

Presenting the Gospel to Homosexuals

By Christie; 4/22/14

Presenting the Gospel to, or even conversing with a homosexual can be far out of our comfort zones as Christians. We are likely to avoid all contact with them just because they are gay. But let's think again. Is this how Christ would have treated them? Did not He even eat with sinful and ungodly people? Considering this, don't you think that He would have no doubt at least been friendly and talked to them? I am not saying that what they do and how they act is not sinful: it is very sinful and very much against God and how He has commanded us to behave. But we are called to be lights in this world.

First of all, if we are going to offer them the gospel, we have to be careful not to shove it down their throats, or even jump at every chance we have to quote a verse. They will more than likely run as soon as you start to talk. Even if you mention anything about them going to church, they are going to hell, etc, they may get scared off. Sometimes you just have to work up to it. Take some time to talk to them, maybe invite them over for supper or coffee. Let them talk to you and maybe after a while they will feel more comfortable and open up more. Now, I'm not saying not to mention anything about God, Christ, or the Gospel, I'm just saying that you have to be careful in the way you do it. You may lose your chance if you're not careful.

I'm reading a book called *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*. It is about a lesbian English professor who comes to know the Lord through Pastor Ken Smith, who was the pastor of the Syracuse Reformed Presbyterian Church. She had written a critique for the local newspaper about gender politics. She received much fan and hate mail and had 2 boxes on her desk: one for each. Pastor Ken sent her a letter and she couldn't decide which box to put it in because it wasn't really hate mail, but it certainly wasn't fan mail either. He had asked her the questions: How did you arrive at your interpretations? How do you know you're right? Do you believe in God? He wasn't arguing with her article, he was just asking her to "explore and defend the presuppositions that undergirded it". In it he had invited her to contact him so that they could discuss these ideas more fully. Since she didn't know how to respond, the letter just sat there on her desk and actually haunted her. She threw it away several times, only to dig it out of the bin later. When she finally contacted him, he invited her over to his house for supper with he and his wife. She went over and was intrigued. They did not invite her to church or offer her the gospel. Since this was not the way she knew Christianity to be, she thought it odd, but safe to except his open hand. Slowly, he presented her with the gospel over the course of several years. Since he was quite a bit older than she was, he became to her like the father she had lost when she was 22. Through Pastor Ken Smith's careful thinking and the work of the Holy Spirit,

Rosaria Butterfield came to know the Lord. I am quite sure if Ken had, in writing her that letter, said that he disagreed with her and she was wrong, even though he knew she was, she would have thrown that letter away and never thought about it again and would now still be an unbelieving lesbian, instead of the wife of Kent Butterfield and mother of 4 adopted children.

With this example in mind, consider ways that you could reach out to the queers that you may come in contact with. They are very lost, and you may be the only one that can bring them the hope that Jesus has to offer. Ask yourself, "Am I willing to step outside of my circle of comfort and let the Holy Spirit work through me?" If you are willing, pray and ask the Lord to give you an opportunity and then watch for it and don't turn it down!