

*ENGAGING THE CULTURE WITHOUT BEING  
ABSORBED BY THE CULTURE*

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Love Into Light – An Appeal to the  
Church to Be Gracious and Offer Hope

1. [Group]

“To talk about sexual complementarity and God’s design for marriage is a conversation-stopper and may even earn you looks of contempt. But these kinds of strong and at times strident reactions from those outside and inside the church have many of us who love the historic Christian vision of sexuality asking how we might contend for orthodoxy without being perceived as contentious, callous, or cruel.”

– Todd Wilson

This is a call to be tenacious AND gracious

# HOW DO WE DO THIS...

1. Joy
2. Tears
3. Hope

4.

**“There is no consensus among scientists about the exact reasons that an individual develops a heterosexual, bisexual, gay or lesbian orientation.”**

**– American Psychological Association**

## IT IS A MATTER OF THE HEART...

“The word ‘heart’ is the most important word in the Old Testament when addressing dealing with a person’s identity. The Hebrew word for heart refers to the core of who we are, our control center or driver. Our hearts think, feel, and decide. Our hearts are constantly interpreting information, expressing feelings, and making decisions.”

– Bruce Waltke

“Keep your heart with all vigilance,  
For from it flow the springs of life.”

– Proverbs 4:23

## TWO IMPLICATIONS...

- Our Hearts are Vulnerable – “*with all vigilance*”
- Our Hearts are Culpable – “*the springs of life*”

“For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

– Mark 7:21-23

“For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

– Luke 6:43-45

## STOP THIS...

“As in any revolution we are tempted to join the frenzy and begin shooting at whoever we are told is the enemy. Soon the church can be defined by what we are against, whom we oppose, and the gospel is lost in the fray.”

– Peter Hubbard

## US VERSUS THEM...

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# A WIDE GAP, GETTING WIDER...

## 2 Wrong Reactions:

1. Rudeness
2. Muteness

## A BIG DISCONNECT...

In the church we talk about certain sins as common, “and, there is hope and help for change. But homosexuality seems different. When it’s mentioned in church, it’s usually associated with abomination, activism, or antagonism. Often the pronouns change from ‘we’ to ‘them.’ Some sins allow you to be a ‘we’ but other sins require you to be a ‘them.’ The ‘yuck’ factor crosses the line of acceptability.”

– Peter Hubbard

# THE GOSPEL STORY...

History of Salvation	Creation	Fall	Redemption	Restoration
Misunderstanding of SSA				
Truth in Jesus				

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<b>Truth in Jesus</b>	We are all created in God's image	We have all turned aside	We get a new identity in Jesus	We hope in future grace

## PRAYER FOR 3 THINGS...

1. Make us aware of our own sin
2. Offer the same love and the same truth  
Jesus offers to all
3. That all would feel loved and move toward  
the light of our Community of Hope

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