



*Ministering Hope, Healing and Wholeness
to the Relationally & Sexually Wounded
Through the Power of the Cross!*

Exhorting and Teaching Towards Freedom

Here at Exchange, we are continually exhorting and teaching the truth of God's word. In Matthew 22, the Pharisees asked Jesus which of the commandments was the greatest. His response: "Matt 22:37-40 Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." I believe this is our first mandate when we begin to minister to anyone who comes to Exchange looking for help. We must love them above all else, while at the same time disciple them in the truth and then exhort them to walk in that truth.

How often do we stop and think, Lord, am I loving you with all my heart, soul and mind and am I loving this person that you have put before me in the same way? We must keep this as our greatest priority as we meet and disciple all those who God chooses to bring our way. I believe that part of loving others is to speak and teach the truth about who they are and what they may be struggling with.

Kristin Johnson, from OnebyOne, and I were recently speaking at a local church where she made this statement: "We do a great injustice when we, as the Body of Christ, just welcome those who are struggling with homosexuality or are gay identified into our congregations and embrace them without also preaching and teaching the truth about homosexuality and the reality that it is sin". We must love those in our lives enough to be honest without condemning or becoming judgmental. Eph 4:15 "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ". Our willingness to love without the truth may be contributing to some remaining separated from the love and reconciliation offered by our Heavenly Father. They must choose to confess, repent and recommit to our Lord.

•We must be willing to walk with them through their journey to wholeness and freedom in Christ. That means that if they fall down, we do not beat them up. We help them get up and then help them set up healthy boundaries to keep them from falling in the same way again.

- We encourage and exhort them to make different choices in their daily lives.
- We commit to pray with them and hold them accountable for spending time with the Lord to hear what He wants to speak to them as His son or daughter.
- We must look for opportunities to love them in tangible ways.
- We accept them right where they are and let God do the work of changing them.
- We need to validate them as they walk in obedience and make right choices.
- We also need to affirm them as men and women of God. They need to know that someone recognizes their efforts and that what they are doing really matters.

The most important thing to remember when ministering to someone who is struggling with homosexuality is that they are no different than us, they are simply struggling with a different type of sin than what we may struggle with. The blood of Jesus washes all our sin, or it washes none of our sin.

Financial News

<p>Operating Budget January 01, 2008 thru December 2008 \$109,548.00</p> <p>Current Income to date \$10,551.00 Deficit -\$9,893.02</p> <p>Please help us meet our monthly budget of \$9,129.00 .</p>

Ministry Needs!

- Prayer Partners
- Financial Partners
- Teaching Opportunities

Psalms 117:2 For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord.

SPECIAL GUEST

Kristin Johnson
Executive Director of One by One
May 5th @ 7:00 p.m. in room 104/108

Kristin has a strong biblical understanding of God's ability to transform a person's sexual brokenness. Come listen as she shares her own personal transformation.



"The Importance of Healthy Families"

Homosexuality?
By Matthew Walker

Homosexuality; it's not a choice, and it's not genetic! That leaves us somewhere between "Hallelujah" and "Hate Speech". Simply because I have something in my life that can't currently be explained or that I won't examine, doesn't mean I can blame my genes. It has to be genetic, right? If it's genetic, I can't fight. I am powerless against it. On the other hand, if it's behavioral? I can fight it. Change it. The dilemma comes when people stop at "It's not a choice!" and refuse to explore "It's not genetic!", stopping just shy of resolution.

What if the church said, "We finally understand that you didn't choose to be gay". Or if the gay community said, "We believe a person can change their sexuality, but we want to be free to accept or deny the opportunity to change." Instead we are left with the question—"If I didn't choose to be gay and there is no genetic origin, then what happened?"

One major factor in my life was early "Learned Behavior". The people training me to be human taught me key survival instincts, but imparted a healthy amount of dysfunction as well. Today it looks like this. Mothers shaping their son's behavior out of a feminine perspective. Fathers shaping their daughter's behavior out of a masculine perspective.

Homosexuality. Blame God! He won't verbally defend himself. Blame genetics! If I yell it loud enough and long enough, no one will argue. Clinging to genetics absolves me of guilt or responsibility to fix anything. I didn't choose it. It isn't my problem. It is the problem of the hateful people who don't accept me.

The only problem is that it is my problem. I am the only one who has the power to fix it. I know that homosexual feelings were some of the earliest feelings I remember. I also know that my parents were around long before those feelings emerged, teaching and shaping behavior. I learned that they brought me food. They gave me clean diapers. That I could summon them if cried loudly. At a young age,

I was learning to respond to my environment. I gravitated closer to what was comfortable; my mother. I grew up and learned how to take on the world through the eyes of a woman.

If Hurricane Katrina knocked down Maggie's house, it would not be her fault. However, what would happen if the insurance company offered to build her a new house and she refused? Instead she decided that it was too embarrassing to ask for help. She will simply live in what is left of her old house. The world would think she is crazy. Perhaps she doesn't really believe that they can build her a new house.

I was like Maggie in that a storm had ransacked my life as well. It was the storm of homosexuality. It blew me off course, ripped at my foundations and destroyed my life. It wasn't my fault. It wasn't my choice. It was my problem. We don't have to spend one more minute living in the tattered remains of a life ravaged by homosexuality. Christ wants to step in and begin to rebuild and repair all that is broken.

Please pray with me for our facilitators, who give themselves unselfishly to this work. We greatly appreciate their dedicated service and without them this ministry would not be possible!

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Bob Bryce | Mark Schumacher |
| Ken Carter | Robin Somerville |
| Gabrielle King | Scott Shattuck |
| Bill Nance | Matthew Walker |
| Cherrie Rowe | |



EXODUS
Member Ministry

www.exchangeministries.org

Current Groups through April 28, 08

Our support groups meet every Monday evening at 7:15 p.m. in room 104/108 of the Education Building at Calvary Assembly in Winter Park.

Men's Open Group

Women's Open Group
Out of Egypt

Men's Closed Group
Quest for Authentic Manhood
Video series with work book.

Parent's & Loved Ones Group
Meets the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in room 105 or 106.

Please Pray & Believe with us!

Has this ministry blessed you or a loved one over the past 25 years. If so, please take a moment and lift Exchange Ministries up in prayer.

I am grateful that this ministry was here when I needed in back in 1990 and now 18 years later our doors are still open.

One of our greatest challenges in this ministry has always been in the area of finances. The enemy hates what we are doing and would love for us to close up shop and stop the work we have been called to do. We have talked with, prayed with, and met with thousands of individuals over the past 25 years. With your help and the provision of the Lord, we will continue to be here until His return. We need you to commit to pray for the resources for Exchange Ministries. I know that prayer changes things and we need things to change with our finances.

"He is our supply"

His promise of redemption and freedom must continue to be available for all those who are sexually and relationally wounded.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and commitment to believe with us for God's provision.

John