

Continued Debate on Homosexuality

Johan Malan, Mossel Bay, South Africa (June 2015)

While public opinion on moral behaviour is rapidly changing in an apostatising world, the debate on homosexuality is also changing in favour of unbiblical forms of sexuality and lifestyles. Below are excerpts from various websites in which arguments are raised for or against this phenomenon:

The causes of homosexuality

<http://www.bibleguidance.co.za/Engarticles/Gayculture.htm>

An increasing phenomenon in the modern world is the rapid expansion of the number of homosexual (gay) persons in societies, as well as the condoning of this lifestyle by many governments and churches. It is regarded as a hereditary trait which, in itself, is not sin. For that reason, gay people are seldom confronted about their immoral behaviour.

However, homosexual and lesbian traits are *not* hereditary as God did not create any person in this way. It is an indictment against our Creator to make allegations of this nature, since it is clearly stated that “male and female He created them” (**Gen. 1:27**). In research in genetics, no gay genes have ever been found in any person. A disposition of this nature is clearly the result of learned behaviour.

Maladaptation of this nature often starts very early in a child’s life. During the years before puberty there should be a very close tie between a girl and her mother and a boy and his father. Each one of them uses the parent of his or her own gender as a role model. The father is a hero in the eyes of the boy and he often boasts of his father’s strength and cleverness. The girl rejoices in her mother and imitates her.

Children are often neglected or even rejected because of their parents’ lack of love, long working hours, drinking, partying, intolerance and aggression towards children, extended absence because of sport and recreation, or the permanent absence of one parent due to divorce. Such a child becomes lonely and socially disoriented, and then easily enters into an alternative relationship with an older person of the same gender. That person then becomes a surrogate father or surrogate mother to the child and it is often just there where an unnatural relationship starts.

Natural friendships among pre-adolescent children should be concluded between persons of the same age and gender groups – boys with boys and girls with girls. It is unnatural when such children develop intimate friendships with much older children, as a gay relationship can result from this. A Form 8 child has nothing to do with a Form 4 child, and it would be unnatural for them to become intimate friends.

After puberty (12 to 14 years) the child becomes conscious of the opposite sex. The daughter then develops an admiration for her father and also closer ties with him, and the boy with his mother. These ties should be natural and spontaneous. The child must never be shocked by his or her parents, or be rejected by them, as that will impede the development of a normal relationship with a person of the opposite sex. If there is not a good relationship with a parent of the opposite sex, the child, like in the phase before puberty, may develop ties with an older person of the same sex. Today, there are so many bad friends available who have become socially derailed, that children can easily become involved in an intimate relationship with a person of the same sex. Sooner or later, they also find sexual gratification in that relationship. In this way a child *becomes* gay – he or she was not born with this propensity.

In the normal development of a child, he or she must be heterosexual, which means that the boy or girl should be naturally attracted to the opposite sex. The association with members of your own gender group will, like before puberty, continue but that will have no bearing on biological desires. The boy’s developing manhood must be fully realised, but he must also have the desire to a friendship with a girl. Likewise, the girl’s developing femininity must coincide with a natural desire to have a boyfriend – not a mannish girlfriend.

It is not, as some people might think, a gay demon that besets a child when he or she does not develop normal, heterosexual relationships. Consequently, this problem cannot be solved by exorcism. This problem should be understood for what it really is, namely sex perversion which resulted from maladaptation and wrong friends, as well as influencing by films and videos in which gay relationships are positively presented.

The sin of homosexuality

<http://www.bibleguidance.co.za/Engarticles/Gaypractice.htm>

A Hollywood girl was brought to Christ while having been a practising lesbian for five years. She told the following story of her conversion and the gradual healing of her sexuality, as described by Dr. Ed Murphy in his book, *The Handbook for Spiritual Warfare* (Thomas Nelson Publishers Inc., Nashville, 1992):

“A group of Christians were witnessing for Christ near Hollywood and Vine. As they shared the gospel I began to hunger to know God as they did. For the first time in my life I understood God’s love for me. I was thrilled. God loved me, even me. Jesus loved me so much he gave His life on the cross for me, even me. I received Him on the spot and went home filled with peace. I sensed great joy at the reality of His love for me. Like the woman taken in adultery (John 8:1-11), He did not condemn me but forgave me.

“The people who led me to Christ did not know about my lesbian partner. They said nothing about homosexuality. As I went home, however, God spoke to my heart. I knew the union was unacceptable in His eyes. I knew I would have to break off the relationship if I were to live in His kingdom. Though it was one of the most difficult things I have ever done in my life, I did what I knew was God’s will. My partner did not understand. She was heartbroken. I was too, but I left.

“I associated with the group of Christian young adults who had brought the gospel to me. In time I was able to tell them about my homosexual problem. They became my family and support group. I would not have survived if it was not for their support. They taught me the Word of God and how to pray and witness for my Saviour. I went through an emotional storm for almost three years. I did not know how strong the homosexual emotions were in my mind, body, imagination, and my very being. Sometimes I did not know if I would make it, but by God’s grace I did.

“I abstained from all sexual relationships. When the yearnings came upon me I would call out to the Lord for His strength and He was faithful. Also I shared with my Christian support group when the temptations became almost unbearable. God slowly began to change my sexual orientation. This means He had to transform me totally, especially emotionally. Our sexuality is so interwoven with our emotions, our self-image, our mind, our will, that this transformation went to the very root of my personality.

“I realised my sexual orientation was not primarily biological. It was environmental, emotional, and the result of wrong choices I had made over a period of time. By God’s grace I realised I could change to respond sexually to men, not to women. The change seemed to move through three overlapping stages:

- “First I began to see women differently. They were my sisters, not my lovers. Gradually I began to lose the sexual drive towards other women.
- “Next I began to notice men in a positive manner for the first time. Some of the brothers were so beautiful as men and as my close friends, I began to lose the negative male orientation that I had known before.
- “Lastly, I began to feel sexual attraction towards men. This was a miracle. The thought of a sexual relationship with a man before this was as repugnant to me as a homosexual relationship is to a heterosexual man or woman.

“I didn’t begin to fantasise having sex with every attractive man I met. That too would have been sinful. But I could now accept the fact that marriage to a fine Christian man would be acceptable. I began to look forward to that possibility as any normal woman does. When this change began, I knew that I was truly a new creation in Christ. Sin had degraded me into something dishonouring to God. He gave my womanhood back to me. I love Him with all my heart.”

This girl was later married and became the mother of a few children. She was completely delivered from her distorted orientation of the past.

Conversion therapy

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conversion_therapy

Conversion therapy (also called **reparative therapy**) is any treatment that aims to change sexual orientation from homosexual to heterosexual. Such treatments have been criticized as pseudoscience and have been a source of controversy in the United States and other countries.

The highest-profile advocates of conversion therapy today tend to be fundamentalist Christian groups and other organizations which use a religious justification for the therapy rather than speaking of homosexuality as “a disease”. The main organization advocating secular forms of conversion therapy is the National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), which often partners with religious groups.

Some sources describe ex-gay ministries as a form of conversion therapy, while others state that ex-gay organizations and conversion therapy are distinct methods of attempting to convert gay people to heterosexuality. Ex-gay ministries have also been called transformational ministries. Some state that they do not conduct clinical treatment of any kind. Exodus International once believed reparative therapy could be a beneficial tool, but ceased activities in June 2013, issuing a statement which repudiated its aims and apologized for the harm their pursuit has caused to LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people.

Ex-gay movement

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ex-gay_movement

The **ex-gay movement** consists of people and organizations that encourage people to refrain from entering or pursuing same-sex relationships, to eliminate homosexual desires, to develop heterosexual desires, or to enter into a heterosexual relationship.

The ex-gay movement relies on the involvement of individuals who formerly identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual but no longer do; these individuals may either claim that they have eliminated their attraction to the same sex altogether or simply that they abstain from acting on such attraction.

There have been various scandals related to this movement, including some self-claimed ex-gays having been found in same-sex relationships despite having denied this, as well as controversies over gay minors being forced to go to ex-gay camps against their will, and overt admissions by organizations related to the movement that conversion therapy does not work.

A large body of research and global scientific consensus indicates that being gay, lesbian, or bisexual is compatible with normal mental health and social adjustment. Because of this, major mental health professional organizations discourage and caution individuals against attempting to change their sexual orientation to heterosexual, and warn that attempting to do so can be harmful.

Various ex-gay organizations have working definitions of change. Prior to disbanding and renouncing the idea of a cure, Exodus International described change as, "attaining abstinence from homosexual behaviours, lessening of homosexual temptations, strengthening their sense of masculine or feminine identity, correcting distorted styles of relating with members of the same and opposite gender." People Can Change defines change as, "any degree of change toward greater peace, satisfaction and fulfilment, and less shame, depression and darkness," and emphasizes that for most people, heterosexuality is not the ultimate goal. When the term **ex-gay** was introduced to professional literature in 1980, E. Mansell Pattison defined it as describing a person who had "experienced a basic change in sexual orientation". Some ex-gays advocate entering (or remaining) in a heterosexual marriage as part of the process. Some in mixed-orientation marriages acknowledge that their sexual attractions remain primarily homosexual, but seek to make their marriages work anyway.

The first contemporary ex-gay ministry, Love in Action, was formed in 1973. Three years later, with other ex-gay organizations, it formed Exodus International, the largest ex-gay organization and the largest organization under the Exodus Global Alliance. In June 2013, the Exodus board decided to cease operations, with president Alan Chambers apologizing for the pain and hurt the group had caused and saying that he no longer believed sexual orientation could be changed. Chambers apologized for what he identified as regrettable techniques, and the narrow message of a cure and marriage rather than a relationship with Christ for all. Shortly after, Chambers and his wife started Speak Love, an organisation for promoting conversations on sexual orientation for all. In September 2014, Speak Love was merged into Chambers' personal website.

However, Exodus Global Alliance (formed in 2004) is no longer affiliated with Exodus International and has continued operations in association with Christian groups in many countries. They state their goals as follows:

- Proclaiming that faith in Christ and a transformed life is possible for the homosexual through the transforming power of Jesus Christ.
- Equipping Christians and churches to uphold the Biblical view of sexuality but respond with compassion and grace to those affected by homosexuality.
- Serving people affected by homosexuality through Christian fellowship, discipleship, counselling, support groups and other services.

Books, videos and testimonies are also offered by Exodus Global Alliance to assist gay people in the transformation of their lives. Questions such as the following are answered: "What happens when a man finds himself sunk in a downward spiral of risky homosexual acts and he knows no way to escape?" <http://www.exodusglobalalliance.org/>

Other ex-gay organizations cater to a specific religious groups, such as Courage International for Catholics, North Star for the Latter Day Saints Church, JONAH for Jews, **Joel 2:25** International for Catholic and Protestant Christians and One By One for Presbyterians.

Some groups follow a specific technique, such as Homosexuals Anonymous, modelled after the Alcoholics Anonymous twelve-step program. On their website they say: "While the Homosexuals Anonymous Fellowship was inspired by the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, they are not really an adaptation. Rather, they were created specifically for this Fellowship, and should not be construed otherwise. AA, which is a

programme concerned only with recovery from alcoholism, and is not in any way affiliated with this Fellowship” <http://www.homosexuals-anonymous.com/the-14-steps>

Other ex-gay organizations include Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays, and they continue to play an important role in Bible-based therapy.

Parents and friends of ex-gays and gays (PFOX)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parents_and_Friends_of_Ex-Gays_and_Gays

Greg Quinlan is described by PFOX as a former homosexual who came out at the age of 23. He has stated that he “departed from homosexuality” in 1993, and went on to found the Pro-Family Network, an organization describing itself as advocates for conservative values, including opposition to same-sex marriage.

PFOX is a signatory organization of Positive Alternatives to Homosexuality (PATH), which is “a non-profit coalition of organizations that help people with unwanted same-sex attractions (SSA) realize their personal goals for change – whether by developing their innate heterosexual potential or by embracing a lifestyle as a single, non-sexually active man or woman.” As a member, PFOX has adopted PATH’s statement of principles. PFOX is supported by the Family Research Council.

Conflicts over attempts to cure gay people

<http://time.com/3705745/history-therapy-hadden/>

Fifty years ago today, TIME ran a short article under the headline, “Homosexuals Can Be Cured.” The article reported that male homosexuals responded well to group psychotherapy, under the care of 64-year-old University of Pennsylvania professor and psychiatrist Samuel Hadden. Over the course of four to eight years, Hadden explained, patients shared and interpreted each other’s dreams, cast aside their “flamboyant” clothes and manners, worked through their hostilities and neuroses, and began dating women. Marriages were saved and made.

Hadden was not the only – or most prominent – psychiatrist to claim homosexuality was a curable mental illness, but he was representative. Throughout the 1960s, psychiatrists Irving Bieber and Charles Socarides were regularly quoted in newspapers and magazines, arguing that homosexual desire was a form of psychosocial maladjustment, resulting from childhood. [It was] held that all children are inherently bisexual, developing a fixed sexual orientation only in adolescence through identification with the parent of the same sex.

For Samuel Hadden’s part, his research – like the original 1965 TIME article – continues to be cited as evidence on blogs and discussion boards...

Can psychiatrists really cure homosexuality?

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/homosexuality-cure-masters-johnson/>

A British survey published last month found that one in 25 therapists would assist gay and bisexual patients attempting to convert to heterosexuality. That’s despite the fact that many medical groups, including the American Medical Association, have for years condemned such practices, saying they don’t work and can actually cause harm.

It is obvious that, in medical and psychological faculties at universities during the past number of years, the view was widely adopted in favour of homosexuality as a deeply-rooted, hereditary disposition which cannot be changed. Liberal politicians embraced these controversial findings, and as a result they increasingly condone and openly support the gay agenda in society. For quite some time now it is not regarded as politically correct to make any negative remarks about gays. However, the “official” policy on homosexuality does not reflect the views of all people in society, as revealed by the opinion poll below. Almost half of the respondents are strongly convinced that a gay orientation is part of learned behaviour, and for that reason it can again be unlearned – difficult though as it may prove to be. This problem is not insurmountable and we should not shy away from correcting aberrant inclinations and behaviour.

Is there a cure for homosexuality? The results of an Internet survey

<http://www.debate.org/opinions/is-there-a-cure-for-homosexuality>

48% say "yes"	52% say "no"
<p>Choices can be changed. Many celebrities were heterosexual (sometimes even married) before they decided that they were actually gay. Logically, gays can decide to be straight just as the celebrities decided to be gay. We should encourage gays to get therapy. It is no secret that, when society make something seem normal, it occurs more frequently. For example, after those anti-bullying videos featuring the stories of kids who were bullied and then killed themselves, suicides rose amongst kids who viewed that as a normal reaction. The biggest cure would be societal pressure to get help.</p>	<p>I don't need a cure. My sexual preferences do not affect you in any way, but your attempts to change my orientation affect me more than you realize. Your attempts to change a fundamental part of who I am because of your personal belief system not only violates my freedom, but it denies me one of my most basic human rights: the pursuit of happiness.</p>
<p>It is a behaviour not a disease, therefore it can be changed. This 'lifestyle' does fit rather well into the individualistic / capitalist movement of our times which accept (read - doesn't question) what is happening. Homosexuality could become 'normal' but not natural. Many people are in this situation because of pathological reasons, family dynamic reasons etc. It is a disorder not a disease. Sorry, but I sincerely believe this. Why has there not been any deeper debate on this question? We are just told that we can't say it is an illness etc. I have a degree in psychology as well as further studies in the area and have dealt with people sharing their views on their sexuality – it's difficult but really there are many reasons why someone might 'choose' this lifestyle that is NOT healthy or GOOD for them - on purpose, even self-hatred. It's complex not easy.</p>	<p>We're all a little gay inside Whether we want to admit it or not... I think every person has feelings of attraction toward the same sex and we'd be lying to ourselves if we didn't. I truly believe that a person who identifies as Lesbian or Gay would have a sexual relationship with a person of the opposite sex...It's all about ATTRACTION and chemistry. Hell I'm a straight woman and I find myself attracted to other women just because they are "hot" or "sexy," and just because I don't act on it doesn't mean I'm not a little gay on the inside. Hell, I embrace it!</p>
<p>I believe that... Being gay is a choice. A normal guy wants to have sex with a woman, right, that doesn't mean he can go having sex with every woman he sees, he just uses self-control. In the same way a gay guy can just control the want to be with another man and become more normal. I'm only 14 and I know this stuff. Come on guys.</p>	<p>It is not a choice. What do You think caused your heterosexuality? When and how did you decide you were a heterosexual? Is it possible that your heterosexuality is just a phase that you may grow out of? Considering the menace of overpopulation, how could the human race survive if everyone were heterosexual?</p>
<p>I believe that a true belief in God is the only cure for homosexuality. I believe that a true belief in God is the only cure for homosexuality. Many people say that people can be born gay. I don't believe that. I think that almost everything that human beings do is a learned behaviour. There are communities on earth where being gay is unheard of.</p>	<p>For the billionth time, HOMOSEXUALITY IS NOT A SIN! Therefore, we can't talk about a cure. It is not a choice either. It's a lifestyle that's only different from yours when it comes to love. And seriously, who are we to care about what gender people love, or have sex with?</p>
<p>I personally believe that homosexuality is a choice. Any choice has a "cure," it may not be a medical cure or something of that nature, but it can be stopped if chosen. It's no different than taking drugs, you chose to do it, you can choose to stop</p>	<p>No, it's not a choice. Homosexuality is completely natural and is not something that can be cured. Just like how heterosexuality cannot be cured. Homosexuality occurs in wild animals as well as in people and should not be condemned as it is neither a choice</p>

<p>it. It's not a disease, it's an illogical lifestyle choice.</p>	<p>nor a disease. It would be harmless even if one did have the power to choose their sexual orientation.</p>
<p>I wasn't born gay, I was influenced by the gay agenda. Gay is a choice, at least a choice that is made at the subconscious level. For the first 21 years of my life I was a happy, healthy heterosexual male. Then I started seeing and hearing gay propaganda all over the television and radio. I started to become extremely fearful that I was going to turn gay. I became obsessively homophobic and was diagnosed as having obsessive compulsive disorder. After 2 years of living with this homophobic fear day in and day out, I had a nervous breakdown and my mind turned gay. I'm attracted to men now and I'm the most miserable I have ever been in my entire life. If I could somehow just wake up straight again like I used to be I would do it in a heartbeat. Don't let anyone tell you your sexuality can't change because it can, the difficult part is changing it back.</p>	<p>Seriously? I don't know why people are even debating about this. Sexuality CANNOT be changed. If you think so, then try converting a heterosexual man into a gay man; let's see if it's as easy as switching something on and off. Sure a gay person can choose to have sex with a person of the opposite sex and vice versa. He/she may even be aroused, but here's the thing: anyone with a blindfold can get aroused with just a hand. It does not necessarily mean that you are attracted to him/her. How do you think male rape happens if the male victim can't get an erection? And all the claims about people being "cured" of homosexuality are NOT even homosexuals in the first place. They are BISEXUAL. A gay man can choose to pretend being cured and live a heterosexual life but he is not cured. He is only controlling his sexual conduct which in the long run, is denying him his happiness. That is why so many gay people are depressed because they have to live their life as a lie!</p>

In various countries there are Christian ministries that devote a lot of attention to the solution and treatment of the sinful inclination of homosexuality. When this problem is considered within a Biblical perspective its solution is obvious. Here is one example of such a ministry:

Homosexuality: Its cause and cure

Tom Brown Ministries, El Paso, Texas
http://www.tbm.org/homosexuality_cause_cure.htm

In a sermon Tom Brown says, among others:

Are homosexuals born or made? This is an old argument. If homosexuals are born that way, then there is no way for them to change. It would be like asking someone born left-handed to try to use their right hand in writing. It is just the way a person is born. He can't help it.

The gay militants are trying to persuade society that homosexuals are born that way, and so to expect change is unreasonable, and quite impossible. So they have searched and searched to try to find a gay gene, but to no avail. I can assure them that they will never find one, because if there was one, then homosexuality would be decreasing, because homosexuals would not procreate as often as heterosexuals, and thus, would not be passing down the gene.

However, it seems that homosexuality is on the rise, not declining. Of course, since society has not been keeping tabs on the percentage of homosexuals until recently, we have no way of knowing for sure. I think there is evidence that it is increasing due to the fact that there is a growing group of people calling for gay rights. Society usually responds only when a group is growing, not declining; so for gay rights to be emerging in many nations it is likely that the numbers of homosexuals is also growing. This of course does not bode well for those claiming that homosexuality is something one is born with, if so, why the apparent increase?

All the evidence I have seen shows that homosexuality is actually an emotional, psychological disorder brought on early in childhood. I do not believe people chose those feelings, because who in their right mind would choose it, and thus be scorned by society. I do not believe homosexuals initially choose their orientation, any more than a heterosexual chooses it...

I'm totally heterosexual, and I have been one since I could remember. By early adolescence girls were always attractive to me, and to think of guys in a sexual way seems quite disgusting to me. However, I never chose those feelings. They were simply a typical psychological response to a normal childhood. Yet, not everyone has had a normal, healthy childhood. When dramatic events happen to children, it can affect their psyches...

The Cause

Same gender feelings are a psychological illness caused by three powerful and tragic events in a child's life. Someone may be offended that I would use the term "illness" to describe homosexuality, but this term is meant to show the "helpless" of the injured party, not to stigmatise him. If someone is sick, we do not blame him, but rather, we look to find out the cause of the sickness so we could apply the cure. Now, if someone denies being sick – such as alcoholics – then there is little anyone can do to help him. I think the beginning step for homosexuals is to admit their illness, not to cover it up, pretend they are not sick and, worse, flaunt their disorder.

The American Psychiatric Association once considered homosexuality a mental disorder until 1973, but changed their view after being pressured by gay lobbyists; they claim to have come to their conclusion by consulting with professionals and experts in the field but it is clear that some of the "experts" were no doubt practicing homosexuals that convinced the APA to remove homosexuality from the list of mental disorders. The association has done a disservice to this hurting community. As a result of their desire to be politically correct, they now have been partially responsible for the outbreak of diseases, like AIDS, that have taken the lives of so many capable, young people.

The causes of homosexuality have not been a mystery. The three unfortunate, major events in a child's life that can cause homosexual orientation are:

1. Sexually abused by an older person of the same gender.

Let's face an obvious fact: most child molesters were themselves victims of child molestation. When a child is molested by an adult figure, it can greatly injure the psyche. Many who are molested never become molesters, but often, they find a strange attraction to older people of the same gender. This tragic event often causes some distortion in a person's mind. They begin to associate sexual behaviour with their experience, instead of realizing the truth that they would not have been attracted by the same gender if they had not been victims of sexual abuse.

2. Neglected by the parent of the same gender.

We often hear stories of male homosexuals who are attracted to older male homosexuals, and it is no coincidence that they are longing for the love of their fathers. Everyone needs to know they are loved by their parents. For example, a girl who does not feel loved by her father will often be attracted to father figures. It will also happen with sons, who need the love of their fathers. If they do not feel it, they will sometimes turn to older male figures. They simply want genuine love, but often instead of experiencing healthy love, they will encounter sexual love, and so they will begin to associate sexual love for genuine love. It is not real, but that is all the love they know.

3. Feeling out of place with peers of the same gender.

It is essential that every child feels accepted by the same gender. If a boy grows up but feels out of place with his peers, he will find himself becoming nervous around the boys. He will interpret those feelings of anxiety as sensual, because the feelings of first time sex are associated with tension. Well, a boy who does not fit in with the boys, will feel that same nervousness around them, and will associate those same feelings with sex.

The Cure!

If you are struggling with same sex feelings, be honest with your life: one of these tragic events, or something similar, has caused these feelings in your soul – maybe even more than one of these incidents. Don't discount the cause of your homosexual feelings. To do so will only postpone or completely cancel the healing you need.

It is important to understand the "cause" of your gay feelings, because by discovering the truth, and opening yourself to the truth, you can experience the healing that Christ could give. Jesus works with truth, but to deny the truth or discount the importance of the truth will keep the Lord from healing you.

People that want to hide the real cause are actually giving power to the perpetrators. To accept their gay feelings, only gives power to those who hurt them.

On the other hand, to receive healing will give themselves power over those who hurt them. There is a great feeling of strength when one overcomes any psychological weakness caused by others. There is no authority in one's life if he succumbs to the emotional pains brought on by the bad behaviour of others. In other words, a homosexual who works at overcoming his same-gender feelings is actually working against those who have wounded him. That is power! ...

Someone at this point may say, “Well, even if the causes you mentioned are true, the psyche is so damaged that it is pointless to encourage the change. The person will only be disappointed when he doesn’t change, and he will feel more rejection.”

Ah, so the argument is to let a person remain psychologically ill. I don’t see how that is real love. Love looks to heal. My ministry is built on healing the whole man, and I am sure the Lord can heal the psyche of homosexuals. People will challenge me to leave the homosexuals alone and let them be – but I can’t let people remain sick, if I know the cure.

The real trouble with those in the medical field is doubt. They do not believe in the supernatural power of God. They are left with their own abilities, and they find that they are not capable to bring change to the homosexual. What I find troubling with the professionals is their criticism toward the healing ministry of the church. They criticize the church for believing in the divine power of God to heal and change.

If these so called experts were in Israel during the early church period, they would have censured Paul when he wrote: “*Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God*” (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Notice Paul said that some of the converts were once “*homosexual offenders*”. Then he said, “*That is what some of you were.*” They had changed. They were not homosexuals anymore; God had touched them, and His touch healed them.

Paul mentions three things that made the transformation!

1. They were washed

We were all dirty in some way when we came to Christ. No one is without sin. We all needed cleansing from our filth, whether we were adulterers, thieves or homosexuals. ... Something miraculous takes place when we are born again. Human words cannot explain all that happens. I have heard numerous testimonies from people who struggled with homosexual feelings, who were miraculously changed when they got saved. Let’s face the fact: without the new birth, the homosexual will unlikely change. They must be born again. God cleanses the sinner of his filth and makes him new. ...

The Word of God is all powerful. Man’s words have limited power, they can’t accomplish the impossible, but God can. When he speaks into the soul of man, a miracle takes place. As the homosexual takes into his heart the message of Christ, a phenomenon occurs, he finds that he is pruned like a bush. The pruning may hurt at first, but then he finds that he becomes more fruitful for Christ. This process is gradual as the next point brings out.

2. They were sanctified

The word sanctified means to be separate from the world in order to be brought near to Christ. This is an ongoing process. None of us can say after we were born again that we are completely the way we should be. We are changing to be more like the Lord, but none of us have arrived.

Do not be discouraged if you do not find an immediate, total change when you become born again. But as you allow the Word, the Spirit, the blood of Christ, and the ministry of the church to work in you, you will find the influence of the world will have less power over your life. ... Homosexuals, because of the deepness of their hurt, may need to be healed of their past. If that is you, you need to open yourself to someone skilled and knowledgeable in the Word. Confess your weakness. Tell your struggle to them. You will be able to receive deep, personal ministry by a loving minister who will show you supernaturally how the abuse, neglect, or rejection brought you the same-sex feelings you have, and through forgiveness and through forgiving others – the abuser, the neglected father, or teasing peers – you can release the pain. There is no healing without forgiving those who wronged you.

It may be the hardest thing to do, but you must forgive the man who abused you as a child. The man might be a relative or even a religious leader, but you must release the person and totally forgive him. As you forgive that person, you release yourself from the power they have had over your life.

You may need to forgive a negligent father. He may have abandoned you. He may not have been there when you needed him, but you must still forgive. Without forgiveness you put yourself in a prison, and that prison may be homosexual feelings.

The boys at school who teased you, who called you a *queer*, yes, you must forgive them too. The girls that called you a *tomboy*, yes, you must forgive them too. I know it’s hard, but you are only allowing them to have power over your life if you do not forgive...

3. They were justified

The word justified means to be totally forgiven and made right with God as though you had never sinned. Often, someone struggling with deep-embedded sins will find difficulty receiving forgiveness. But you must! Don't allow any disorder to convince you that God has not forgiven you. For sure, do not practice the gay lifestyle, for that will only hamper your complete sanctification and healing, and worse, bring needless judgment on you. ...

God forgives you even though you have failed Him. If you believe the lie that God has stopped loving you because you have failed Him, then the devil will take advantage of you and bring you back into the sinful lifestyle. Believe in God's love for you! That love is a transforming love.