

# Gay or nay?

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can't fool God, who matters most, then who do I think I'm fooling? At that point, I was fooling myself and others in my family and Christian community. The freedom to truly be the person God created me to be...has made all the difference.

**TK:** Love Won Out examines family dynamics that Focus believes can lead to the evolution of same-sex desires.

**MH:** While I was gay, the 12 years that I was living in the gay community, I never met one gay man that had a positive relationship with his father growing up. They may have a positive relationship now as an adult, but we're talking about those definitive formative years.

[For] a woman whose mother has been abused, femininity is not going to be something that she's going to want to embrace. Femininity is weakness, femininity is something to be



Mike Haley



New Hope Community Church in Clackamas supports the anti-gay agenda of Focus on the Family by playing host to the Love Won Out conference

abused, and that's what she has been modeled. And let's say she does experience heterosexuality that is abusive toward her; it's only going to put that stamp of approval on her that femininity is something weak to be exploited. There's going to be that fear of embracing who she is or who she was meant to be because of the poor example that was set for her.

**BWM:** First of all, the same dynamics are present with those who know themselves as straight. There are many mixed-up relationships. Both heterosexuals and those of us who are gay have struggled with our fathers because our fathers have struggled [with a modern definition of masculine and paternal roles]. I don't see a direct correlation. The greatest stress on the modern male comes from the homophobic bias of our

modern culture that prevents many men from knowing life more fully.

In Love Won Out's rationale, they are looking for somewhere to blame for the creation and formation of who we are or are given the idea that we had a "choice" and demonizing those relationships that would have made a person gay or lesbian or bisexual or trans. Sadly, there's a lot of demonizing going on there rather than the simple acceptance of who you are. God created you. Let's celebrate that.

**TK:** What about pressure from some organized religion to go straight?

**MH:** I would turn that around and say, "Didn't I feel pressured as a young teen when I went for counseling and was told that I was born gay?" That's just as damaging. I lived 12 years as a person that I truly was not because I was told by a misinformed counselor that I was born gay. You don't have anybody in high schools telling people to go straight or offering reparative therapy. There's one option in high school, and that's to go gay.

**BWM:** Heterosexism in our society forces the same thing. We still live in the days in which the heterosexist, homophobic environment of a high school is alive and thriving—not only in high schools but also middle schools

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Joseph Novak, Ph.D. and Lisa Novak

A Love Won Out presenter published a book recently that says "the very heart of the homosexual condition is conflict about gender"

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