

WHAT CAN A PARENT DO WHEN THEIR SON OR DAUGHTER “COMES OUT” THAT THEY ARE GAY?

It is becoming a common thing these days to hear of a son or daughter “coming out” to their parents that they are gay. Often the parents *react* instead of *respond*. How should a parent respond? Here are some ways that may help you.

First, seek to understand what has contributed to your son’s or daughter’s same sex attraction (SSA).

There are a lot of things being said as to why a person has SSA but here are some factors contributing to a person’s same sex attractions that I have seen in my own life as well as in the lives of others. These include...

- a. Depravity of the heart. Mark 7:21-23; Jeremiah 17:9, Ezekiel 36:25-27
- b. Deception of the devil. Revelation 12:9, John 8:44, 2 Corinthians 11:3
- c. Deficiencies in early development.
- d. Destructive experiences in the person’s life. This includes abuses done to the individual and choices made by them.

More details about these factors can be found in the “*Live Free...One Step at a Time*” bible study. Contact our ministry if you would like to order a copy.

A second way to respond is to show unconditional love.

An example of what this would look like is how God loved us while we were yet ungodly, sinners and His enemies (Romans 5:6-10). He loved us first (1 John 4:19). It is His kindness that leads to repentance (Romans 2:4). Unconditional love does not let the other person’s behavior interfere with your loving them. This love must be verbalized and shown. Never forget that this kind of love is produced in us by the Holy Spirit who dwells with us. Stay filled by the Spirit and depend on Him to enable you to love unconditionally (Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:22-23). 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Psalm 130:4-5

Loving your son or daughter unconditionally does not mean you are condoning their behavior. It is possible to love someone and have a relationship with them that in no way condones their behavior. It is how God responded to us!

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Another way to respond is what I refer to as the grace, truth, and love factor.

This response is a redemptive response and it is one that includes grace, truth and love. Grace is giving what is not deserved. Mercy is not giving what is deserved. Grace, truth and love are three primary keys to transformation in our lives. Grace without truth is tolerance, acceptance, and ultimately condoning the behavior. Truth without grace is legalism and ultimately condemning of the person and the behavior. Grace with truth in the context of love is redemptive and life transforming.

Never compromise on truth. But never speak truth apart from grace and love. And in showing grace and love always speak truth. It is a delicate balance but with the help of the Spirit of God it is possible and will be used by the Spirit to create an atmosphere for life transformation.

Never forget that it is the “kindness of God that leads to repentance”(Romans 2:4) and that we “love God because He first loved us.”(1 John 4:19) Grace! Truth! Love!

A fourth part of this response is to pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Why pray without ceasing? When you do you are acknowledging that only God can help you and your loved one. It is showing your dependence upon God. Here are some reasons to pray:

a. In doing so, God’s peace guards your heart and mind (Philippians 4:6 -7) and you receive mercy and find grace to help in your time of need (Hebrews 4:16). Never forget this!

b. It is important to keep in mind that this is spiritual warfare and spiritual warfare is waged in a spiritual way. Ephesians 6:10ff, 2 Cor. 4:3-4, Acts 26:18, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Psalm 44:4-8 (This is a great Biblical prayer to pray and claim. God is the same today as then.) 2 Chronicles 14:11-12 (This is a great prayer to pray over the lives of your loved ones.), 2 Timothy 2:25-26 (Another great prayer to pray.)

c. Those involved in a LGBTQ+ style are deceived and blinded by Satan. 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 2:2 You and I will not debate them out, or argue them out. We must pray while demonstrating grace, speaking truth, and showing love.

I am where I am today because of two ladies who learned of my homosexuality and rather than confront me, they chose to pray for me. They prayed for me for nearly a year and I believe that I came to the place of turning away from homosexuality and turning to God all because of their prayers. Pray without ceasing!

Your response must also be one that holds onto hope till the end.

How long do you keep responding? You never quit. Never lose heart or hope. Depend on God to sustain you and keep hoping! Hebrews 12:3, Luke 18:1, Isaiah 40:31, Psalm 46:10

Finally, find support for yourself

Find a place where you can receive encouragement and support and where you can share it with others. Always know that you are not alone. If we can help you in any way please do not hesitate to contact us. Our contact information is on the front side of this article.

I do not know what the outcome will be with regard to your son or daughter but I can promise you that if you do what I have described above then you will be in a better place in your life and better equipped to be used by God in the life of your son or daughter.