

New Hearts

OUTREACH

TAMPA BAY

In Partnership with the Tampa Underground Network

"Glorifying God by Connecting the
Sexually & Relationally Challenged
to *Jesus Christ*"

The Dynamics of Change

{Taken from Coming Out of Homosexuality by Bob Davies and Lori Rentzel}

Our deliverance from homosexuality {or anything else} comes from a person not a method. Change itself is not our goal. Change is what results as we pursue a far more important and compelling goal: knowing, loving and "beholding" Jesus. Release and healing come as we look upward-to Jesus-and enter more deeply into fellowship with Him. The cry of our heart becomes. *"God, I want to know you. I want to love and worship you. I want to be a man or woman who reflects your image. Cleanse me from everything that stands between you and me. "*

Surrender and Change

Why do some people make it out of homosexuality while others don't? One common denominator among those men and women experiencing significant change involves the issue of **control** in their lives. These individuals have decided to follow Christ and do His will at any cost.

Coming out of homosexuality into wholeness requires deep emotional healing and restructuring of our whole identity. As our Creator, God is the only one who knows exactly how to restore our personality. For Him to complete this healing work he calls for our cooperation.

Avenues of Change

Practicing God's presence

As we listen to God, spending time in His presence, we discover our true identity in Christ. As we realize that we are not alone and that Christ is in us and with us 24/7, we begin to trust Him as our primary relationship which heals us from dependence on others to ease our aloneness. We can soon say, "He is all I need."

Praying for ourselves

In our personal prayer times, we need to be honest with God about our homosexual or lesbian thoughts, desires and struggles. He is not shocked by confessions of involvement in masturbation, pornography or other sexual sins. Nothing we say or do comes as a surprise to Him. Confessing our sins and shortcomings {not just sexual} to God is the only means to forgiveness {1 John 1:9}, and each of us needs a clean start every day, free from the weight of condemnation from our past.

Praying for others

Praying for others gets the attention and focus off of us which works to heal self-centeredness.

Praising and worshiping.

The individuals most likely to leave homosexuality behind have an excitement about God, an anticipation of what He will do next in their lives. They see Him at work even in small details, and their hearts are full of praise.

Studying the Bible

The main point here is to personalize the Scriptures to your own life and struggles. Although it is helpful to read and even memorize the Bible, the key is application. Biblical principles and insights must be worked into the fabric of your life before you will begin to see effective change.

Journaling

Journaling offers a tremendous opportunity for us to enter into intimacy with the Lord. In a journal you record your emotions and impressions of what God is doing in your life. You can be totally honest with God-He knows it all anyway.

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Scripture Passages Related to Homosexuality & Sexual Issues

Genesis 2:20-24 -- So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Genesis 19:1-7 -- The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. "My lords," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning." "No," they answered, "we will spend the night in the square." But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate. Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom--both young and old--surrounded the house. They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them." Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing."

Leviticus 18:22 -- Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.

Leviticus 20:13a -- If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable.

Romans 1:26-27 -- Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 -- Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: 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 Timothy 1:8-11 -- We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers--and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.