

# Reclamation News

Reclamation News

Volume 9, Winter 2009



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## Prayer Requests

For the families and friends attending our Renewed Hope group as they learn how to love those caught up in homosexuality while not compromising their values.



For those attending the next In His Image growth group; that they would allow God to do the work He desires in each of their hearts.



For continued opportunities to share the truth about God's redemptive power to change lives and restore broken relationships.



For those attending our Broken Yoke drop-in support group; that they would receive the encouragement and truth they need as they journey into wholeness.

## The Change Process

Certain things need to happen in a person's life that can open them up to true change. There are three things involved here:

### 1. Repentance

Repentance isn't just about stopping external behavior. True repentance is turning away from deeper sins, issues of our hearts. Things such as envy, self-protection, self-pity, self-centeredness, idolatry, bitterness, etc. The process of sanctification for all Christians is one of discovering our sins and repenting of them – discovery often being the most difficult part.

We also need to understand that true repentance brings about a Godly sorrow over how we've hurt others and God. It is about being truly grieved over our heart's condition rather than simple remorse or disappointment with ourselves.

### 2. Healing

Things need to happen that just won't come from trying harder, or gaining insight, or whatever effort is put forth. There is too much wounding. Supernatural healing will take place; some sudden and dramatic, some quiet and gradual.

Healing is really forgiveness — both receiving forgiveness for our sin and giving forgiveness where we have been deeply wounded. This forgiveness at the heart level allows us to change our reactions to the past and its effect on us in the present.

### 3. Growing up

Because of the threat to sexuality, most homosexuals have bailed out of certain parts of the growing up process. There are no miracles here, it's a matter of resuming the growth that never took place.

Real change from homosexuality should not be seen as a goal or as something one sets out to accomplish. Change is the byproduct of a chosen direction

and chosen activities. Choosing to be changed is similar to choosing to be happy. A person does not merely choose to be happy—he will love others, be a responsible person—and as a result of these activities will be happy.

The direction that needs to be chosen is not unique to the problem of homosexuality, but one that is common to all Christians pursuing holiness.

**“Change is the byproduct of a chosen direction and chosen activities.”**

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## Coming Events

February 25 - 27 Eastern Wisconsin Intersivity Christian Fellowship Winter Conference - Sex and the Christian - at Whitewater, Wisconsin.



February 26 "Just for Dads - Developing a Healthy Sexuality in Kids" - at Christ The Rock Community Church, Menasha, Wisconsin



April 19 we will beginning a new session of In His Image. Depending on enrollment. Application is required.



July 19 - 23 30th Annual Exodus Conference - Asheville, NC (For more info, visit [www.exodus2005.org](http://www.exodus2005.org)).

## Reclamation News

Reclamation News is published quarterly by Reclamation Resource Center. Reproduction of material is prohibited without written permission from Reclamation Resource Center. Our mission is to help individuals seeking freedom from unwanted same sex attractions. We also desire to equip the Church to better understand the issue of homosexuality and thus minister to individuals affected by homosexuality.

Editor . . . . . Mike Levenhagen

Reclamation Resource Center is a member of Exodus international, North America. We are an outreach of Christ The Rock Community Church, Menasha, WI. Doctrine and policy information available upon request.

## The Change Process

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Removing anything that prevents one from knowing and loving God is the goal that should be set. Basic Christian disciplines (understanding ourselves in the light of God's truth, knowing God, lovingly relating to others, and understanding spiritual warfare) are essential to the restoration process. The only real differences are the applications of these chosen directions. The basic approach is still simple (but not simplistic)—those who diligently seek Him will find Him.

The understanding of self in the light of God's truth is a process that doesn't end this side of glory. To understand ourselves requires us to see that we are both image-bearers and depraved, rebellious sinners.

For the person struggling with homosexuality, it is important to move beyond the outward behaviors and see the behaviors as symptomatic of the deeper problem of a self-centered commitment to make their life work without God.

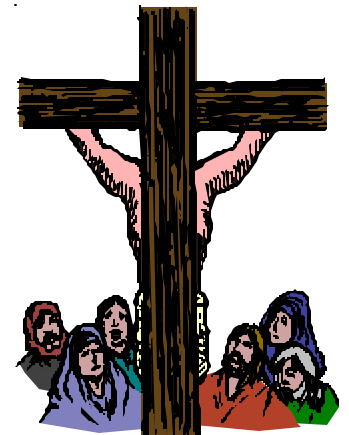
**"While it is important to have a willingness to live morally, it is too easy to keep the focus just on externals."**

While it is important to have a willingness to live morally, it is too easy to keep the focus just on externals. An important distinction also needs to be made, which is the difference between temptation and sin. A great deal of condemnation comes when the person struggling with attractions to the same sex is faced with temptation. This needs to be dealt with at two levels.

The first level occurs when faced with temptation. We must realize that the temptation is not in itself sin. Many times the guilt of even struggling with homosexuality and lust will drive a person away from God and into the sin. It is important at that point to enter the reality that we are justified as well as forgiven. To renew one's mind that God doesn't just remove punishment, but transfers it to Jesus diffuses the power of guilt and withdrawal; it takes the focus off self and puts it on Jesus.

Rather than putting our energy towards fighting the temptation, we need to release those urges to sin unto Jesus. It was as He hung on the cross that Jesus became our sin and took on God's judgement.

The second level is to defraud the temptation by realizing that the temptation was appealing because of a legitimate unmet longing. Just like a glass of water is very appealing when we are thirsty after a long run, so is a temptation appealing when our souls are thirsty for relationship with God.





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### Reclamation Resource Center

offers a variety of services including pastoral counseling, original tapes and brochures, speaking engagements, as well

as:

**Renewed Hope** An open drop-in group for families and friends of those involved in a gay or lesbian lifestyle.



**Broken Yoke** An open drop-in group for those with homosexual attractions who are curious about and/or pursuing change.



**In His Image** A closed group for individuals committed to pursuing change from unwanted homosexual attractions. (*Application required*).



**Reflecting the Truth in Love**  
 Our annual seminar on the issues of sexual brokenness, homosexuality, change and compassion.



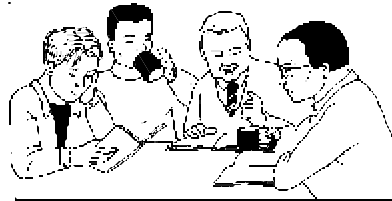
**Reclamation News** A quarterly newsletter.

## The Change Process

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personal enemy of his soul -- Satan. Satan is a liar and two of his greatest ploys are to minimize the awfulness of our sin and to accuse God to us. He uses the strongholds we have in our mind. Two of these are our foolish beliefs of where to find life and images we have of ourselves, of others and of God.

All of these elements require the work of the Holy Spirit in conjunction with a yielded heart seeking God. The Holy Spirit, however, doesn't



work in a vacuum. Change is in the context of the Spirit of God, the people of God, and the Word of God. One avenue that is especially conducive to helping those who struggle with homosexuality is a support/accountability group. A group provides accountability, mutual support, communication, and a

safe environment.

So true change should be seen as a person finds wholeness only found in dependence in Christ. That dependence is focused on trusting in God's goodness in the absence of any evidence other than His Word. It is a dependence that is focused in obedience in the midst of confusion. As the person shifts from deep commitments of self protection and justified sin he is freed to enjoy his sexuality in other-centered relating.

## Valentine's Day Jumble

E F B O U Q U E T S T C L E D I H A M C  
 Y S E N K U L S O D I H F R A L G R X U  
 B T S D E H E P I M X O N H F U T H I P  
 L U Y A C A R D S I K C Z E U C L E W I  
 E F I W U N K A G R T O S G A G J A L D  
 A F L O B I H P U C U L E N B O S R E S  
 S E R N K G E F V R K A H T I X F T N Y  
 I D T A I E V A L E N T I N E S R S A G  
 G A M J S Q R H I N J E Q O K O I V P F  
 R N O D S I B T E P R S E D L N C Y C I  
 A I N I E E N O L F E W F O H O T R A L  
 T M I R S J E W E L R Y T M A G V X N E  
 F A T C W E S R O T I K E Y Q T C E D R  
 D L E R G N R C H U B V W E F U Z T Y N  
 T S R N A L O J E G O C A N D L E S L E  
 O P U Q T P S W E E T H E A R T S R O A  
 R O S E S I D E S H A N R L E M B U F K

- ROSES
- CHOCOLATES
- VALENTINES
- CANDLES
- STUFFED ANIMALS
- JEWELRY
- HEARTS
- CUPID
- CARDS
- SWEETHEARTS
- CANDY
- BOUQUETS
- KISSES
- HUGS
- LOVE