

What is Emmaus?

Emmaus Ministries is a ministry of Christian apologetics, working along side of the Exodus network of ministries assisting persons out of homosexuality and other sexually addictive situations toward a Godly and full experience of manhood and womanhood.

The nature of compassion, love, and caring is a primary cultural issue. ***Is it more loving to encourage persons into the homosexual lifestyle, or to tell them that it is wrong and destructive, and that they can be healed and forgiven?*** We believe that there is no split between truth, righteousness, and compassion, that truth, morality, and love are always and necessarily joined in any healthy lifestyle.

We believe that as *behavior*, homosexuality is sinful (because God has forbidden it) and self-destructive (the empirical evidence is overwhelming), and *that as an orientation*, homosexuality is a pathological condition similar to other compulsive and addictive disorders. When the evidence from both Scripture and the empirical sciences are joined, it is clear that God disapproves of homosexual behavior precisely because of its inherent destructiveness. Only a malevolent God would create such an orientation.

Our outreach is on the same basis that God reaches out to the fallen world: "Come, let us reason together..." We believe that Biblical faith and empirical truth do not conflict, and that every Christian is honor bound in practical and relevant ways to seek the truth at any cost to himself.

Our ministry is thus founded, as best we know how, on the plain facts of the matter and on a compassionate and open presentation of the facts. Our task is to set persons free to make their own decisions, just, indeed, as God does with us in His revelation. God sets before us good and evil, life and death, and then we have to choose. As Joshua said, "*And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods [back in Egypt] or the gods [here in Canaan], but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*" (Joshua 24:15)

The special interest of *Emmaus Ministries* is to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ reasonably, showing that God, above all others, is reasonable, that there is no conflict between reason and revelation. We wish to show that God's version of humans sexuality, as all things God does, is more reasonable than any other version of sexuality, and that that is precisely the reason that it is also more compassionate than any other way of behaving sexually. God does not separate reason and revelation, or truth and compassion, and neither should we.

God or the World?

The plan of God for the human race is the fullness of life. That abundant life has been designed by God to reflect the glory of His own image in which we are made -- male

and female. That means that our very gender and sexual nature is a part of being made in the image of God.

The secular and pagan worlds are currently campaigning to "rescue sex from those repressed Christians". While it has to be admitted that the Christian community has done a very poor job in expounding on the stunningly beautiful picture of our gender nature, it is also clear that the secular and pagan worlds do not have the answer to that problem.

When God is left out of the picture, the world will always gravitate back to salvation by sex -- the flip side of salvation by works. The world without God sets us up for disaster in two ways: 1) when relationships become too painful to handle, we separate our feelings from our relationships and begin to live in our feelings rather than in relationship; and 2) we begin to sexualize those feelings, seeking to fill our relationship wasteland with sexual pleasure.

In order to ease the pain and loneliness of life in an empty and hostile universe, we gravitate toward that which makes us feel good. And because we need to control our environment, we gravitate to power. So power and pleasure take over from righteousness and Godly relationships. We need power (works) to control our chaotic circumstances, and we seek pleasure to fill the emptiness. Neither of these produce mature and righteous persons because, apart from God, there is no answer to the problem of emptiness and pain. The best we can do is anesthetize ourselves.

Salvation by grace (not sex) comes through restoring our energies back into healthy relationships under God. We begin to receive the energy of life promised in John 4 (the well of water springing up to eternal life) because we learn how to desexualize that energy which the world, the flesh, and the devil have perverted by sexualizing. And we learn how to redirect (not repress) that energy into the channels which God has appointed by reuniting our feeling-energy back into healthy and wholesome relationships -- rather than divorcing our feelings from our relationships.

A Strategy

Thus a 3-step strategy for meeting sexual temptation.

1) Give thanks to God for those very tempting persons and images which cause us trouble.

As 1 Timothy 4:4 tells us, "...everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving; for then it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer."

Giving thanks to God for the very things that are tempting seems counter-intuitive and dangerous. But every human being is made in the image of God, and put into our lives for some blessing. Giving thanks to God breaks the bondage of idolatry, because one is then attributing to God the good in the other, rather than seeing the other as the source of the goodness.

Satan has to put a hook in some part of the good

creation to tempt and snare us. The bait is the creation, and the hook is idolatry, and so the primary problem is idolatry, not lust (Rom. 1:18 ff.). Lust comes because we compulsively hang onto that which we think to be the source. Once we see God as *The Source*, we can "let go and let God." We must first get back to God as Source, and then He can clean us up.

2) Rename the energy which is so powerfully controlling our lives -- it is life energy, or relationship energy, not sexual energy. Satan persuades us to reject the gift of Godly life, the spring of water welling up..., by sexualizing it, by promoting the illusion that *life energy is sexual energy*, and that it is dirty and immoral.

The pagan/secular world has always believed that the basic energy of life is sex. Freud dignified that terribly destructive belief with his theory of "libido". The basic energy of life, Freud said, was libido, raw sexual energy. Our basic drive is to have uninhibited sex -- precisely the goal of the neo-pagan "sex-revolution" sponsored by Alfred Kinsey and the evil glut of pornography now, like drugs, readily available even to children. It's slogan: "*To be fully human, you must be sexually active.*" But the basic energy of life is not sexual, it is relational.

3) Take charge -- Redirect your life-energy (relationship-energy) into healthy, non-sexual relationships. The energy of life is *made* to be formed. We can take authority over it and redirect it. When tempted by lust, the energy is to be directed away from the genital areas into other parts of the body. We relate to the world through our bodies, so we are preparing ourselves to redirect the energy into all the relationships of that day. In a sexualized world, our genital areas *become our identity*, and rob all other areas of energy. As we desexualize and redirect the energy, we experience the joy of life in those other areas, so that the compulsiveness of sexual behavior begins to evaporate.

In the Image of God...

God invented sex. The world, the flesh, and the devil invented sexualizing. To truly be fully human, we must be made and perfected in His image, male or female. To know what a man or woman truly is, we must get to know God, in whose image we are made. We need to learn just what the Biblical passage in Genesis 1:26 ff. means. *What is it in God of which we are an image? How does the nature of God have to do with being a man or being a woman?*

The answers to those issues are the answers to the sex-revolution, to feminism, to absentee or abusive (or spineless) fathers and husbands, to homosexuality, and to the restoration of family life. And they are the answers to masturbation, fornication, adultery, pornography, homosexuality, pedophilia, trans-sexualism, and the other pansexual perversions of God-created sexuality.

The more our life energy is de-sexualized and redirected into healthy relationships, the more life is filled

with joy. Then compulsive sexual behavior diminishes, becoming no longer a temptation. We do not have to live in constant fear (or worship) of our bodies -- which can become quite friendly and healthy places to live, after all. As God meant -- naked and unashamed (Gen. 2:25)

The more we get to know God, the more we get to know ourselves. We do not "find ourselves" by looking for our own identity. We find ourselves by looking for God -- in whose image we are made, male and female.

Inner Healing

Our parents are a delivery system to bring us Godly mothering and Godly fathering. Whatever was lacking in their delivery, the package was God's, not theirs. And God provides ways in which He restores the years which the locusts of bad parenting and personal rebellion have eaten, implanting in our hearts the image of Himself so that we can live parented by Him. As we are reparented by our heavenly Father, we are freed from the brokenness and sin of our fallen family relationships, and set free to be the men and women which God planned from the beginning of time. We become His children and live in His family.

The Son of God came to earth, among other things, to make God imaginable. "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father..." When we give our imaginations to God, God is able to use them, just as He uses other aspects of the creation, to communicate His presence and power. Our imaginations will be dominated either by God or by the world, the flesh, and/or the devil. When we invite Jesus into our often very painful and destructive memories (stored in our imaginations), we give God permission to change the effects of those memories. Thus Jesus is able to show us that He can be the Lord and Savior right in our most devastating circumstances. As we move our dependency and obedience from the world to God Himself, we become in the deepest sense of the word, *children of God*.

The Exodus ministries are designed to provide a warm and mutually supporting community of persons with similar fears, brokenness, and similar hopes and joys. Along with support comes accountability to hold each person to their goal of pursuing a Godly lifestyle.

A Biblical Psychology?

Yes! and a Biblical *sexology*, too.

But is not the Bible an enemy of sex and psychology?

Hardly. The Bible is not an enemy, it is a friend, of the honest study of *any* part of God's creation.

And -- we are made in the image of God male and female. That idea (from Gen. 1:26-28) joins three things which the secular/pagan world cannot hold together: *theology* (the nature of God), *psychology* (human nature), and *sexology*.

So, contrary to common (and erroneous) opinion, the Bible is not an anti-sex book. God invented human sexuality as a reflection of His own nature, and then commanded Adam and Eve to go forth to populate the earth. That, as someone has said, is a lot of sex. The Bible begins in a marriage (Adam and Eve), ends in a marriage (Christ and His Church), and almost smack in the middle is *The Song of Solomon*, a celebration of romantic love. All through Biblical history, marital imagery is used to illustrate the relation between God and His people.

Of all the aspects of our human nature which are reflections of the image of God, our sexual nature is the *only* one specifically mentioned in Scripture as reflecting the image of God. Clearly, sex and gender have a central place to play in Biblical living. In Scripture, our sex and gender activities are without exception portrayed in heterosexual terms, never in the pansexual perversions, such as homosexuality, S & M, pornography, masturbation, adultery, or fornication.

Christians must explore just what the Biblical view of gender and sex means, and how our sexual maturity and freedom can be immeasurably enhanced by cooperating with the law and grace of God in this area. The Biblical understanding of human nature is far and away the most comprehensive, reasonable, and compassionate way to make sense of our gender and sexual nature.

Teaching/Outreach

Emmaus aims to bring these teachings to local churches wishing to strengthen their own ministry, not only to homosexual strugglers, but to promote Godly sexuality for *all* persons. Few things could more profoundly restore life to the Body of Christ than a strong gender education program in our homes and churches -- which could inoculate our youth against sexualizing. Victory in the gender and sexuality area would greatly strengthen the ability of the man-in-the-pew to witness effectively to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

We thus welcome the opportunity to meet with pastors and other leaders to strengthen the outreach of local churches to those struggling with homosexuality or other sexual addictions.

Emmaus produces a seminar for training pastors and churches to deal openly, directly, truthfully, and compassionately with the issues of same-sex attraction and other sexual dysfunction.

So, What *is* Compassion?

Pro-homosexual activists base their notion of compassion on several misleading assertions --

1. *that the Bible says that God approves.* **Fact:** Every time homosexuality is mentioned in Scripture, it is absolutely condemned. That judgement was not significantly challenged anywhere in the Biblical tradition for nearly

4000 years -- until the 1950's.

2. *that homosexual persons are typically victims of "homophobic" oppressors.* **Fact:** Most abuse of homosexual persons is "in house", caused against themselves by their own behavior, and by the enormous amount of violence between homosexual pairs.
3. *that homosexuality is just normal civilized behavior, your neighbor pursuing his life just like you would yours.* **Fact:** homosexuality is a compulsive and lethal addiction with an appalling (perhaps 40%) average loss of lifespan.
4. *that compassion forbids telling the hard truths about homosexuality.* **Fact:** Disagreeing with a person is not abuse, and offering honest discussion is a *fundamental and compassionate way of honoring him.*
5. *that homosexuality is genetically or biologically caused, that homosexuality is an identity, not merely a behavior.* **Fact:** Not a single study alleging genetic or biological causality has survived scientific peer review.

The evidence shows that God does not approve, that homosexual behavior is severely destructive, and that it is not inborn. It is not compassionate to mislead people so as to get them in trouble with God, and it is not compassionate to mislead people into a self-destructive lifestyle. True compassion helps people resolve their relations with God, and aids them toward health, wholeness, and holiness.

TCM and the other Exodus ministries are therefore dedicated to the unity of truth, righteousness, and love. None of the three can survive without the other. In God they are eternally united, forming the basis for how God reaches out to His fallen world. We believe that that is how God wishes us to reach out to one another as well. True compassion thus means speaking truth both righteously and lovingly.

To those for whom the experience of homosexuality has been one of brokenness, sin, frustration, and unfulfillment, the compassionate task to which TCM has been called is bringing healing, forgiveness, and wholeness in Christ.

An Invitation...

- If you are personally troubled by sexual matters,
 - If you feel that the message above rings true,
 - If you are a pastor looking for help in ministering to sexually broken persons,
 - If you are looking for a good sex and gender education/inoculation program for your parish,
 - If you would like to assist in the recovery of persons from homosexuality or other sexual addiction,
 - If you have questions or disagreements about who Emmaus is and what we stand for --
- ❖ contact **Emmaus** or the relevant ministry in the next column ❖

Emmaus Ministries

- specializes in Christian apologetics, teaching Christians and others how the Biblical answer to life's problems is by a wide margin the most reasonable way of life. *God holds the intellectual, moral, and cultural high ground.*
- is on the front lines of the sexuality epidemic in America and the West, promoting materials which can stand in any honest arena -- or create one where that is lacking.

To be put on our mailing list, to receive a descriptive brochure of available materials, or for a packet of materials on the homosexual and other sexual issues, see contact info on front panel.

The president, the Rev. Earle Fox, completed a year of clinical training in two mental hospitals, a city prison, and a general hospital, and then earned his doctorate in the relation between science and theology from Oxford University in 1964. He taught for three years at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and pastored a church in East Haddam, Connecticut for ten years. He has published *Biblical Inner Healing*, on the Christian view of emotional healing, and has been extensively involved in sexuality issues in the Church. Since 1989, he has lectured at numerous Exodus and other conferences on the healing of sexual addiction, and for two and a half years was director of Transformation Christian Ministries in the Washington, DC, metro area, helping people out of homosexuality. In May of 2001, he returned to Emmaus Ministries to bring his training seminar to churches in the Washington, DC area and elsewhere.

Allied Ministries

Exodus -- POB 540119, Orlando, FL 32854 Tel: 800 264-0877
A network of over 100 Christian ex-homosexual ministries.
<http://www.exodusnorthamerica.org/>

Regeneration -- Two Exodus affiliates -- (1) POB 9830, Baltimore, MD 21284 410 661-0284 (excellent bookstore);
(2) POB 1034, Fairfax, VA 22030 703 591-4673

PFOX (Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays) -- Nationwide support group for friends & relatives of homosexual strugglers. POB 561, Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060 703 360-2225 www.pfox.org

NARTH (National Assn. for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality) -- 16542 Ventura Blvd., Encino, CA 91436 818 789-4440

Courage -- (Roman Catholic) Call Fr. Morrow in DC at 202 775-8247

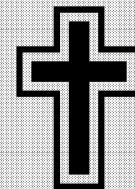
Transforming Congregations - (Methodist, Lutheran)
POB 7146, Penndel, PA 19047 www.transformingcong.org

One by One - (Presbyterian) POB 1005, Rochester, NY 14610 716 482-1991 www.oneby1.org

Jonah - (Jewish) POB 313, Jersey City, NJ 07303 Rabbi Sam Rosenberg.

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The Compassionate Way Out-> of Homosexuality



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