus International

www.lovewonout.com A dynamic one-day conference addressing, understanding and preventing homosexuality and a project of Focus on the Family.

www.narth.org **NARTH's primary goal is to make effective psychological therapy available to all homosexual men and women who seek change. Furthermore, we wish to open for public discussion all issues relating to homosexuality.**

www.pfox.org A support organization for Parents and Friends of Ex-gays and Gays.

www.idoexist.org

www.thetruthabouthomosexuality.org

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MINISTRIES

Living Hope Ministries has developed a referral relationship with the following counselors. Keep in mind that the list is comprised of Licensed Professional Counselors and those with Pastoral Counseling experience. Our comfort in recommending these individuals is based on having a known understanding of the root issues and treatment of sexual and relational brokenness including experience with homosexual behaviors, sexual addiction and childhood abuse.

Eddie Traugber, LFMT

In private practice with over 12 years of experience counseling men, women and adolescents affected by same gender attractions, sexual abuse, emotional dependency and sexual addictions
Dallas, TX.

For an appointment call:
469-955-5373

Pam Drennan

Center for Biblical Counseling (Men and Women)
5510 Abrams Road, Suite 126
Dallas, Texas 75214
214-987-1776
<http://cbc-dallas.com>

Billy Grammer

Fellowship Bible Church Dallas (Men, Women, Marriage and Adolescents)
10310 N. Central Expressway Bldg. III, Suite 380
Dallas, TX. 75231
214-739-4023 x144
emergency pager: 214-822-2871

Jeff Rowland , LPC

In private practice and experienced in counseling men and women with same gender attractions.
Dallas, TX
214-415-8084

Pat Reynolds (Men and Women)

Combines traditional therapy with healing prayer counseling
Director of the Restoration Center Harbor Point Community Church, Plano, TX.
preynolds@harborpointcc.org
214-349-9988

Jim Basham, (Men and Women)

Christian Counseling Associates
500 N. Central Expressway Suite 261
Plano, Tx. 75074
1-888-222-9030

Ricky Chelette (Youth Issues)

Minister to Singles and Young Adults, First Baptist Arlington
20 years' experience working with youth dealing with same-gender attraction
Board member of Living Hope Ministries
(817) 276-6486.

If you have questions about any of the counselors on this list or would like to inquire about more recent additions to the list referral list, please contact the ministry office.

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