

OBO in the News by Kristin Johnson

The Humans Rights Campaign, a national organization that credits itself as “America’s largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality” placed an ad in Presbyterians Today Magazine in April of 2007.

The Human Rights Watch is not a religious organization, and yet they have made a concerted effort to target the Church’s mainline denominations. Their ad described their new resource called Out in Scripture.

Out in Scripture is the first major weekly preaching and devotional resource written from a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and straight-supportive perspective. Each week a diverse group of professors from leading theological schools listen for how God is connecting the world of the Bible and the world of LGBT people in church and society. The weekly commentary is a summary and celebration of their prayerful – at times comforting, often challenging – conversation.

It is admirable for Human Rights Watch to provide a devotional resource that attempts to point to Scripture, but their interpretation of Scripture affirms homosexuality as a gift from God. This interpretation can and should be disputed. The fact that professors are “listening for how God is connecting the world of the Bible and the world of LGBT people” is presumptuous at best, considering Scripture has already made this connection clear.

Jesus said, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13: 34), and “If you love me, you will obey my commands” (John 14: 15), and “Woman...neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin.” (John 8:11).

Out in Scripture’s director, Sharon Grove, says, “There has been this kind of equation where if you’re Christian, that means that you’re against gay people...[and there’s a sense] that it’s unbiblical to be supportive of gay folks.” I agree with Groves that the Church has long avoided offering healing in place of condemnation for those who experience same-sex attraction. However, Groves fails to make a distinction between Christians who hatefully condemn gay-identified people vs. Christians who are offering hope and healing to those who desire to be healed from same-sex attraction.

Being “supportive of gay folks” does not mean a person must accept and celebrate homosexuality. Ministries such as OneByOne and Exodus International are very “supportive of gay folks” in that we offer them the love of Jesus Christ and hope for emotional and sexual healing if that is what they seek.

As director of OneByOne, I proposed an alternative article to be placed in Presbyterians Today Magazine via an article on Layman online. In response to this article, three individual members of Presbyterian churches, Presbyterians for Renewal, and the Presbyterian Coalition offered to pay for the ad.

Please see our ad in the December 2007 issue of Presbyterians Today Magazine.

This was the OneByOne ad in the December 2007 issue of Presbyterians Today Magazine.



Do you struggle with unwanted same-sex attraction?
Have gay-identified children, friends, or family members?
Conflicted on how the Church interprets the Bible about homosexuality?
Do you believe God can heal unwanted same-sex attraction?
Have a desire to reach strugglers to offer them Christ's hope for healing?

One by one, we can help.

OneByOne is a renewal ministry committed to educating and equipping the Church to minister Christ's truth and grace to those who struggle with same-sex attraction, sexual addiction, and the effects of sexual abuse. OneByOne was started by concerned Presbyterians who asked this question:

Is it possible to love homosexuals without affirming their homosexuality? Yes! Learn how to offer the good news of Jesus Christ, and your friendship and love, without compromising your convictions.

Visit www.oneby1.org or contact executive director Kristin Johnson at 407-423-3441 x1488.

*Loving the homosexual
without affirming homosexuality*



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