

This message is of great importance. I understand your time is valuable, but I implore you or someone on your team to prayerfully consider the message I'm sharing today. It is a message that the Lord began to reveal to me decades ago.

Included with this letter are excerpts from a book I could not complete due to the challenge of reaching two opposing target audiences. God recently impressed upon me to send this directly Christian Leaders like you who have the *power to change the narratives and bridge the divide*. The call to action can be found in Chapter Ten and Eleven.

What I share may be difficult to read, so please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you and protect you. As you approach it with an open mind and a heart grounded in the love and humility of Christ, you will be able to see things that we have been blinded to.

Christians have stood immovable on the issue of homosexuality for decades effectively keeping queer people from coming to know Him. Our churches are *shrinking*, and many who have LGBTQ family or friends have *left the faith altogether*. It is easier to get into a theological debate than hear the hearts of the wounded. When we win a debate, we lose precious souls.

I became sensitive to the struggle of queer people in high school, when my friend's brother took his life. Robbie was only thirteen. Gay children were bullied relentlessly and even targeted in a game called "Smear the Queer". The closet was the only safe place to be, but for boys with more feminine traits, there was no safe place to hide. Today Robbie could survive and thrive at school. But what would he experience if was seeking Jesus?

God gave me the opportunity to experience both sides of the divide in my employment, mental health advocacy, and personal life. Brace yourself for some very uncomfortable truth about "speaking the truth in love" to this population.

In His goodness, God gave me the insight and the heart for this marginalized community to begin this book long before we learned that our daughter was queer. I still can't imagine what she went through when she realized that she might be one of the evil and perverted people they talk about at church. Our daughter "came out" to us after two hospitalizations and a suicide attempt.

Please understand that my objective is not to blame *people* for the harm I see, but to expose a devious plot for you to consider and thwart. **Satan's time is short. His end game is to keep people from Jesus. He has convinced Christians to stand on convictions and values instead of saving souls. Satan hit the jackpot! Look closer at the fruit of our message:**

It is *stealing* people from Jesus, *killing* people by suicide, and *destroying* families.

It describes precisely what the Father of Lies sets out to do.

*John 10:10 says, "The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy."*

We are focused on laws and cultural concerns and forgot to obey and model Jesus: “For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Galatians 5:14 NIV Sadly, what I hear instead is, “There’s no hate like Christian’s love.”

Walk with me through the crossroad of mental health and Christianity. Listen to what queer people hear and feel. Perhaps, like me, you’ve been concerned for a long time that people are calling Christians “haters,” because no one ever called Jesus a hater.

If you band with other leaders, this will spark a revival that rivals the Jesus Movement of the Sixties.

### **How is Our Message Received Today?**

Ray Johnson gave me permission to share the following poem:

*They told me I was in love with my sin.  
I told them I was in love with a beautiful human.  
They told me I was going to hell.  
I told them they were the reason people like me kill themselves.  
They said they were doing this out of love.  
I told them they have no idea what love is.  
I told them it was people like them that made me leave the church twice, and contemplate my worth as a human being, and doubt my own will because I could not change my sexuality.  
They told me they hoped I would go home and repent and that they would pray for me.  
I told them thank you for pushing me even farther away from your god.  
Believe what you want. But as soon as it strays from love - keep it out of my life.  
It is not compassionate to tell me that my inability to change a vital part of my identity will send me towards eternal torture and damnation.  
Maybe one day I'll believe in God again.  
But it will never be their god.*

You have my permission and encouragement to use any or all this material to change the hearts and minds of everyone in your sphere of influence.

You can get a digital copy at  
[digitalcopy@gossameradmindesign.com](mailto:digitalcopy@gossameradmindesign.com)

With Love in Christ,

Diane Mintz

## **Chapter 1**

### **Mental Health Warrior Tribe**

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), mental illnesses affect more people than cancer, diabetes, or heart disease. Yet many suffer silently due to stigma and a lack of informed support from loved ones.

People are shocked when they learn that both my husband and I were once debilitated by mental illness and addiction before we met three decades ago. By the grace of God and with human support, we didn't end up in jail or homeless or dead. Sadly, that happens to far too many people and it is heartbreaking. These are treatable illnesses, and we are proof that recovery is possible.

Sharing our struggles and receiving acceptance from friends significantly improved our mental health. This support helped us heal faster and shed layers of shame. It accelerated our recovery even more.

God impressed upon me to share our story and the “secret sauce” of acceptance, so in 2013 I published our love story, *In Sickness and in Mental Health: Living with and Loving Someone with Mental Illness*.

That same year, our county launched a Stop Stigma Speakers' Bureaus, and I also trained with NAMI's “In Our Own Voice” program. I found a community of people who had felt my despair, spoke my language, and battled for better treatment of others. They are my mental health warrior tribe.

#### **First Testimony Shared in Training**

Lisa's story is one of incredible resilience. She bravely shared with our class about her severe abuse from mentally ill siblings. Her visible scars tell one story, but her recovery tells another—a story of hope and the transformative power of God's love.

As a teen, Lisa was raped by an older man. But the visible scars and burns on her arms were all self-inflicted. Her Christian family pressured her into marrying a man despite her deep psychological wounds from the rape, then he left her when she was hospitalized for anorexia. At times, she had to be on feeding tubes and survived many suicide attempts. In sharing her story, she focuses on her hope and recovery. She is my only Christian friend who now lives with the peace of knowing that Jesus loves her as a lesbian woman.

Another dear warrior friend that mentored me takes his powerful story all over the world. He says not to ask, “What is wrong with you?” “Ask, “What happened to you?” He has suffered from major depression and suicidal ideations ever since he was molested by his Boy Scout leader. As difficult as his story is to hear, it has saved many lives that were headed for suicide.

I have been at the crossroads of mental health and Christianity with a heart for marginalized people like me. I always aim at the one true north of the Bible and ask that you do the same. I just ask that you also look through the eyes of Jesus to determine WWJD. “What Would Jesus Do?” His disciples also had to distinguish between cultural matters verses what matters to God.

## Impact of Sharing our Stories

Requests for speakers started pouring, especially from schools and medical professionals as the need for mental health education finally came to the forefront. One significant impact has been through NAMI's partnership Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for law enforcement. When first responders learn to identify and deescalate a mental health crisis, they can help get people into treatment instead of treating them like someone with criminal intent. Of course, the biggest game-changer for stigma reduction was when celebrities and athletes started speaking up about their own conditions. It was clear that I had overcome my self-stigma when I represented NAMI on the enormous jumbotron at a Sacramento Kings game.

## The Faith Community Lags Behind

Churches don't always trust secular psychology, and psychiatry is just beginning to recognize the role faith can play in recovery. But when the two come together, true healing can happen. Those of us who've walked the path from mental hell-ness to wellness can help guide others, and organizations like NAMI provide resources for both individuals and their families.

Connections to resources are necessary for those needing psychological help within the church, not just those on the street. A member may be expected to get well from prayer alone, which can be distressing to someone who needs medical intervention.

There is an unreasonable expectation for people with mental illness and addiction to “*go get help.*” It's akin to asking someone with a broken leg to run to the doctor. We need help to get help because our brain isn't working well enough to do it by ourselves!

Plus, the help needs to come *without an ounce of condemnation*, or we recoil.

This experience taught me:

- Acceptance and connection heal, judgment and rejection harm.
- We present a shinier version of ourselves in church.
- Pressure to conform to someone's expectations can be damaging to our mental health.
- It's dangerous to address mental health purely through a spiritual lens.

*♪ I have recommended a song at the end of each chapter to reinforce the message. The video of “God Only Knows” by For King and Country is a powerful representation of stories like mine* 

[https://youtu.be/B96Q9QgvCZM?si=s\\_mlIzeGynNjdCuV](https://youtu.be/B96Q9QgvCZM?si=s_mlIzeGynNjdCuV)

## Chapter 2 Fix Our What?

Our daughter was in middle school when Proposition 8, regarding the legalization of same-sex marriage, was on the ballot in California. *When our pastor said, “Fix our gaze on Jesus,” my husband whispered to me, “Fix our gays?”* He is “punny” funny like that, but this time it wasn’t funny as I realized that “fixing gays” was the stance our church took.

In the meantime, I heard the queer speakers in my tribe share heartbreaking stories of rejection and pain. I couldn’t come to terms with my Christian tribe acting like the opposing team. We became the "What We Are Against People," being asked to sign petitions. It was some family members but many churches that cast the *judgment that crushed their spirit and impacted their mental health and sense of worth.*

My church family stood firmly on the conviction, “But the Bible says, it’s a sin,” as if that settled the matter once and for all. It was a struggle for me to reconcile the Bible's teachings with the real, personal stories of suffering and exclusion that I was hearing from my friends. Jesus knew my queer friends’ stories. His heart would have been broken even more than mine.

We had no idea that our daughter was internalizing everything as she became aware of her own attraction to girls instead of boys. Puberty is hard enough; I can’t imagine what she went through. Can you?

### Cognitive Dissonance

I struggled with the contradictions I was seeing and tried to share my concerns with my church family. It was clear that my queer friends would be expected to change their attraction or not be in a relationship.

My friend Jane shared that she was saved at an early age but was told her same-sex attraction could not coexist with her faith. Out of devotion to Jesus, she attended conversion therapy, which tragically led her to attempt suicide. After remaining alone for many years, she met the love of her life, Amy. They made a commitment to each other in a beautiful ceremony but didn’t marry to honor their faith.

I had invited them to my church, Amy was excited, thinking they’d be accepted. When I had given up on changing the attitude of my church family, I gently let Jane know that my church family was like the others—they would be treated differently than everyone else.

*I saved a Facebook post from Amy which sums up the reason for this book. It says, “Many people reject Jesus because of bad experiences with religious people. But here’s the thing... Jesus had bad experiences with religious people too. In fact, they killed him. People will let you down. Jesus won’t.”*

Jane and Amy had only been together for over a year when I learned of the ultimate tragedy. *Jane came home to find that Amy, the love of her life, had hung herself.*

My heart was heavy when I shared the news with my church family. The visiting pastor couldn't stop himself from adding, "Well, the Bible says it's a sin..." It was a cold, thoughtless response that hit me like a slap.

## **The Truth About Sodom's Sins**

Christians often believe it's loving to tell queer people about their "sin." But where did that message come from? I've never heard anyone preach about all of Sodom's sins, like pride, gluttony, or laziness. Imagine if we scrutinized gluttony the way we do same-sex relationships!

*"Sodom's sins were pride, gluttony, and laziness, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door." (Ezekiel 16:49 NLT)* Have you only heard that the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah "proves" how God feels about homosexuality?

Another message we heard from our church family was, "Love the sinner, hate the sin." That is not in the Bible, nor is it loving. Would you feel loved if I said to you, "I love you and I love your friend, but you I hate your sin. I enjoy your friend's sin, but we don't call it sin. We are not gluttons, we are "foodies." But *your* sin is an abomination." "Love the sinner, hate the sin." is a known to the queer community as a subtle clobber message.

We used to send people to "Fat Farms" to fix their eating habits, just like conversion therapy tried to "fix" queer people. These programs were harmful. *Pray Away* is a documentary about conversion therapy from leaders and members of the *Exodus Organization* which started in 1978, closed its doors in 2013, and confessed, "We hurt people." The over 700,000 people who underwent this "correction treatment" are *twice as likely to die by suicide*.

## **Sin Scrutiny**

Most churches say, "everyone is welcome," but queer people know there's a catch: they're expected to change. No one else gets that kind of sin scrutiny. Imagine a church scanning for our sins at the door!

*Beep. "Porn addict" Beep. "Gossiper" Beep. "Drunkard" Beep. "Glutton" Beep. "Lazy" Beep. "Prideful" Beeeeeeeep.*

Did anyone ever get cleaned up so shiny at the time of salvation that none of those sin alarms would ever go off again? **In God's eyes, YES! Thanks to Jesus!** God looks at believers through the sacrifice of His Son, and He no longer sees a speck of sin in US. But while we are still in these earth bodies, we can't just stop sinning. Believe me, people notice the logs in our eyes, especially if we point out the specks in theirs!

We all have struggles, but Jesus sees us as clean through His sacrifice. Expecting queer people to live without love to belong in our family of believers holds them to a different standard than anyone else.

## Has the Gospel Changed for Some?

Beckett Cook, author of *Change of Affection*, said in an interview, “***I knew that I was gay and that as far as Christianity, I couldn’t be part of that club, right?*** Why? Salvation isn’t something we earn; Jesus did it all. Some people like Beckett speak about how he has chosen Jesus over any human relationship, but we shouldn’t assume that’s required for everyone. After all, Jesus never specifically addressed same-sex relationships. So why have Christians made this a litmus test for faith?

## Millions Have Canceled Jesus

We’ve taken our gaze off Jesus, focusing instead on what we’re against. People now see us as an opposing team, rejecting Jesus because of bad experiences with Christians, not Him. We’ve lost sight of our mission to love others like Jesus did, and instead, we’ve gotten tangled up in political and cultural battles.

## Changing the Image of Christians

We have a lot of work to do to restore the true image of Christians as people who love like Jesus. The Bible hasn’t changed, but our focus has. We’ve let political and cultural issues shape our message. We’re known more for our "family values" than for valuing all people, as Jesus did. When we fight to make others conform to our ideals, we block the light of Jesus that we’re meant to reflect. It’s time to fix our gaze back on Jesus and show the world His love. That’s how we’ll change the tarnished image of Christians.

*♪ Listen to this song to reinforce the message of this chapter:  
Jesus Friend of Sinners by Casting Crowns ♪♪*

<https://youtu.be/rJXluggwiN7Q?si=cux-e0uLaSSlE2xo>

## **Chapter 3**

### **Hidden Hurts and Harms**

Those of us who know Jesus and overflow with gratitude want to share with others what He has done for us. However, we need to understand that sometimes abuse, rejection, and mental illness make it complicated and even painful for people to *relate to* or accept the freedom Christ offers. What is their story?

#### **The Long-Term Impact of Childhood Trauma**

Psychology and education are finally catching up to how deeply trauma affects people. Sadly, when the church avoids talking about these emotional and mental wounds, it risks alienating those who are hurting. We need to support those suffering in silence, whether from abuse or shame around their sexuality. Untreated, this pain often leads to self-destructive behavior, especially if their view of God was damaged.

#### **Harsh Realities**

In February 2020, the Boy Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy after the sexual abuse of over 82,000 kids came to light. That's just the tip of the iceberg. The documentary *Leave No Trace* reveals how this [Christian organization, spent millions to keep gay people out of leadership roles while they were hiding pedophiles!](#)

Similarly, the Catholic church has a long history of covering up abuse, as detailed in the documentary called *The Keepers*. They were able to convince children that it was "God's will" and if they told anyone their family would go to hell. To cover up the abuse, priests were simply reassigned to another parish.

Pastors and other faith leaders also sexually abused children and these atrocities are covered up as well. When they are exposed, the media has a field day reporting on the scandals. The sting of deception and mistrust is felt throughout the body of Christ. The destruction reaches far beyond the victims to turn more people away from Jesus.

#### **Satan's Bait-and-Switch**

Satan often wreaks the most havoc within Christian organizations, where trust should be strongest but is frequently abused. We keep hearing, "We must protect our children from the LGBTQ community." But the wolves are hiding with sheep in [our](#) flock! Instead of addressing genuine issues like abuse, we shame people whose sexuality doesn't fit our expectations.

We must teach our children to protect themselves from wolves in sheep's clothing. Abuse poisons a child's heart, mind, and spirit. They grow up in a world that hides harm but celebrates sexuality, making it even harder to heal.

Imagine someone who has been sexually abused hearing Christians shame them for not following "God's design." That design was stolen from them by Satan's plan to destroy lives.



Did you know LGBTQ teens are 3.5 times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers? They may respond with a variety of defense mechanisms to protect them as a matter of self-preservation.

I've heard my tribe share their pain, only to have the church condemn their "lifestyle." Rejection from the world stings, but rejection from Christians cuts to the core because it feels like rejection from God.

I'm not saying all sexual abuse leads to changes in sexual orientation, but we should be extra sensitive to this issue understanding that about one in three girls and one in six boys are sexually abused by the time they're 18.

### **Walking in Someone Else's Shoes**

The Bible hasn't changed, but the world has, and we need to respond to today's challenges. Let's try walking in the shoes of others and asking ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" For example, how can an abused child honor their parents? We need to approach these conversations with compassion and an understanding of mental health.

The idea of God as a loving Father doesn't connect with someone who's never known a loving father. And for women, surrendering to God can be difficult in a world where men have misused their power for centuries. *If we don't acknowledge the harm, we can't help to heal it.*

### **True Harm to God's Design**

The concern over deviations from God's design, isn't found in loving same-sex couples, but in the abuse and trauma that shatter children's lives. This robs them of healthy development and can change the trajectory of their lives.

Here's a scorecard I saw recently:

- Boy Scouts of America: 82,200
- Baltimore Catholic Church: 600
- Illinois Catholic Church: 1,900
- French Catholic Church: 333,000
- LDS Church: 500
- Southern Baptist Convention: 700
- Drag Queens: 0

### **Preventing Further Harm**

Christians are meant to be salt and light, but they don't realize when we're pouring salt into wounds unless we can shift from a legalistic judgment to a Christ-like attitude of love.

First, I want to address the need for a debate over homosexuality as a sin and forcing confessions. Did Jesus do that with anyone? I am addressing it here in relation to sin, even though I have come to another conclusion which I'll address in Chapter XX.

If we must point out one sin—doesn't any separate us from God? Jesus died to atone for *all* our sins, not just some. A pastor once illustrated this with a bottle of water, asking, "Would you drink this if I put even one drop of toilet water in it?" The same goes for sin—one drop would contaminate heaven.

Some Christians worry that accepting the queer community means condoning sin. If that's the concern, then let's talk about gluttony, a sin that damages our bodies. I've seen churches provide endless donuts, contributing to serious health issues. It would be more beneficial to preach about that.

Jesus cares about our hearts and thoughts. Lust is like adultery, and hatred is like murder in his eyes. We've all lied, and **lying lips are an "abomination" to God (Proverbs 12:22)**. So, if we're all guilty, why do we treat some sins worse than others?

My queer friends know that word as a "clobber message." I hear how much it is taken to heart because two of these friends, both of which have attempted suicide, have said, "I know I AM an abomination."

I hope that breaks your heart and inspires you to speak the truth from the level playing field that can lead all people to Jesus.

***♪ Listen to this song to reinforce the message of this chapter:  
Rescue by Lauren Daigle ♪♪***

***[https://youtu.be/l-ngZ\\_Knro?si=7d8mO1ZMuCNERxby](https://youtu.be/l-ngZ_Knro?si=7d8mO1ZMuCNERxby)***

*If you or someone you know needs help, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) is the largest, oldest, and most active support group for women and men wounded by religious authority figures (priests, ministers, bishops, deacons, nuns, and others).*

## Chapter 4 Speaking Truth in Love?

John has been with his partner twenty years and hasn't been to church since reading in the bulletin about the evils of homosexuality. He shared with me that that he was also one of the 82,200 Boy Scouts molested by a leader when he was 13. His parents simply told him to quit and never speak of it again. He couldn't even voice his anger when that same leader was later named Man of the Year in their community.

It breaks me every time I meet another victim, and it happens far too often. Children abused by trusted faith leaders often carry a heavy burden of toxic shame; one they were never meant to bear. When the abuser comes from a faith community, it poisons their relationship with God. The church's silence regarding sexual trauma has only deepened the shame, fear, and mental health struggles of victims. Many feel they have nowhere to turn except *away from God*.

### A Distortion of the Gospel

When Christian leaders encourage believers to 'stand on the Bible' and 'speak the truth in love,' even when this message is delivered with care, we must consider how it is received and its impact on those who hear it. The conditional gospel is understood to mean that, they must leave the person they love or give up their dream of a life partner. If the Bible doesn't demand celibacy or regard it as a higher form of holiness, why are we making these mandates?

True Christians are loving and unaware that how this distorted gospel excludes those who most need to experience Christ's love. These communities don't interact, and each side is fed a narrative that fuel division and blames the other. John, like many others, knows this version all too well. [He told me something that shocked and saddened me: "When people ask, 'Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior?' I want to puke."](#)

### Narratives that Harm People

Since the pandemic, I've expanded my spiritual intake with various YouTube churches. We understand that "our battle that is not against flesh and blood but spiritual forces" (vs). However, harmful comments from pulpits are about real flesh and blood people. It is deeply troubling when the remark about queer people makes the congregation laugh.

As you read the quotes below, ask yourself:

- If you were exploring Jesus and had a queer child, how would these statements affect your understanding of God's love and your church community?
- If you were a queer child raised in the church, how would these comments make you feel about yourself and your God?

**Quote #1:** "It's not changing their lifestyle that makes them justified before God. It's only faith in Jesus, and *that faith means repentance and rejecting the homosexual lifestyle*, repenting of it as sin... *so-called Christians* identifying as homosexual are fighting their lusts and sinful

desires.” This implies queer people can’t be Christian, while straight Christians don’t struggle with lust or sinful desires.

**Quote #2:** “There’s an escalating tolerance of homosexuality in the evangelical movement, based on the idea that affirming people in their perversion will win them over. Homosexuality is at the root of most cultural ills, and now it’s crept into the church, which tolerates it, indifferent to God’s heart.” Another words, “Jesus loves you, but we won’t even tolerate you.”

**Quote #3:** “Disney keeps pushing the LGBT agenda. Two teenagers *are basically having some sort of relationship. They want to be accepted, they want everyone to say, ‘That’s normal. He’s gay! And everyone loves and accepts him!’ It’s the gay agenda and no secret. This is the playbook.*”

Will Christians ever accept my daughter and welcome her back into the flock?

### **Jesus Never Addressed the Subject**

What did Jesus say about same-sex relationships? *Nothing.*

Jesus was asked about divorce. I was afraid to get married because The Catholic church used to excommunicate people when I was young. Even an abused woman had to either stay in the marriage or be cut off from God’s people.

It says in Malachi that God hates divorce. That is true. He doesn’t want anyone to suffer the pain of divorce, and He doesn’t want people just to give up and walk away. That is *The Heart* of God. Satan always provides ammunition to God’s people to make sure we stand on the specific scriptures that cause shame and pain.

Can we admit that Jesus never talked about this topic we put so much emphasis on? We hear, “*The Bible is clear,*” but is it really? If it was the deal-breaker we have made it out to be, Jesus would have talked about it or made an eleventh commandment!

What if Jesus was silent this issue to see how we would treat our modern-day marginalized people? He was criticized by the religious leaders for hanging out with tax collectors and prostitutes. What if the test is to see if we would follow Jesus’ example or act like His critics? So far, we’ve failed—but it’s not too late to reach out and invite the outcast to the table.

### **Examine the Fruit**

The queer community has faced countless hate crimes, yet something in our faith community doesn’t move us to stand with these victims. Shouldn’t we be cautious with our words, knowing they can fuel violent actions? This contradiction is why I ask you to pull back the curtain. Can you see the fingerprints of the Evil One? Why does our love feel like hate? Why do we still believe we are loving when the evidence points to rotten fruit?

The good fruit of healing happens when queer individuals who were rejected return to church and have their first experience of worshiping Jesus along with Christians who are embracing them. I have witnessed their tears of joy. When this happens, it proves that we are obeying the command Jesus gave us: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.” John 13:34-35

## **We are Made for Community and Connection**

A dear friend of mine has a son who lived on the streets for years due to mental illness and addiction. Today, he is sober, medicated, and married. My friend, Lisa, has been teaching NAMI’s Family-to-Family program to educate others. She makes a powerful point: “If anyone like my son says they prefer being homeless, part of it is because the acceptance and connection they find on the streets can be stronger than their need for food or shelter.” The need for community and belonging is deeply human.

This is true for queer individuals as well. When Christians reject them or demand they jump through hoops we’ve never had to jump through, they will naturally seek a community that accepts them as they are. Queer pride events aren’t about indoctrination. They are about connection, love, and acceptance. It’s similar to how I felt at my first NAMI Walk, surrounded by people like me, realizing I wasn’t alone.


Jesus modeled how to respond to people—with love, not judgment. He knew everyone’s story. We don’t have that advantage. The more we know, the less we judge.

## **Shine Light on the Darkness of Deception**

Many of us were raised in faith traditions rooted in shame and fear. This must end. Shame does not come from Jesus. My intention isn’t to shift shame but to eradicate it.

How do we shine light in this darkness? By welcoming our queer friends to experience Jesus’ love and the true gospel so they can be radiant in His presence. As Psalm 34:5 (NIV) says, “*Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.*” We must say, “Join our church. We won’t demand you leave your partner or treat you differently because you are queer. We don’t single out others for gluttony, laziness, or other sins to become part of God’s family.”

Jesus changes us from the inside out. But we are still in our earthly bodies, struggling between flesh and spirit. Yes, we may face consequences for our actions—like sloth leading to unemployment or gossip breaking relationships—but Jesus has promised us new bodies at the rapture resurrection. Until then, our most important mission is to love others and share the **Good News, which is this: when we accept Jesus, our sins disappear in God’s eyes. That’s not just good news—it’s awesome news!**

*♪ Listen to this song to reinforce the message of this chapter:  
Heart of God by Zach Williams*   
<https://youtu.be/mM4LNKjhJZg?si=N-ALYbHK8IKaRuPB>

## **Chapter 5**

### **Agendas and Influence**

#### **What is The LGBTQ Agenda?**

A friend of mine in the LGBTQ community recently asked, “What exactly is our LGBTQ agenda? Because I must have missed that training.” I laughed, but it’s not funny. Concerns about a 'hidden LGBTQ+ agenda' have circulated widely within the Christian community. These fears often center around indoctrination and influence, but in reality, many LGBTQ+ individuals are simply seeking the same love, acceptance, and community that we all desire.

#### **Indoctrination**

The main LGBTQ nefarious agenda that is feared is a plan of “indoctrination.” But even if it were possible to turn someone gay, what would be the payoff? Is there a secret competition? A scoreboard? The very notion is so absurd that a choir of gay men once did a song about "coming for your children," and drag queens made similar spoofs. All of it done in jest. Yet some Christians took these jokes as proof of a hidden agenda. “Look! They admitted it!” they cried.

Teachers, too, are accused of being part of this so-called LGBTQ agenda. Good teachers teach kindness and acceptance toward people who are different. The rotten fruit is exposed when kids are unkind because of what they queer people from their parents or in church. Once again, the devil wins by sowing division and hatred.

#### **The Problem of Pedophilia**

Another claim often attached to the “LGBTQ Agenda” is that “pedophilia is on its way to becoming normalized.” But as discussed earlier, pedophilia has been going on within Christian institutions for decades. Pedophilia isn’t some hidden agenda waiting to be unleashed by LGBTQ people—it’s been happening under our noses by wolves in our faith communities.

The damage done by pedophiles is irreversible. It destroys lives, and the church’s response has not been to remove the poison but to ignore it.

#### **Children at Risk**

Do you see the sly bait and switch? The enemy tells us, “Look at those people—they’re perverted and dangerous.” In the meantime, 91% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by family members, family friends, and trusted leaders. Children are most vulnerable between ages 7 and 13 so rather than focusing on imagined dangers have ongoing conversations with our kids about body autonomy and consent.

## Narrative Shapers

Historically, influential Christian leaders have shaped harmful narratives. Take Pat Robertson, for example, who in the early 1990s warned that, *“The feminist agenda is not about equal rights for women. It’s about a socialist, anti-family movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians.”* Absurd as it sounds, it influenced many Christians.

Given these past exaggerations, should we take modern warnings about the “LGBTQ agenda” seriously? Christian leaders have long used their platforms to sway millions of voters. But if a message isn’t leading people to Jesus, we must examine both the message and the messenger critically. We need to fix our gaze back on Jesus and His agenda, not on fear-driven, politically motivated narratives.

*♪ Listen to this song to reinforce the message of this chapter:  
Heart of God by Zach Williams* 

<https://youtu.be/mM4LNKjhJZg?si=N-ALYbHK8IKaRuPB>



## Chapter 6 Apostasy

Some Christian leaders teach that embracing so-called “LGBTQ agenda” is part of the apostasy or “falling away” in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. Apostasy comes from the Greek word *apostasia*, meaning “abandonment.” It refers to abandoning the *true Gospel* as the central doctrine and teaching of the Bible. *If we believe that the blood of Jesus is sufficient for all, why would we add additional requirements for some individuals?* Could this be an example of straying from the true gospel of grace? Is this apostasy?

We are in the last of the latter times and 1 Tim 4: 1-3 is evident: “The spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the Faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared *who forbid marriage* and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with Thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

### Inclusiveness

When we don’t share the pure Gospel that is inclusive to “whoever believes”? (John 3:16) the messages they receive in “inclusive” churches exclude them from the gospel message.


We have done NAMI presentations at churches that embrace religious pluralism where I meet more deeply wounded people who had to look for a faith community outside Christianity to be included and accepted.

While many paths and many spiritual leaders sounds inclusive, the gospel of Jesus Christ is excluded from these churches. Members may never know that Jesus is the only One of these leaders who offers payment for every sin and eternal life in heaven. No one else can.

### Pure Gospel Message

We’ve spread the Gospel across the globe but failed an entire marginalized group. These hearts are crying out: “Love me like you love others. Don’t exclude me from your family. Tell the world I’m worthy of salvation, without added stipulations. *Allow the Holy Spirit to do HIS work of sanctification in me, not yours.*”

The way we allow God to work in us in AA is in the acronym HOW: We must be Honest, Open, and Willing to let God do what He wants to do in us. We do not have to make promises to any person or institution to change the things *they* don’t like about us according to *their* will or demands. It is up to God. Yet, he never takes away our alcoholism. Like they say, “Once you become a pickle, you can never go back to being a cucumber.” I am a proud pickle today. God made me a pickle for a purpose.

*♪ Listen to this song to reinforce the message of this chapter:  
Greater by Mercy Me   
<https://youtu.be/T9XFO1oSk68?si=5KoHccZM8GaemPY->*

## Chapter 7 Division and Hypocrisy

Division is another tactic of the Prince of the Air. The *documentary "The Social Dilemma"* reveals how we have been fed one-sided narratives to spark hostility. We need to stop buying Satan's ammunition!

We hear from the pulpit and social media, "Don't cave into the culture!" This often sounds like a battle cry from a losing team. *Jesus never told us to shout at the darkness. He told us to be the light. I am on Team Jesus and He Wins! I implore you to help change the narrative that has spread like a deadly virus.*

### Hypocrites

Some "X-vangelicals" have left the church because they've seen hypocrisy and long for authenticity. If there was more transparency about personal struggles within instead of pointing fingers, people would connect with that honesty. They want us to be real and *they* want to be real too. Nobody wants us to be the captain of someone else's ship. We are supposed to be the lighthouse, shining the light of Jesus for people to find the Way.

Psychology acknowledges that homosexual thoughts or feelings are a natural part of our development and thus a God-given **natural** part of growing up. Children are curious and may explore. When surging hormones begin and sexual attraction comes into play there are many new feelings. So, if experimentation was in your past, you were far from alone. The problem is shame, which comes from Satan.

Now imagine this: What if God had created Adam and Steve, and as a heterosexual people call you an abomination who would burn in hell? You feel how you feel about your mate - not a willful act of sin. What if your church only accepted same-sex couples. Would you leave your partner to worship with them? Think about that!

I've thought about this honestly. I love Jesus more than anything, but I am human and need love and connection to survive and thrive in this world. I remember the dark tunnel of suicidal depression clearly. It could overtake me, and my sobriety would be at risk.

If you belonged to a Christian community that only accepted Adam and Steve, do you think that your attraction would change the way God feels about you?

*♪ Listen to these songs to reinforce the message of this chapter: Look What You've Done by Tasha Layton & Drops in the Ocean by Hawk Nelson* ♪

<https://youtu.be/YPWHJC7PyYY?si=CLK7kGriFj8tO1xf>

<https://youtu.be/OhsNed3p5Yk?si=hGbn1jozH2oGBtd9>

## Chapter 8 The Potter and the Clay

I recently saw a meme of a man holding a sign that said, “This is a Gay that the Lord has made.” You really can’t argue with that. Isaiah 64:8 reminds us, ‘Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay; you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.’ We trust that God has created each of us with unique purposes, and our role is to love and support one another as God’s handiwork.”

While we’ve made progress in moving past harmful messages of discrimination, we’re still not fully in line with the marvelous variety and individuality of our Creator’s design. What if we stepped aside and let God shape each of us into who we’re meant to be? We’re all uniquely and wonderfully made with our own fingerprint! That’s something to celebrate—God doesn’t make mistakes.

We’ve already discussed how sin is sin, and how even the smallest sin would contaminate heaven. This should settle the debate when people argue, “But the Bible says homosexuality is a sin.”

Romans 9:21 says, “Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?” Many people want to be the “common” pottery, accepted by everyone. But maybe some people were made for a special purpose. What if the special purpose was to test Christians to make sure they treat different kinds of clay as Jesus would, not like the Pharisees would.

Our daughter didn’t “come out” until after two hospitalizations and a suicide attempt. God knitted her together in my womb. She didn’t want to be gay. She wanted to be ordinary clay. Our love for our daughter hasn’t changed. We trust that The Potter isn’t waiting for her to remold herself. I pray that she will get the same respect and the same gospel message as ordinary clay. Then they will know we are Christians by our love.

We must respect the diversity of human relationships and the need for connection, which is about more than just physical attraction. Queer relationships, like all relationships, can take many forms—romantic, platonic, or asexual—and reflect the deep human need for love and companionship. Let’s stop focusing on gay people and start focusing on what Jesus focused on—the hurts and hearts of people.

### **Transgender**

Here’s a quote from the pulpit: “Families in our church didn’t like that I spoke out against transsexuals. Many pastors preach the full gospel, and people leave their churches. But the good thing is, they’re willing to do that.” This pastor celebrated driving people away from God, which is deeply troubling.

I’ve heard stories from people who underwent painful gender transition surgeries because they couldn’t find acceptance in their culture or families due to their same-sex attraction. They felt forced to change to avoid rejection. Ken Zucker, a well-known clinician in the transgender field,

found that 70-80% of people considering transition later realized they were gay. He advocated for waiting before surgery but lost his job for his views—though he later won in court.

Surgery is never a light decision. Shaming someone for their body only deepens their pain. It's like driving a knife into an already sensitive wound.

Another harmful statement accuses trans people of rebelling against God, whereas in many cases, they are simply struggling with their identity. Many don't even know how they feel about God but are so uncomfortable in their bodies that they consider drastic measures or contemplate suicide. The advice given is to "love them" by refusing to use their pronouns. This approach ignores the mental health struggle. One trans woman even reported that being misgendered made her want to self-harm and often led to cutting.

If we've adapted to using titles like Ms. instead of Miss or Mrs., why can't we use someone's chosen pronouns out of kindness and respect? Even if the government mandates overreach, we can still show basic decency.

As for "male and female," we are often reminded of God's original design. But when we focus on Jesus and the Gospel, we see a deeper truth: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). We haven't yet achieved God's intended equality on earth, but we will in His kingdom.

It's prideful to think God needs our help to restore a one-man, one-woman Edenic ideal. Jesus will restore everything soon—He didn't ask for our help to change others. Our mission is clear: love people and share the same pure gospel to all. So, let's get to it.

*♪ Listen to this song to reinforce the message of this chapter:  
Perfectly Loved by Rachael Lampa and Toby Mac* 🎵

<https://youtu.be/k1lpEhuq9dU?si=ZEqxaJnYco4pq6A0>

## Chapter 9 Another Hot Topic

We've already discussed political influence and its impact on Christian witness, but let's look at another issue that has caused more harm than good: abortion.

In the perfect world God created we would protect and value all life. In our broken world, many women face far from ideal situations. Valuing a baby's life sounds noble, but what has been the fruit of our involvement in these lives? When difficult decisions are forced upon women, teens, or children who may not be ready or able to care for a baby, it can create long-lasting emotional and spiritual pain. *Unless we are willing to be the hands and feet of Christ to meet the needs of mothers who are mentally ill, addicted, living in poverty, or abuse, so they can raise a child for 18 years, this approach is harmful, not loving.*

What message does that send to the world? It shows that we're not truly caring, just opposing something. The Bible calls us to care for widows and orphans. Consider the aftermath of ignoring the child and the mothers after saving the unborn.

It's not just about the government deciding what women can do with their bodies, it's about the government taking away something God gave us: free will.

Are you aware that Jerry Falwell and Paul Weyrich made abortion a Christian issue when they founded the Moral Majority in 1979? Isn't it amazing how just a few people can shape beliefs and cause division for decades?

The documentary *God Forbid* exposes the hypocrisy of powerful Christian and political leaders, which has hurt our Christian witness. *It's time to remove our political lenses and start seeing things through Jesus' eyes.*

James 1:27 teaches us, 'Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress.' As a church, we are called to care for those in vulnerable situations, offering support rather than condemnation."

*♪ Listen to this song to reinforce the message of this chapter:  
Do Something by Matthew West* 

[https://youtu.be/b\\_RjndGOIX8?si=-9htv90r23r0mVZe](https://youtu.be/b_RjndGOIX8?si=-9htv90r23r0mVZe)

## Chapter 10

### Lonnie Frisbee and the Jesus Revolution

Hopefully, you are familiar with In *Lonnie Frisbee*, "*The Hippie Preacher*," and saw *The Jesus Revolution* movie from Pastor Greg Laurie. I love the moment Pastor Chuck Smith said to his conservative congregation as we welcomed Frisbee and his hippie into his church. He said, "If you don't like it, the door swings both ways."

As a result of that invitation, Lonnie was able to use his extraordinary gift for imparting the Holy Spirit which led to the explosive Jesus Movement revival of the 1960s. Hippies flocked to California beaches for baptisms, and the movement's partnership with new Christian musicians spread the message of Jesus everywhere.

Can you see the Lord's plan? When you know of the story that was not in the movie, you will.

#### Hall of Shame

Lonnie's life began with an abusive father, rejection by a stepdad, and years of sexual abuse by a trusted babysitter. His parents didn't believe that the clean-cut young man that babysat Lonnie could ever do anything wrong.

Lonnie's trauma resurfaced after feeling deeply rejected by father figures within the church. Struggling with this pain, he fell back into old habits, which ultimately led to further harm. Many assumed he got AIDS from consensual sex and left him to die a painful death alone.

Drugs ease the pain of trauma for people who turn to them and when they are triggered, addiction can grab hold of them again quickly. Lonnie's "fall from grace," as some called it, led many Christians to try and erase his legacy. But his impact on God's kingdom will never be erased. As Joseph said, "What you meant for evil, God meant for good."

Some never completely break free from their struggles, BUT we know that the blood of Jesus covers them still! Once saved, always saved. The Holy Spirit doesn't check in and out. Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33 NIV

#### Vision of Rainbows and Inclusion

Lonnie's roommate, John Ruttkay predicted that Lonnie would still be used by God after his death and that homosexuality would become a major issue within the church. I agree!

I struggled to draft this controversial book and had to re-write it several times to target a different audience. I asked God for rainbow signs. He gave me dozens including last night. Lonnie wrote describing his mom's vision was my ultimate confirmation. During an alter call, Lonnie's mom saw Lonnie glowing with white light and rainbows flowing from his head! Moved by the vision, she came forward to receive Christ because she saw Jesus in her son.

Do you believe that the message of love and inclusion for queer people is one that God wants to spread? I believe God will do what He did before with another counterculture group. It just takes one brave pastor to welcome the queer community to spark another revival.

*♪ Listen to this song to reinforce the message of this chapter:  
Nobody by Casting Crowns* 

[https://youtu.be/1yBzIt\\_z8oY?si=DDHsN1ogOpK5uHJ1](https://youtu.be/1yBzIt_z8oY?si=DDHsN1ogOpK5uHJ1)



## **Chapter 11**

### **Stop the Pharisee Revolution – Start Another Jesus Revolution!**

Not long ago we they told us that interracial marriage was wrong, with Bible verses cherry-picked to back it up. Is God against interracial marriage? No. Why do we keep falling for the enemy's lies? Has he ever been against queer people. No! Tell them! Satan has succeeded in leading us astray in order to steal, kill, and destroy the people we unknowingly led far away from Jesus.

We need to ask them for forgiveness. We played right into the devil's hand, but God is the God of reconciliation and healing. I pray that when those who have been hurt and rejected by Christians recognizes the schemes of the devil, it will be easier for them to forgive. Some will need a place to learn how to forgive the people who abused them and all that treated them unkindly knowingly or unknowingly.

I know several pastors that would love to invite and embrace queer people, but the powers of the Prince of the Air attack them. The shepherds need to protect their flock while the media and the masses put pressure on them and if they don't it goes viral.

If this message is truly from the Lord, let His power to keep this message going empower us to overpower the devil and his schemes.

The message that has been missing is:

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE. AS ONE BEGGAR TELLING ANOTHER WHERE TO GET BREAD, WE ARE NO DIFFERENT THAN YOU. WE ARE NO BETTER, NO WORSE. ALL HUNGRY. ALL WILL BE SATISFIED BY THE BREAD OF LIFE.

Open all doors to the current day counterculture hippies. They may look different and love differently, but that doesn't mean that we treat them differently. Hippies were very counterculture. So was Jesus.

*♪ Listen to this song to reinforce the message of this chapter:  
Holy Water by We the Kingdom ♪♪*

<https://youtu.be/7KLQ2AXQmtA?si=NGKUvQGo-TGxkPWg>

## Chapter 12 Rainbow Bridge

Satan's time is coming to an end and his end game to deceive us and divide us has been working. There is even division over the rainbow. Some have said that the rainbow has been stolen by the LGBTQ community. But God's promises are for all of humanity not just for Christians. No one can steal a promise from God. The rainbow was never supposed to be a tug of war between Christians and queers.

The rainbow spectrum for LGBTQAI+ represents a kind of diversity that was hidden in shame. The rainbow flag was designed and displayed in June 1978 for Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in California. His campaign message to young gay people was "the only thing you have to look forward to is hope, and you have to give them hope."

The Queer community has used signs and symbols to find and build community for generations. There were green carnations and hanky codes in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The original flags were made with pink and turquoise and many variations such as adding black during the AIDS pandemic.

Soon we will stand before the rainbow that shines like an emerald encircling the throne. (Rev 4:3 NIV) Rev: 7:9 says that we will be with a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language. I believe that includes *queer people*. Do you?

*♪ Listen to this song to reinforce the message of this chapter:  
Where I Belong by Building 429* 

<https://youtu.be/he32vwIKQPY?si=A4n-mZugh-eZ70Pv>

Feel free to use this material in any way the Lord moves you to preach to your flock or give to other leaders.

You can get a digital copy at  
[digitalcopy@gossameradmindesign.com](mailto:digitalcopy@gossameradmindesign.com)

*If debates arise, I recommend the book, "Scripture, Ethics & The Possibility of Same-Sex Relationships" by Karen R. Keen.*