

Viewpoint
April 7 , 2011

Can homosexuals change? A resounding "Yes"
By Jeff Winter

Fourteen presbyteries have switched from supporting the current ordination standard found in G-6.0106b, to support what progressive advocates call fully inclusive standards.

75 are in favor; 57 against. Lost in the Amendment 10A debate is the question... Can homosexuals change? The answer is a resounding "Yes." God's Word clearly states that same-sex relationships are not God's intent. For those who struggle with same-sex attractions faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to God's Word are more important than our attractions or desires. Through the power of the Holy Spirit change is possible.

David Hall from Minneapolis has experienced real change. David writes... When I was young I felt different than the other boys because I was interested in books and music and ambivalent to sports and rough-housing; I found love and acceptance from girls and women. Among men I experienced only distance, intimidation and fear. I didn't feel loved or accepted by them, nor did I feel like a man. The women in my life tried to fill what the men would not: they tried to give me an identity. They saw the differentness in me as homosexuality and they affirmed it-I was gay.

In college I had my first homosexual experiences, after using pornography since the age of ten. I thought I had finally found what I was looking for. The acceptance and affirmation I received from these other gay guys reinforced my gay identity. However, their acceptance was fleeting-it was based predominately on sex and fueled by drugs and alcohol. My identity was wrapped up in having to always find the next attractive guy. This fruitless search for love and acceptance from men was wearing me out.

Then I encountered a familiar voice – the aunt who had once affirmed my gayness. But her voice had changed, she was now challenging me. Even my uncle engaged with me at a new level intellectually and spiritually. They told me how Jesus had transformed them – I had never heard of a Jesus like that. I was intrigued and soon became involved in a local church.

At a Presbyterian church in Minneapolis I met people who loved and accepted me in a way different than I had ever encountered before. It wasn't about intelligence or attractiveness Their love was real. Their love motivated me to abandon my attempts to get love through sex.

At the advice of a mentor I went on a retreat where God encountered me in a

profound way. He revealed to me that I was His and that He created me. He loved me more than anyone else could. He did not make me gay. He made me a man.

It was God the Father's voice of love and acceptance that I had been longing to hear all along. His love drives away the fear and pain I had experienced with men. I'm no longer trying to avoid my pain because I know He is with me.

I don't need to use sex to grasp for casual love because He gives real love. He gives what the women and men in my life tried to give me but couldn't because they had pain too. He gives me a place to belong both in the world and in the world of men. He calls me a man, His beloved son.

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