

Help for Homosexuals

If you or someone you know is struggling with homosexuality, here are some things to keep in mind:

Gay people are not freaks. If you don't understand homosexuality, that's OK, but that's no reason to make fun, reject, or discriminate against gays. They are human beings created in God's image and should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of their sexual preference. And they're in the same boat we're *all* in; God says that *everyone*—gay or straight—has sinned and falls short of his glory (Romans 3:23).

People are not born gay. Many people think there is a so-called gay gene. Research has been done to find a genetic link to homosexuality, but actually some research has proved just the opposite—that homosexuality is not inborn. Its causes are varied but often include childhood trauma such as sexual or emotional abuse, early exposure to pornography, unmet emotional needs, and a breakdown in the relationship with the same sex parent.

God loves the homosexual struggler. Though the Bible clearly condemns homosexual behavior (Lev. 18:22, Lev. 20:13, Rom. 1:26-27), God does not reject the homosexual. He loves gays just as much as he loves straight people. God sees us all alike, as sinners in need of a savior. The gospel is for everyone, including the homosexual.

There is hope for change. Gay people don't have to stay that way. A homosexual orientation is not a life sentence. There is even biblical evidence that homosexuals can change (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). With God's help and the loving support of others, many people have left the homosexual lifestyle.

Unfortunately, there are no quick fixes or easy answers for gays who wish to change. That's why it's helpful to talk with someone who's been there. Many of the folks at Exodus International Ministries *have* been there, and, like me, have been set free from the gay lifestyle.

The people at Exodus are more than willing to assist anyone struggling with homosexuality. For more information, contact Exodus at (888) 264-0877, or check out www.exodusintl.org. They can point you to an Exodus ministry in your area.

—Christine Sneeringer