



God is Real and Works in the Circumstances of Our Life

By Mark Culligan

I was eight years old when my dad punished me for taking his pliers, even though I had no clue where his pliers were. He found them the next day on a windowsill where he had left them. There was no apology.



That childhood incident caused me to make a vow to get away from my dad. I did not want anything to do with him, and I decided to hang out with my mom and two older sisters. This childhood vow set me up for same-sex attraction. My separation from my dad and the closeness with my mom and my two older sisters created gender identity confusion now referred to as gender dysphoria. What I really needed was healthy connections with other men.

I started a 20-year journey of homosexual one-night stands. After 20 years of this, I came to realize that this choice was not meeting my legitimate need for healthy male relationships. Something had to change.

Quite by chance, I searched the Scriptures and discovered 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, *"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor those habitually drunk, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."*



I discovered to my delight that God knew about homosexuality, and He said, "Such WERE some of you..." I desperately wanted out of this darkness, and I now had hope that healing was possible. I threw myself into the study of God's word and discovered His plan for my redemption.

I was saved and started my continuing journey of discipleship. I learned that God's ways are not my ways. *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts."* (Isaiah 55:8-9)

God extended His everlasting mercy and called me into the 23-year-old ministry of New Hearts Outreach (After Ezekiel 36:26, *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you..."*) Please visit our website at www.nhotampa.com.

Today, I am blessed and called to be a resource in the area of gender issues and confusion. I recently spoke at the Florida State Conference of the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools in Orlando.

To those who might read this, I encourage and close with this, *"Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established."* (2 Chronicles 20:20)

You will discover that God is real and works in the circumstances of our lives!