

# The Hope Update

1 COR 6:9-11

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The Hope Update is an official publication of Restored Hope Network



## Monthly Devotion

## Hope Happening

## Anne Paulk



Executive Director

By Robert Gagnon

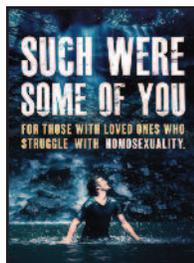
### Should You Attend a "Gay Wedding" if Invited?

Some who accept Jesus' understanding of marriage as a union of the two halves of the sexual spectrum, male and female, nevertheless think that it is acceptable for Christians to attend a "gay wedding," not by way of agreement but rather as an act of love. The rationale for such a view is that the offender is more likely to listen when convinced of unconditional love.

While I am sympathetic, I think Scripture gives clear guidelines that this is not an appropriate course of action. Paul's remarks in 1 Corinthians 8-10 are especially apt. Paul dealt with "strong" believers who wanted to continue visiting the temples of idols as a way of staying connected with unbelievers (the restaurants and health spas of antiquity). They themselves did not believe that idols had any real existence, so what harm could come?

Yet Paul absolutely forbade dining there on two grounds. First, such actions could

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Dr. David Kyle Foster's beautiful documentary, "**Such Were Some of You: For Those With Loved Ones Who Struggle With Homosexuality,**"

features testimonies from over two dozen men and women who have walked away from homosexuality. This 2-hour documentary tells the story of how people develop homosexual confusion and how Jesus Christ brings healing from those things that contribute to their same-sex attractions. It also includes expert insights from Drs. Michael Brown, Robert Gagnon, Neil Anderson, and Julie Hamilton.

It is available in Leaders and Regular edition. The Leader's Edition (\$25 including S & H) also contains a discussion guide and screening license. To purchase a copy of either the Regular DVD (\$20 including S & H within the US) or Leaders Edition, contact us at:

[info@restoredhopenetwork.org](mailto:info@restoredhopenetwork.org)

or visit

[www.suchweresomeofyou.org](http://www.suchweresomeofyou.org)

Last month, individuals from all over the US and several other nations gathered for our 3rd annual Restored Hope conference. For the two public days, 227 individuals attended an amazing time together of worship, teaching and ministry. 40 of our member ministers gathered for Member Day, and then we hosted Leader Day for over 80 pastors, leaders and counselors across the US.

What is clear to us is the great need to address the topic of homosexuality, gender issues and holy sexuality from a redemptive Biblical perspective. One resource to help is Pure Passion Media's new documentary, *Such Were Some of You*.

Many attendees arrived tired, confused, and hopeless and left refreshed, hopeful and informed. One young woman was determined to live in hope, instead of committing suicide. This is the very reason we exist—to provide Christ's hope to the hopeless!

***"And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."***

*Romans 5:5*

## Should You Attend a "Gay Wedding..."

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"stumble" (i.e., precipitate the spiritual downfall of) others with a weak conscience by sending the message that idol worship wasn't such a big deal (ch. 8). Second, those attending such rituals, at which sacrifices would be made to an idol, were actually offending God by aligning themselves unknowingly with demonic powers (10:14-22).

Earlier, Paul had insisted that the Corinthian church should respond to the case of a fellow believer who was in a sexual relationship with his stepmother by withdrawing from fellowship with the offender, "not even to eat with such a one" (ch. 5). An adult-incestuous bond is a close analogy to a homosexual relationship in terms of the severity of the offense and unnaturalness (i.e., sexual involvement with another who is too much of an embodied same).

Jesus reached out to sexual sinners, but at no time did he attend a ritual that celebrated immorality. I am quite sure that Jesus would not have attended such a ritual celebration, not even as a silent observer—unless the purpose in attending was to call people to repentance.

There are other ways of showing love without attending a "gay wedding." What good would I be at a "gay wedding" anyway since I would be visibly weeping my heart out at a ceremony that solemnizes a behavior that puts a loved one at risk of not inheriting God's kingdom?

## Ministry of the Month

### His Way Out Ministries: North America, South America & the Caribbean



**H**is Way Out Ministries was founded with the expressed purpose of raising awareness and encouraging the Body of Christ to minister

to those who struggle with sexual and relational brokenness through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in the healing power of the Holy Spirit.

We live in a sexually broken society in which homosexual practice, adultery, and fornication are sins that call for repentance and openness to the transforming power of God. We believe that God's grace is available to all who repent.

Centered on the authority of Scripture and biblical foundations of compassion, integrity, and dependence on God, we believe the sexually broken can experience transformation and restoration towards wholeness, often mediated by extended and competent ministry, prayer, and a caring Christian community.

**And this is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God. 1 Corinthians 6:11**

## Upcoming Events

### August

- **August 8 & 9, 2014**  
**"Such Were Some of You"**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Speakers Include: **Dr. Robert Gagnon**  
& **Dr. David Kyle Foster**

[www.firststone.org](http://www.firststone.org)

- **August 14-16, 2014**  
**"Love Broke the Chains"**  
Detroit, Michigan

Speaker: **Director Dan Hitz**

[www.lovebrokethechains.com](http://www.lovebrokethechains.com)

### September

- **September 13, 2014**  
**Family Ministry in Challenging Times**  
Lake Elsinore, California

Speaker: **Counselor Andria Sigler Smalz**  
(951) 545-1932

- **September 26 & 27, 2014**  
**Ministering to Persons with SSA**  
Pasadena House of Prayer

**Desert Stream Ministries teaches**  
[pihop.com](http://pihop.com)

**For complete listings:**

[www.restoredhopenetwork.org](http://www.restoredhopenetwork.org)  
and select Events/Regional Events



**Restored Hope Network™**

*"And such were some of you..."*

PO Box 22281, Milwaukie, Oregon 97269

Phone: 503-927-0869

Email: [info@restoredhopenetwork.org](mailto:info@restoredhopenetwork.org)

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