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Hope For Wholeness Network Affiliate Ministry



Referral Ministry of ROCK-Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Eph 5:13-17.*

[No Biblical Topic Should Be Off-Limits from the Pulpit](#)

You would think that, in Bible Belt churches, testimonies of overcoming the power of sin in one's life would be something that pastors would love to have presented to their congregations. And you'd probably be right if you're talking about sins such as lying, or stealing, or gossip, or cheating on one's taxes, or speeding while driving, or even alcohol and drug addictions. But there is one category of sins that is off-limits in most churches in this area—sexual sin! That seems to be the taboo topic, the one no one wants to talk about, unless it's to condemn a specific act, like fornication or adultery (although heterosexual hooking up among church members doesn't seem to be getting a lot of attention from the pulpit lately either, from what I'm hearing).

Another hot topic that appears to be off limits from the pulpit, except to condemn it, is homosexuality. Why are testimonies of those being freed from the grip of homosexuality not presented with any regularity, if at all? Maybe I can shed some light on that.

The church is known far and wide for "God hates fags/gays/homosexuals." Even though this phrase was made popular by only one particular segment of the Body of Christ, I believe it is pretty well accepted in the gay community that they believe this is how all Christians feel. Christians, on the other hand, will be quick to respond with, "We love the gays. We're told to love the sinner, but hate the sin. Yes, we love the gays." But the gay community isn't buying it, largely because what Christians say is generally not the same as what Christians do. And the congregations who do say the right things don't always follow through with the right actions. And while what may get preached from the pulpit about loving gays sounds great, more often

than not what actually happens in day-to-day life in specific cases doesn't match what is said from the pulpit. And the hypocrisy lives on-- in plain sight of the gay community.

This scenario I've described is somewhat typical of the church-at-large. Actually, in our culture today, the church is known more for what it is against than what it is for. It is known more for the "thou shalt nots" of life than for the "see how they love one another." I believe this is one of the reasons the church has all but lost its relevance and influence in society today. It needs to find its way back to its former influence with the Lord's help and direction. It's time to wake up, Church! Listen to what the culture is saying, **but more importantly listen to what the Spirit is saying about what the culture is saying.**

The Church slept through prayer being taken out of the public school system; the Church slept through abortion being made legal; we are past the days when the Church can afford to sleep. The Church has to be awakened. The Church has to wake up to what's going on in our culture, and hear from the Lord how to provide a loving and redemptive response, but even beyond that how to initiate God's plan into the culture. But in order for that to happen, the Church will need to rouse itself and begin expressing Father's genuine love to one another and to the dying world. It must be the kindness of God that will lead souls to repentance, and that kindness must be demonstrated, not merely preached.

I believe the Church needs to start by acknowledging, dealing with, and moving beyond the fear of talking about homosexuality. Pastors can lead by seeking the Lord to discover redemptive ways to address the effects of homosexuality in the lives of their congregants. Abba's Delight ministry can help in this way by sharing with congregations testimonies of how Father has changed the lives of our Overcomer participants, or by members of our Family and Friends group sharing what He has done in their lives and in the relationships with their gay-identified loved ones. This means first, though, that some of those pastors will have to break out of their denial that no one among their congregants has been impacted by homosexuality. Paul was direct in dealing with the Corinthian church when he addressed this sin as well as others. He did not beat around the bush; there was no committee formed to decide how to broach the subject. As the spiritual authority for the Corinthian church, he met the challenge head-on with a balance of love and truth.

And the Church, beginning with the pastor and throughout the congregation, must do the same. But we have to recognize that we cannot proceed the same way we might have before, because history clearly reflects that the Church has failed the gay community. We've known how to share the truth of the Word, but we've not done well sharing it with God's love. Love without truth is merely empty sentiment, not genuine love at all; and truth without love is cold, unfeeling. We must seek to reflect both completely. And the Church needs to recognize

that it may need assistance with the gay community in knowing the most effective ways to communicate God's love mixed with truth. That's where Abba's Delight comes in.

The gay community is watching us Christians. They hear what we say, but they don't see our actions matching our words. So, they dismiss what they hear because our hypocrisy keeps them from trusting God's people, and so they don't trust God either. If we're going to reach the gay community with the good news of Father's transforming work through the power of the cross and resurrection, we have to invest time in building relationships which demonstrate that life with Jesus is better than life apart from Him. We must allow ourselves to be used by Father as He reveals the person of Jesus to the gay community. I'm not sure any other way will do.

[Responses From You](#)

From a lady reader: Thank you for your ministry. I can not contribute at this time, but will continue remembering you in prayer. I would like to continue receiving your newsletter.

From a Pastor in SC: Hang in there, Daniel. May the Lord continue to bless your work. Sanballat and those who resisted the restoration of Israel were pretty upset when they saw the work being accomplished (Neh 4:1 and following chpts). Also, we can be encouraged by Paul's list of afflictions and trials as he served and preached the kingdom of God (2 Cor 10-12). I do pray the Lord's grace and anointing will be with you.

[Upcoming Ministry Meetings](#)

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, April 1, 2014; Tuesday, April 15, 2014; Tuesday, April 29

Overcomers Group: Thursday, April 10, 2014; Thursday, April 24, 2014

[Upcoming Conferences](#)

Hope For Wholeness Summer National Conference: "Hope Rising" 2014 June 5-8 Ridgecrest Conference Center, Black Mountain NC. Go to <http://hopeforwholeness.org> for more information and to register. Don't miss it!

[Ongoing Prayer Requests](#)

As always, we covet your prayers for our ministry to grow, financial support to increase, to move forward proclaiming freedom to the captives, and that churches would open their doors to our ministry. Please pray for our ministry participants, our Family & Friends Support

Group, our meetings, our conferences, and most importantly that many lives will be touched by the Holy Spirit to draw closer to Jesus, seeking freedom from their bondage.

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If you do not wish to receive the Abba's Delight Ministry Newsletter any longer, please let me know. If you do wish to continue to receive it, please be certain to put our email address in your address book, so that this mailing does not go to your spam, and report to your carrier. Thank you.

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25