



"If we knew

what homosexuals actually do to each other, there wouldn't be a person in the world who would allow such behavior. It's not normal. I don't care whether they're attracted to each other or not, they have to learn how to control their urges just like everyone else. I have never understood why sexuality is so complicated. When you drop something, it falls to the ground. It doesn't fly. The law of gravity is pretty simple. So is the law of nature: A goes into B. When you try and make A go into C, it doesn't work!"

Quentin, 19, youth minister

The Stats

Among parents of gay men hearing for the first time about their sons' sexual orientation, initial reaction was perceived as negative, with a general improvement in relationship over time. Upon initial disclosure by the sons, 55% of the mothers had negative reactions, while only 42% of the fathers had negative reactions.

This begins to dismantle the commonly held myth that gay men can expect their mothers to be more sympathetic to coming out than their fathers.

Phillips Graduate Institute, 1996

By the Book...

A friend loves at all times.

Proverbs 17:17a

NO SECRETS...ALMOST

Sara and Jon have been close friends since they were in kindergarten. Both have grown up in the church and are active in church, especially in youth choir. Sara knows more about Jon than about any of her friends—even her girlfriends. They have no secrets. Both Sara and Jon graduated from high school at the top of their class and have been accepted at prestigious universities.

Late one August night, just a week before they leave for school, Jon stops by and wants to talk. Sara suggests their favorite talking spot, where they both walk in the warm summer night. For a long time Jon is silent, and Sara knows something serious is bothering him.

"Sara, I'm doing more than going to college next week," he finally says. "I'm sharing a dorm room with a guy I met at a tennis tournament this year. I'm gay, Sara, and he is my lover. I'm sorry I never told you about this, but you're my best friend and I was afraid of what me being gay might do to your reputation. I didn't want to embarrass you. But since I'm coming out, sort of—I'm not telling my parents just yet—I owe it to you. But please don't tell anyone else until I get up enough courage to tell my parents. Can I count on you?"

Sara is stunned. The conflicting emotions are overwhelming—anger, shock, hurt, empathy, confusion, depression, fear. Sara was paralyzed about what to do. She doesn't know what to say, and instead finds herself crying.



1. Should Sara keep Jon's secret secret?
2. What if she sees Jon's parents? What about the kids at church and youth choir?
3. Is Jon fair to wait until this moment to tell Sara about his homosexuality?
4. Up until now Sara has always thought of herself as anti-gay, but now she doesn't know what to think. Jon is a Christian—or at least she thought so. Can a person be gay and a Christian?
5. What would you do?