

THE OTHER SHEEP
UNDER GOD'S RAINBOW

GAY AND CHOSEN

by
Rev. J. Terrero Rivera

Edited by Pat Brush
(PatsEditing.com)

Copyright 2011

Rev. Jenny Terrero Rivera
Freedom from Bondage Ministry
The Other Sheep Under God's Rainbow
Gay and Chosen

terrerojenny@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/jennyterrero
www.bookrix.com/healingbooklets

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise-without prior written permission.

Printed in the United States of America.

CONTENT

Chapter 1 – LET THEM KNOW.....	6
a) Pentecostal Minister and Mother of a Gay Daughter	
b) God’s Instruction and Guidance	
c) Compelled to Write	
Chapter 2 – GLBTQ BELIEVER.....	10
a) I Choose You	
b) Don’t Live a Lie	
c) Sealed by the Holy Spirit	
d) God Already Knew	
Chapter 3 – OTHER SHEEP IN THE BIBLE.....	17
a) Grafted into the Family of God	
b) New Testament Closet Believers	
c) Modern Day Other Sheep	
d) The Spirit of Truth Will Guide You	
Chapter 4 – CHOSEN AND ORDAINED.....	23
a) God Knows Your Heart	
b) Old Testament Closet Believers	
c) God’s Promise to Whosoever Believes	
d) Better Than Sons and Daughters	
Chapter 5 GROW AND GLOW.....	29
a) Growing Into the Image of Christ	
b) Spiritual Relationships	
c) Study and Research the Bible – Educate Yourself	
d) Don’t Allow Anyone to Rob Your Salvation	

**It is God's love
for His Gay,
Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer
and Intersex children, that has inspired
and encouraged me
to write this booklet.
I am honored that God
has chosen me,
and blessed my heart with
His love for you;
allowing me to help carry
your burden and share
in your struggle, your pain,
and best of all, your
spiritual
freedom!**

SPECIAL DEDICATION

To Jenny,

my precious daughter,
the wonderful blessing I received on
my birthday from my heavenly Father.

It is because of your example as a Christian, who is gay,
that I have come to believe that a person can indeed
be both gay and a true child of God. Throughout the years of
your development in our Christian home,

I have watched you grow into the image of Christ,
bearing the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and reflecting
His characteristics of love and amazing grace.

Although, the journey of being a Minister of the Word
of God and having a gay daughter has been, at times,
both challenging and emotionally painful,

I would not change a thing nor do I have any regrets.

I am proud that God chose me to be your mother,
and you to be His instrument in preparing me to
bring His message of love and acceptance to
His wounded and rejected children. I love you,
and I am so very proud of you, my only daughter,
my companion, my inspiration, and my friend!

LOVE YOU, MOM

CHAPTER 1

LET THEM KNOW

It is important to me that you, the reader, understand that I wrote this book in fear and trembling, in fasting and prayer, and many years of research and study. It was 1999, when my beautiful, feminine, eighteen-year-old daughter revealed to me she was gay, and believed she had been since childhood. The impact of this revelation immediately created in me a major concern for her safety. I had read many horror stories concerning vicious attacks on the homosexual community and knew that if a homosexual person dared to be open about their sexual orientation, they would be subjected to rejection, ridicule, hate, prejudice, violence and possibly death.

As a Christian mother and minister, I responded to my daughter's revelation in love and acceptance, and tried my best to hide the fear, shock, and embarrassment that I was feeling. Like many religious parents who face such a dilemma, I was instantly flooded with guilt and self-condemnation, and searched within myself to understand my failure as her mother. Devastated, I entered into fasting and prayer seeking earnestly for spiritual guidance from my heavenly Father. I desperately wanted God to guide me and help me understand how to handle this very delicate situation.

After much time seeking the Lord in prayer and fasting, I heard the Holy Spirit speak to my heart and say, "Get your Bible and read Romans Chapter 1." Right away, I realized that Romans Chapter 1 was the chapter used by the religious community to condemn homosexuals. My stomach twisted into nauseating knots as I wondered what the Holy Spirit was about to reveal to me. Hesitantly, I picked up my Bible and turned to the familiar chapter, I along with many other religious' people were guilty of ascribing to the wrath of God poured out on Homosexuals. After slowly and carefully reading the chapter, examining every word, the Holy Spirit asked me what I thought it was describing. I responded, "It seem to be describing a people that once knew God, but have turned away to worship and give glory to others things rather than to Him. And that it described the people as unrighteous, malicious, envious, deceitful, cruel backbiters, gossipers, arrogant, murderers, inventors of evil...;" but the verse that really caught my attention was verse 30 that described those people as haters of God.

And then I heard the Holy Spirit ask me if those verses sounded like they were describing my daughter. I quickly responded, "Absolutely not! My daughter is a believer and has always been since childhood and has never rejected you and loves and serves you. Those verses are clearly describing a rebellious people who hate you and have rejected and turned to others gods and to fulfilling the lusts of the flesh." Then the Holy Spirit instructed me to turn to the book of Genesis and read the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. Oh no, I thought, not that story.

So again, I carefully and slowly read the story in Genesis Chapter 19, that I knew was the chapter used to condemn the homosexual community. Again the Holy Spirit asked, “Does that chapter sound like it is describing your daughter?” And I said, “No Lord, it is describing an entire town filled with evil, violent, perverted rapists, engaged in the practice of abusing the strangers that pass through their town.” Then suddenly and beautifully, I was flooded with the awesome warm presence of the Holy Spirit and heard the following wonderful precious words:

**“I have chosen your daughter,
and you are to love her and all she brings to your home.
I want you to let all her friends that I love them
and long to have an intimate relationship with each of them.”**

I was filled with excitement as I thought of the words, “My daughter is chosen!” The fact that she is gay did not change who she was in the eyes of God. I was overjoyed to hear those words, and surprised that I could now clearly understand what those verses really said and wondered why I hadn’t seen it before. Amazed and delighted with the instructions given me by the Holy Spirit, I felt relieved and confident that God was in control. I believed that the Holy Spirit was involved in opening my eyes to see the truth of the scriptures.

Nevertheless, I fasted and prayed, and made it a habit to ask the Lord for some type of confirmation, so as not to become a victim of self-deception. Like many other Christians, I was convinced that homosexuality was a sin and was fearful of falling into error, so I prayed consistently for the Holy Spirit’s protection. I was a born again spirit-filled minister that was saved and baptized in a legalistic, Spanish, Pentecostal church, in which holiness was the main focused.

According to the Spanish Pentecostal church, holiness consisted of rules, a dress code, and a list of do’s and don’ts: no cutting your hair, no wearing jewelry or slacks, no going to the movies or the beach, no open-toed shoes or make-up, no sleeveless blouses or short skirts, and fasting and prayer must be done often. Every temptation, habit, or addiction was credited to satanic influences or to demon possession. In my church, we were taught that born again, spirit-filled Christians simply do not suffer from mental health issues, nor should ever need psychiatric therapy or medications.

Every negative struggle was attributed to a lack of faith, prayer, fasting, or simply un-repentant sin. So being GLBTQI (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer and/or Intersex) was an automatic ticket straight to eternal hell. I thank God that by the time my daughter came out to me, the Holy Spirit had already personally taught me the difference between Law and Grace, and had introduced into my life the awesome and wonderful freedom given to all believers; however, our new non-denominational, English-speaking

church's interpretation of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the first chapter of Romans, was just as condemning.

Consequently, the struggle in dealing with a gay daughter and the controversial issues of homosexuality became intense, and my hope and prayer was that someday she would become heterosexual. I had to fight against the belief that somehow her being gay was my fault, and once or twice when she had a falling out with her girlfriend, I'd jump right in and suggest she try dating men. Fortunately, in time, I learned how to deal with the extremely difficult and uncomfortable situations of discussing her relationships. It was the Holy Spirit through the grace of God that helped me to be able to view her female girlfriends as male, and respond to my daughter's needs according to the Word of God. This positive, loving, and accepting attitude is what preserved my daughter's relationship to God.

Aware of the condemning, judgmental attitude of the religious community, and how their teachings and opinions could wound my daughter's gentle heart and young faith, I instructed her to keep her sexual orientation private. When it came to church services, I prepared her for the offensive and condemning remarks she was sure to hear from the pastor or guest preachers, and advised her to retain what ministered to her and release the negative, which is what she did.

As a result, throughout the years, I watched my daughter bear much spiritual fruit as she invited her gay friends to join us for church services. Most attended and would tearfully respond to the altar call accepting Jesus as Lord. I witnessed how God ministered to her whenever she struggled with college and career goals, guiding her, providing for all her needs, and blessing her with the desires of her heart. Because I did not want to be influenced by outside opinion, I began fasting and praying, as I conducted my own in-depth study of the biblical scriptures used to condemn homosexuality.

After several years, I developed my own conclusions on what the Bible had to say about the subject. At this point, I was ready to continue my research on the internet for everything I could find written by religious Hebrew scholars, scholars of other religions, health experts of male/female anatomy and development, that could shed some light on homosexuality and the Bible. After a few more years of online research, the study of several books and accumulating a great deal of notes, I came to joyfully realize that my conclusions concurred with the experts.

It was soon after that that I felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to write a book, but feared the consequence because of the subject matter. I heard myself say the very words that many biblical servants had said when called to do something difficult and life threatening: "Who am I Lord that you should ask me to do this? I am nobody. I am not a scholar or a theologian. You have many people out there better prepared than I to write such a book." I tried to avoid the call to write it, but unable to resist the Holy Spirit I surrendered to God's will.

I began to write a step-by-step, verse-by-verse, educational booklet, explaining the scriptures used in condemning homosexuality. I especially wanted to expand on verse 49 of chapter 16 of the book of Ezekiel that says, “Behold this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: pride, overabundance of food, prosperous ease, and idleness were hers and her daughters’: neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and committed abominable offences before me; therefore I removed them when I saw it”. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was their pride, the security they felt they had because of their riches and status, and their failure to keep the laws of hospitality. The Laws of hospitality instructed the people of a town to welcome strangers passing through and to offer them protection, food, shelter and rest.

When I discovered what Jesus shared on the topic of marriage, I was really excited and wanted to expand on his teaching. In Matthew 19:12, Jesus explains that there are three different types of males unable to fulfill the Hebrew Law to marry and produce children. Jesus specifically, points out one type of male in particular who “could not procreate, not due to any type of birth defect, but because they were born unable to do so.” (“...from their mother’s womb...”). As a matter of fact, I had already accumulated around 20 pages that I would expand on; however, the Holy Spirit instructed me to put away the first manuscript, and inspired me to start a booklet that would be inspirational and encouraging.

Before writing anything educational on this topic, God wanted me to use my pen to write a booklet that would encourage all His GLBTQI children in the most important thing that concerns Him, YOUR SALVATION’ God does not want YOU to allow anyone to rob you of your faith, and the precious gift of salvation given to you! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shed his blood on the cross, died and resurrected, for YOU to be included into His family! Yes! You are part of His family. Although, I am not a scholar or a Rabbi or a theologian, I decided to obey God and write this book that launched my new ministry to God’s Other Sheep.

Today, I understand that I have not failed my daughter, but that my daughter and I were chosen for such a time as this. We have been chosen to be instruments in the hands of God, to produce the good fruit in this book that will bless and heal His wounded GLBTQI children. So please, read the entire book which was not written lightly, but in fear and trembling, in tears, fasting and prayer, because of the great love that God has for His Other Sheep.

CHAPTER 2 GLBTQI BELIEVERS

Yes, I believe you can be chosen and GLBTQI, whether you are an individual who has loved God all your life or a recent convert to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is important for you to understand why you have loved God all of your life, and why you received Jesus Christ into your heart as Lord and Savior. The reason for your lifelong love for God, or recent conversion to Jesus Christ, is because deep inside of your soul you have sensed *His love* and *His call* on your life.

You realized and understood that the painful, empty void that was deep in your heart could only be satisfied by the unconditional, pure love of your heavenly Father, who has provided forgiveness and salvation for you. And because you have responded to God's call on your life, and have invited Jesus into your heart, Jesus responds to you with the following words.

John 15:16

“You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever you shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you. If the world hate you, know that it hated me before it hated you.”

Jesus is speaking to **YOU**, and wants you to understand that He chose you first, even before you made the decision to choose him. He says that you are chosen to be inspired by him to do and create good things that will have a long-lasting, effectual impact on the lives of your fellow wounded GLBTQI believers. Jesus wants you to understand that as you walk with God he will hear you and answer you.

Jesus also wants you to be prepared by reminding you that when he was on earth doing the will of his Father (healing the sick, feeding the hungry, raising the dead and preaching the Good News of his Father's love) the world hated him. And just as the world hated him, so too, the world will hate you as you walk doing the will of your heavenly Father God! You too shall be rejected mocked, cursed, condemned as you share in the afflictions of Jesus who was rejected and crucified.

Your heavenly Father wants you to believe and follow Him, and not to doubt for one minute that you are His child and He is your Father! Do not doubt that you have been chosen to represent Jesus' love and sacrifice to a religious world that claims **YOU**, of all people, would not be called and chosen by a holy God! But yes! Our holy God has called and chosen you because there is *a greater purpose* to you being a believer who is also

GLBTQI. You have been chosen to represent Jesus on planet earth by manifesting the fruit of the Holy Spirit and because of that fact that you will be hated and rejected of men.

I believe that you have been chosen to break down walls and barriers of ignorance, discrimination, and homophobia that have been perpetuated by the very institutions established to function under the banner of God's unconditional love towards ALL people! How do you do this? You do it first and foremost by believing what God is saying to you and by accepting His call and commission on your life without reservation!

When you accepted Jesus Christ as Lord, you agreed with Jesus, "to know the truth so that you can be free!" (*John 8:32-36*). I truly admire you because *you decided* to be led by the Holy Spirit who is truth. You decided to be true to yourself, to your Father God, your family, friends and especially to your church. You have refused to live a LIE, thereby rejecting Satan, referred to in the Bible as the father of lies.

John 8:44
Satan is a liar and the father of lies

According to the Word of God, when you decided you would no longer live a lie, you actually came into agreement with His Word not to live as a double-minded, unstable believer.

James 1:8
For a double-minded man (person)
is unstable in all their ways

When you decided to expose the truth of what you believe, you stepped out of darkness, where lies and secrets remain hidden, courageously entering into the glorious light of the Holy Spirit, whose job it is to reveal to YOU your true identity in Christ Jesus! You stepped out of the physical realm and into *God's spiritual realm*, where His truth, love, and light, will begin to work in you powerfully! He is going to fill YOU with His Holy Spirit so that His message of love and acceptance can *flow from you* to His rejected, wounded, GLBTQI children!

When you recognized your powerlessness and gave up your efforts in freeing yourself of what religious institutions label as homosexual tendencies, accepting your reality, you surrendered yourself to the light of God's truth concerning you. It is important to God that you allow the Holy Spirit to bring truth to the surface of your consciousness. Hidden secrets, good or bad, can negatively affect one's mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health. Hidden secrets, false perceptions, twisted beliefs, and biblically-based *misinformation*, must be exposed and scrutinized by the light of God's truth, in order for you to receive complete freedom and understanding of your true identity.

Do you realize what has happened to you? You have received a divine revelation. You have had a spiritual conversion experience because you *refuse to hide* what you believe is your true self! You should view your coming out, as a Christian who is GLBTQI, as a *spiritual conversion* experience because it is an act that exposes a hidden secret. It is an act that rejects the lie and proclaims the truth, even when that truth is against the norm. It is an act of courage because you have refused to continue to hide what you believe is your true sexual preference, despite the fact that the results may generate negative consequences.

Although you knew that as a believer, who is also GLBTQI, you might be persecuted, hated, and attacked, still you have made the decision to follow Christ. You have refused to remain hidden away in your closet! You have refused to live a phony life – one in front of other believers and another behind closed doors! You have refused to live the double life that many other GLBTQI believers feel obligated to live, in order to be able to participate in the church ministries they've grown to love. Believe me when I say that within the church today there are many pastors, preachers, teachers, and evangelists who are silent about their struggles with sexuality.

I commend those of you who were raised in Christian homes for refusing to dissolve the relationship you have developed with your heavenly Father God. Even as you faced your struggles, as you refused to let go, stubbornly holding onto the mustard seed faith given to you while He was forming you. And believe me, when I say while God was forming you in your mama's womb, *He already knew you would be GLBTQI*. So yes, you are specifically chosen indeed, because you are a believer in Jesus Christ. And who else can God send with His heart of mercy and unconditional love to His rejected and mortally wounded gay children, if not a born again, spirit-filled GLBTQI believer?

**My, Oh My! Is it possible for such
Believers to be Holy Spirit filled?
I Say Yes! Yes! Yes!**

Religious leaders will have to give an account to God, because the primary principle of the church is to love, receive and accept EVERYONE into what God refers to as His house. It is the work of the Holy Spirit, and not the church, to nurture and develop individuals into the image of Christ. In view of the hate and violence perpetrated upon the GLBTQI community by religious institutions throughout history, one wonders why they would even desire to be part of the church of today.

On behalf of organized religious institutions, I wish to express my deepest, heartfelt, sincere apology to you and ask you to forgive our ignorance; believers in Jesus Christ, followers and representatives of God, pastors, preachers, and Sunday school teachers, deacons, staff, and members of the religious body, who may have condemned you, damned you to eternal hell, called you evil, perverted, and accused you of hating God without personally knowing you, the way only God does.

I apologize for those people who have said that the only love you know is lust. I apologize for believers and non-believers alike, who have chosen to disobey the greatest commandment of all – to love you as God does, unconditionally. Yet many believers all around the world ignore this commandment, choosing instead to hate and reject you. My heart especially breaks for those of you who have been condemned to hell, insulted, cast out into the streets from your own home and disowned by your parents or forced to participate in some traumatic therapy or treatment.

Please, please, don't blame or hate God for what ignorant people have done to you.

Whether you came to love Jesus while being raised in a Christian home, or received him as Lord as a teen-ager or adult, be assured you are part of the family of God. You are a born again child of God sealed with His Holy Spirit. Do not allow anyone to rob you of that truth or accuse you of self deception. You have been, **CHOSEN BY GOD FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS**, a time in which the traditional church is saying “NO” you cannot be both gay and Christian.

It is up to you as a believer, who is also gay, to speak up and stand up for what you believe concerning your relationship with God. Why do I say it that way? Why do I call you a believer first and then add the word “gay”? I have noticed that Christians who are gay often identify themselves first as gay (GLBTQI), but this is an identity ERROR for the believer. It is very important for you to identify with who you really are. You are, first and foremost, a chosen child of God, a born again Christian believer who is also GLBTQI.

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you have been *reconciled*, meaning you have been brought back into right relationship with God your Father who is a Holy God. When Jesus took upon himself your sins that kept you separated from God, he became your Savior, your advocate, and your lawyer. And because you accepted him as your Lord, every time you sin or fail God in some way and repent, Jesus goes before his Father on your behalf and the Father must forgive you.

Romans 10:9

**“If we confess our sins he is faithful
and just to forgive us our sins”**

When you accepted Christ, you were at that moment SEALED with the HOLY SPIRIT. In other words, you were branded with God's mark of ownership. You belong to Him. You are now a SON or a DAUGHTER in God's family, and you must believe it, and identify yourself as such.

John 1:12

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become Sons (daughters) of GOD, even to them that believe on His name!”

Now, read this next chapter very slowly and carefully. Believing and receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and becoming a child of God sealed with the Holy Spirit, is what sets you apart from the unbelieving GLBTQI population. Therefore, as a child of God, it is your responsibility to develop a personal relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and that fact is the key. It is a personal relationship between YOU and JESUS that you are to strive for, and no one else should dictate to you how that relationship is to develop. No one should be telling you that you must first do this, and then that, and then the other thing.

It is your pastor's responsibility to preach and teach the GOOD NEWS of salvation, forgiveness, and the example Jesus left us in how to live a life that's pleasing to God. And when your pastor preaches about sexual sin, he should not focus on homosexuality as many preachers do, but should address all sexual sins: adultery, promiscuity, pedophilia, incest, rape, pornography, the solicitation of sex, and prostitution. He should preach against booty calls, and having sex with anyone, anywhere, anytime. He should condemn the practice of seductions with proclamations of love and promises of marriage. He should preach against Christians who use and abuse the innocent to satisfy the lust of the flesh.

He should definitely preach against that age old believer's reasoning, “God knows I have needs”, as an excuse to sleep with every lonely woman or man in the church. He should definitely preach to those self-righteous husbands and fathers in the church, who believe their family is their property to control, use, and abuse anyway they please. It hurts and angers me when a preacher starts preaching on sexual immorality and right away begins by attacking and blaming the homosexual community for the destruction of the world.

Matthew 5:28

“I say unto you, that whoever looks at a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her in his heart.”

The above verse is implying that we sin unconsciously *all the time*. How many preachers fail to teach that sin has already been committed simply by entertaining a lustful thought? When we entertain lustful thoughts, wrong thoughts, or hateful thoughts, *we have already sinned and need to confess and repent. Many times we are unaware that we are sinning.* This is another reason why we so desperately needed freedom from the Law, and God's new perfect plan of salvation.

It is no longer necessary to bring an animal to the temple for the Priest to sacrifice for our sin. It was an Old Testament Law and ritual that did not turn the hearts of sinners to God. That is why God decided to send His only Son Jesus Christ to live as a human being; to demonstrate His awesome love and mercy; to stand in the gap for all humanity; to offer himself as the last, ultimate, sinless sacrifice, Lamb of God; to freely and willingly spill his holy blood for the remission and the forgiveness of our sins, so that ALL who believe and call upon his name might be saved!

Religious educators need to accept the fact that there are heterosexual as well as homosexual Christians, who willfully practice sexual sin, just as there are heterosexuals as well as homosexuals, who live a life of self control and even abstinence. It is important for religious leaders to realize that as divorce among Christian clergy and leadership, and married couples in the church increases (and God hates divorce, *Malachi 2:16*), statistics indicate that many GLBTQI couples are living lives that are committed both to God and to each other even until death.

The religious institutions of today should be embarrassed at the increased failure of marriage within the church, and focus on creating efforts that address that issue instead of trying to control and dictate the love and lives of others. For while the church loudly proclaims that God ordained marriage as a HOLY institution between a man and a women, its loud proclamation is tainted by the continuous sexual scandals involving popular ministers; thus the church has miserably failed in being a Godly example that honors and respects marriage as a holy institution

It is the *Holy Spirit's responsibility to enlighten you to **all truth*** as you prayerfully *commit yourself* to the study of scripture as well as the books written by theologians, medical experts, and scientists on the subject of homosexuality and the church. It is *your responsibility* as a Christian who is GLBTQI to work alongside your teacher the Holy Spirit, and *educate yourself* on what the Bible really has to say about sexuality, marriage, and the meaning of being a follower of Jesus Christ.

GOD ALREADY KNEW

It was the Holy Spirit that drew your heart to God, not to torment you or condemn you, but to mold you and help you to become a true representative of Jesus Christ. It is fundamentally important that you understand, *that God knew before your parents had a clue*, that you were going to be GLBTQI. It does not matter whether chromosomes, hormones, biology, nurturing, environment, abuse and/or trauma, played a role in shaping your present sexual orientation. Whatever contributed to who you are today, *God already knew you were going to be GLBTQI and He also knew that you were going to choose to believe in Him.*

Your calling to follow Christ is essentially the same as that of any heterosexual person responding to God's call to become each day more like his son, Jesus. It is

important for you to designate a place and time to apply yourself to the study of the Word of God, as you pray in faith asking God to enlighten you to what the Word is saying personally to you. You must not just read the Bible like every other ordinary book, but study and research it carefully trusting that His Word will guide you into all truth concerning; who GOD is, who JESUS is, and who YOU really are in Christ.

CHAPTER 3 OTHER SHEEP IN THE BIBLE

Jesus said in John 10:14-16 the following; “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knows me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And ‘Other Sheep I have not of this fold’ them also I must bring, and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” Jesus is saying that, in addition to followers from the chosen nation of Israel, he also has followers from other nations. Jesus says that he knows who those followers are and that they know him. He is going to bring them all together unto himself, creating one fold, one nation, one people of God.

Some of the *Other Sheep* that Jesus is referring to are among the New Testament Gentiles. The Gentiles consisted of *all* the people who were not Jews (Greeks, Romans, Samaritans, Ethiopians, etc.). These people who were not Jews were also labeled by the Nation of Israel as the *cursed*, the *outcast* and the *rejected* of God, and therefore could not participate in worship or benefit from the blessings of Israel’s God. They were excluded people that knew they were considered *unclean dogs*. Nevertheless, when they heard about the mighty works of the God of Israel, they longed to be part of that nation, choosing to believe and follow Israel’s God. They believed in His reality and wanted to follow His laws and honor Him. Therefore, God made a way for the Gentiles of the New Testament to be grafted into His kingdom.

HOW WERE THE GENTILES GRAFTED IN?

Galatians 3:13

“Christ hath redeemed us from the ‘curse’ of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangs on a tree. That the blessings of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

According to Jewish law, anyone who was condemned to die on a cross was considered cursed and forever separated from God. When Jesus was condemned to die a criminal’s death, He became accursed removing the curse of separation off of all the people labeled as cursed and placing it upon himself. By doing this, Jesus made a way for ALL to be grafted into the family of God. Therefore, all those considered to be cursed and rejected of God can now become participants of God’s all encompassing plan of salvation. That includes ALL GLBTQI who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

NEW TESTAMENT CLOSET BELIEVERS

Jesus asked Peter if he loved him. Responding his question, Peter said, “Yes, I love you.” Jesus asks this same question three times causing Peter to become agitated and frustrated. You see, when Jesus revealed to his disciples that he would be arrested and crucified, Peter was shocked and said that he would not allow such a thing to happen and would lay down his life for Jesus if necessary. Jesus, knowing the future, looked into Peter’s eyes and prophesied that before the early morning Rooster begins to crow, Peter would have denied knowing him three times. That is why Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him. Jesus knew it would be beneficial and redemptive for Peter to declare his love and commitment for him three times.

Jesus also said to Peter that, if he loved him, he was to feed his sheep. Jesus was preparing Peter, so that he would not once again run away and hide from the future assignment he was going to receive. Jesus knew that Peter was going to need courage in order to accept his future ministry of taking the Gospel message to the gentile people. In order to fully understand the alienation Gentiles lived under, God prepared Peter for his mission by allowing him to experience the horrible state of separation he suffered after denying Jesus. Peter had to experience the awesome grace and mercy of God’s love through Christ, so that he too would be able to understand and extend that same grace and mercy to the rejected Gentiles who also would come to believe and receive Jesus as Lord and savior.

After Jesus went to be with the Father, Peter soon had a supernatural experience that launched his mission to the rejected Gentile people. In the book of Acts, chapter 10, we find Peter praying on the rooftop of a house and, as he became hungry, he fell into a trance. While in the trance Peter had a vision in which he saw the heavens open and what appeared to be a great sheet coming down to earth. As Peter observed this sheet he saw upon it all types of animals and heard the voice of the Lord say, “Peter rise, kill, and eat.” Surprised by the request Peter replied, “Not so, Lord for I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” And the voice said, “What God has cleansed, call not thou common.”

Soon after Peter’s unusual vision, three men arrived looking for him and the Lord instructs Peter to go with them. The men explain that they were sent by a man named Cornelius, a centurion gentile, who was warned by an Angel to send for Peter in order to hear the Word of God. Let us examine the first words out of Peter’s mouth when he arrived at the home of Cornelius (remember, Gentiles were considered cursed of God.

Peter enters the house and says:

Acts 10:28 - "You know that it is an unlawful thing for a Jew to keep company or even come into another's nation house (Gentile nation) but God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean." Verse-34-35 "Then Peter said of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that fears Him, and works righteousness is accepted with Him."

Essentially, what Peter said to Cornelius was, "You know that as a Jew it is against our Law for me to be in your house or in the same room as you, or even for me to socialize with you. But God has revealed to me that He has no favorites and accepts all kinds of people, who honor and fear Him, and live righteously; and that I should not call anyone who God has cleansed as unclean or unacceptable."

Peter was enlightened and understood that God was now accepting the outcast into His fold. In New Testament times, there were many Gentile '*closet believers*', like Cornelius, who believed in the God of Israel. As a matter of fact, in the Old Testament we find slaves, servants, and handmaidens, who learned about Israel's God and thus became closet believers. They wanted to follow the ways of Israel's God even though they were not allowed to participate in worship or temple rituals. It was simply not permitted or acceptable.

The New Testament closet believers at that time were in the same place as GLBTQI believers in Jesus Christ today. The Gentiles of the N.T were told that they cannot be both Christian and Gentile. GLBTQI believers of today are told the same thing and are the rejected Gentiles of modern times. God revealed to Peter that he *should not call that which God has cleansed, as unclean.*

MODERN DAY "OTHER SHEEP"

The "other sheep" includes all the people that have *freely chosen to believe* in God, in spite of being labeled cursed and rejected by the religious community. Remember, in the New Testament, Jesus died a criminal's death and, according to Hebrew Law, was considered accursed, thus Jesus on the cross removed the curse from all of his **REJECTED OTHER SHEEP**, and placed it upon himself. Consequently, all those previously excluded can now become part of the family of God because Jesus abolished forever the curse of separation. God has removed the barriers of separation and has chosen to cleanse what was considered unclean, accepting all who believe in Him.

God is speaking to believers in Jesus Christ who are GLBTQI, many of whom were raised in the church and at some point began to struggle with questions concerning gender and sexuality; a struggle, which for some led to secrecy, shame and loneliness, and for others, a complete separation from God and the church. Why? Because as one pastor's wife said to me, "We don't talk about that or deal with that in this church."

Because of your Christian beliefs, many of you fought and struggled against your feelings, NOT wanting to be different; knowing that the religious institutions would condemn you, and family and friends may possibly disown you. You may have prayed, fasted, cried and begged God, to make you normal according to the churches definition of normalcy. Some of you have entered intense programs and some have even gone as far as getting married and having children in an attempt to live the church's definition of a "normal life". The end result of such actions are depression, divorce, addictions, self-destructive behavior and, for many, suicide. Many of you, because you loved and needed your church family, felt forced to live a lie. I ask you to take time right now and ponder the following question.

**“Do you really believe God
wants you to live a lie
pretending to be someone
you are not?”**

God wants you to be a person of integrity, honest with yourself, with Him, and with everyone you encounter. Let us be real. There are many Christians, who happen to be homosexual, who are committed to Christ and to their life partner, while there are many heterosexual Christians who are not. There are many homosexual Christians who are not living promiscuously as they search and pray for their life partner, just as there are heterosexuals who do not live that type of life as they also wait for their life partner. It is hurtful to the heart of God that His '**OTHER SHEEP**' feel unwelcome, judged as promiscuous, excluded from certain church ministries and told they cannot be openly gay in their Fathers house.

I believe a personal relationship with Christ is just that, **PERSONAL!** Churches are the houses of God for **ALL** people. The church was established to be a home, a place where God's family can freely come to worship and serve. The church's response to gay couples should be one of love and acceptance, encouraging them to grow in Christ. If there is anything that needs to be addressed in the life, or sexual practices, of a Christian who is GLBTQI, as well as their heterosexual counterparts, it is the sole responsibility of The Holy Spirit to convict. *And it is the conviction of the Holy Spirit that is effective in producing change.* The Bible teaches that if a Christian believes, another believer is in error; they should build them up and **PRAY** for them, not reject, condemn, or judge them.

Matthew 7:1-2
Judge not, that you be not judged.
For the same way you judge others
you too will be judged.

Jesus said, ask, seek and knock, whether gay or straight, everyone, whosoever, comes seeking him will find him. (*Matthew 7:7*) The church should not shut the door on

the gay person or couple, before they have a chance to build a personal relationship with Jesus, by telling them they cannot be both Christian and gay. Jesus said, “Whosoever confesses me before men I will confess him before my Father”. (*Matthew 10:32*) Jesus is saying that if you are not ashamed to publicly say that you believe in him, he will declare you his follower before his Father.

John 16:13

**“When he, the Spirit of truth comes,
he will guide you into all truth.”**

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth that will enlighten you, and begin your spiritual journey according to God’s personal plan for your life. I believe that Christians who are GLBTQI are the other Gentile sheep Jesus spoke about in John 10:16 and 11:52. He said he would gather his sheep from the nation of Israel, and also gather his **‘OTHER SHEEP’** scattered abroad uniting them both as one nation. Who has the right to minimize or dismiss a GLBTQI Christian’s claim that they have been touched, enlightened and called by God into His service? Can anyone rightly judge such a claim?

The Bible warns each of us to fearfully focus and work on our own walk and relationship with God. “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” (*Philippians 2:12*) Each individual who claims they have been touched and called by God must begin an individual adventure of learning who their heavenly Father truly is. As you study the Bible it is important that *you respond to the corrections, instructions, convictions and revelations you receive from the Holy Spirit.*

As a follower of Jesus Christ, you must study God’s Word seriously, and *expect to receive truth* and revelation as it relates to your personal life and walk with Christ. God deeply desires a personal relationship with you. Your walk is between you and God. Although the Holy Spirit is the main guiding force in your life as a Christian, God will use other methods, such as your Pastor, bible school teacher, brothers and sisters in Christ, books, seminars and even dreams to teach and guide you. But it is the WORD of God and the HOLY SPIRIT that will bring deep conviction and divine revelation into your personal walk with Christ.

If you claim to have heard the call of God and have responded to that call by accepting Jesus as your Savior, then who has the right to challenge you and say you did not? Who in the church has the right to call you a liar? And who but the Holy Spirit has the authority to dictate to you how your personal relationship with God is to be formed. Religious communities need to understand that people cannot be judged by their outward appearance or for any other reasons.

There are many people who have the mannerism of the opposite sex that are not homosexual, yet are judged and condemned! As long as one is not openly homosexual nor fit the stereotypical description of a GLBTQI individual, they will be safe and respected in

the house of God. But if you claim you are, or if you are unable to hide it, or refuse to hide it, and want to be baptized and become a member of the church, there will be a huge problem. The leadership will most likely challenge you, and your acceptance of Christ may be questioned. Your personal life may be invaded and sensitive information expected to be revealed. Again, I stress it is the work of the Holy Spirit to enlighten *every believer on issues* they need to work on.

With a sorrowful heart, I caution all believers who are GLBTQI, to keep your true identity between you and God and other believers who are committed in supporting your walk. You can openly be who you are in the Lord, when you believe you are strong and ready to face opposition, until then be cautious. Better yet, seek out a church that is ‘Open and Affirming’, that accepts believers who are GLBTQI, where you will be welcomed, accepted, and free to serve God. Just go online and do a search in your city for “Open and Affirming or Welcoming churches.

CHAPTER 4 CHOSEN AND ORDAINED

Religious institutions are guilty of ignorantly rejecting and excluding GLBTQI believers that dare to begin their walk with God in complete honesty. Religious institutions have failed to understand what occurred in Acts 15 and what the outcome was. Certain Jewish believers were teaching the new Gentiles believers that they needed to be circumcised after the Law of Moses in order to be saved. Because of this, a dispute began and a hearing was conducted among the church leadership.

Acts 15:5-11

“⁵But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, that it was needful to circumcise them [Gentiles] to keep the Law of Moses. ⁶And the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. ⁷And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, “Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the Word of the gospel, and believe. ⁸And God, which knows the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as he did unto us; ⁹And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. ¹⁰Now therefore, why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the [Gentile] disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? ¹¹But we believe that through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.”

Peter is saying that the O.T rules and restrictions that their own fathers were unable to keep should not be required of the new Gentile believers. The Jewish believers wanted the Gentile believers to observe their laws, thus crushing their faith. Likewise, the church of today should not crush the faith of GLBTQI believers with an immediate call to work on changing and becoming what they interpret as a normal Christian. This can be devastating, humiliating, and emotionally harmful to the GLBTQI persons psyche and to their newfound faith. Such actions have destroyed the faith and the lives of many of God’s chosen GLBTI children. My heart breaks for them, and if my heart breaks as another human, how much more does God’s heart break for His created and rejected children.

What I want you to grasp is what Acts 15 verses 8 and 9 is saying about these Gentile believers, or in others words, what it is saying about **YOU**. It says that God knows your heart and sees no difference between heterosexual or GLBTQI believers in Jesus Christ. It is saying that it is by your faith in Jesus Christ that God has purified your heart! In the Old Testament books of Deuteronomy 23, and Leviticus 21, we find another group of people considered **CURSED** and **CUT OFF** who were also excluded from the promises of God. They were people who were not allowed to worship or bring an offering into the temple.

WHO WERE THOSE PEOPLE AND WHY WERE THEY EXCLUDED?

The people that were excluded consisted of people who had some sort of defect or imperfection from birth or an accident: women who were barren, men who were impotent, those born of incest or rape, those born without sexual organs or who had them removed (the Eunuch), those born through adultery, foreigners, strangers, and all Gentiles, non-Hebrews; these are also THE OTHER SHEEP referred to by Jesus.

GOD PROMISED ALL THOSE PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THAT WERE CONSIDERED THE OUTCAST OF ISRAEL, THE CURSED -- THE UNWANTED -- THE UNLOVELY THE REJECTED, WHO CHOSE TO BELIEVE IN HIM A FUTURE PROMISE FOUND IN ISAIAH 56

Isaiah 56: “³Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the Lord, speak, saying, The Lord hath utterly separated me from his people; neither let the Eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. ⁴For thus sayeth the Lord unto the eunuchs that keep my Sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant: ⁵Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. ⁶Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, and everyone that keeps the Sabbath from polluting it, and take hold of my covenant ⁷Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall I accept upon mine altar, for my house shall be called a house for all people. ⁸The Lord which gathers the outcast of Israel says yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.”

God is speaking to Hebrew and non-Hebrew people that were imperfect and excluded the outcast, the misfits, the strangers, and all the rejected people who freely choose to follow His ways. And God is saying if you have accepted me, I accept you into my family! And how did God make a way for the people that were excluded from His family? As I said before, Jesus had to become as one of them, cut off, rejected, and CURSED, in order to remove the curse of separation from all those wishing, hoping, praying and waiting to become part of the family of God! Isaiah 53 tells us how God would fulfill His promise through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

PRAISE GOD OUR FATHER!

JESUS HAD TO BECOME AS ONE OF US - CURSED

Isaiah 53 – “Jesus was despised – rejected – stricken – smitten of God – afflicted – wounded for our transgressions – bruised for our iniquities – the chastisement of our peace was upon him – he was oppressed – slaughtered – judged and imprisoned – cut off out of the land of the living.”

That’s right! Just as Isaiah prophesied in chapter 53, Jesus was - CUT OFF - and became accursed for all those who were cursed, considered unclean, imperfect, blemished, condemned and separated from the love of God in the Old Testament and the New Testament! Now ANYONE who was once rejected can become part of God’s family. Not only can they be part of the family of God they will also hold a special place in the family of God.

Did you capture what Isaiah 56 above is saying? If not, go back and read it again and again, slowly, and get ready for what I am about to help you see, if you missed it in verse 5 of Isaiah 56! God is saying that those who have chosen Him in spite of being rejected ARE BETTER THAN SONS AND DAUGHTERS! Did you catch that? This means that YOU, His ‘Other Sheep’ - GLBTQI believer, because you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior;

**YOU ARE BETTER THAN A SON OR A DAUGHTER!
AND HE WILL GIVE YOU
A BETTER NAME AN ETERNAL NAME
AND A SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS KINGDOM!**

Oh, I hope and pray you are getting this! I know this will be difficult for you to believe, but God is actually saying that because YOU cling to Him, in spite of being told time and time again that God does not want you in His family, that you cannot be a child of God, and that you cannot possibly be chosen of God; YOU have won His heart! YOU ARE better than a Son or Daughter! And because YOU stubbornly chose to continue loving Him in the midst of persecution, He has promised to give YOU an ETERNAL NAME AND A SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS KINGDOM! HALLELUJAH!

YOU WERE

**the modern day Gentile,
you were the rejected,
you were deemed the outcast of God’s church family, but**

NOW YOU ARE

**better than Sons and Daughters
and God has given to YOU a better name
an eternal name and a special place in His kingdom!**

*Believe it! Receive it!
Live and rejoice!*

CHOSEN

Let us take a closer look at what it means to be chosen and ordained of God.

CHOSEN - (Webster's definition) – Selected or marked for favor or special privilege – one who is the object of choice or divine favor; an elect person.

ORDAIN – To put in order; appoint, to invest officially as in the laying on of hands with ministerial priestly authority. To establish or order by appointment, degree or law!

CHOSEN AND ORDAINED

Yes! I believe YOU were selected and appointed, to receive divine favor! I believe that God is calling YOU to become part of His chosen army! Let us examine the calling and appointment of a young Hebrew girl named Esther.

Esther 4:14

**“Who knows whether you have come
into the kingdom of God
for such a time as this?”**

I call you chosen because I believe that you have been chosen for such a time as this! Let me tell you about Esther, a young beautiful Jewish girl snatched away from her family along with many other girls, by order of the King in search of a new Queen. God had a plan for Esther that she could never have imagined. It was God's will and plan for the King to choose Esther. Part of that plan included the emotional pain and suffering of being removed from her familiar culture, environment, family, friends, and losing her freedom.

Young Esther was going to be God's perfect instrument to stand before the King to ask him to intervene in saving her Jewish people from certain genocide. (Read the whole story in Esther Chapters 1–4.) She was born and chosen for that particular time in Jewish history. She was going to be God's instrument in saving the Jewish people from slaughter. Just as Esther was chosen, I believe YOU are chosen because you are a born again GLBTQI believer who loves God. I say that makes you pretty special.

It is difficult enough to come out of the closet and expose yourself as a GLBTQI person, however, it is monumental and courageous when you also claim to be a born again believer. God has chosen you for such a time as this, and He wants to prepare you for the assignment you were born to fulfill. When Jesus went to be with his Father, he said he would send the comforter who would guide all believers into all truth.

John 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you ALL things, and bring ALL things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said.”

You must believe this promise, and you must expect the Holy Spirit to do his job in guiding you into all truth. It is your responsibility to respond to the convictions of the Holy Spirit, and to work on any issue he brings to light, without fear, without self-condemnation and without a timeline. It is important for you to understand, that on this road of becoming more like Christ, you will make mistakes, but you must press on and never give up on yourself, because God will never give up on you.

Philippians 1:6

“Being confident of this very thing, that He which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

You must believe that God is able to finish what He has begun in you. He is the Potter and you are the clay, on the wonderful spiritual journey of discovering that nothing about your life is a mistake, NOTHING! Your Heavenly Father God, the master at molding your life into one that will glorify the name of Jesus, will use everything you have experienced in your life to bring Him and the Kingdom of heaven glory! Your tears and sufferings are not in vain! You must believe that and live by faith.

Learn to accept and confront your faults; confess, repent and forgive yourself when in weakness and temptation you give into your sins, and then believe you are forgiven. It is important that you do not believe Satan’s lies, but trust that God will raise you up and continue His work in molding you into the image of Christ. Memorize the following verse:

2 Timothy 1:12

“For I know in whom I have believed and am persuaded that HE IS ABLE to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

Like the Christian heterosexual, God called you to live a moral, honest, and humble life. You must guard against taking advantage of His wonderful grace. “For by grace are ye saved and not of works” (Ephesians 2:8). Salvation is a free gift to you from your Father God. You cannot ever earn salvation; it is by grace which means it is a free gift.

Therefore, your life should reflect how grateful you are to God for salvation and His unconditional love for you. We are all a work in progress, growing, learning, tried and tested as God molds us into the image of Christ. Remember, He is able to finish what He has begun in you, 'if you abide' (dwell, remain a disciple) in Christ and never lose faith.

1Corinthians 3:16

**“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”**

It is important that you are convinced that you belong to God and that He is able to keep His hold on you. Remember, when you accepted Jesus, he entered your heart through the Holy Spirit that now dwells in you. Therefore, your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit; respect it and don't abuse it with unhealthy thoughts, behaviors, relationships and chemicals such as alcohol or drugs that can cause addictions, illness and diseases. Booty calls and one-night stands have absolutely nothing to do with love or building a healthy relationship. It is important to your spiritual health to be persistent in your pursuit of a life free of unhealthy desires of the flesh and or obsessions.

Obsessions and addictions come in many forms. In all outward appearances, some addictions may seem normal, such as overworking or excessive exercising. Understand, that whatever captures you – whatever controls you – whatever takes your attention away from your relationship with God, and the work He is doing in you, becomes an idol in your heart. Let me make it clear that although God forgives you of your sins when you confess them, there may be long-term, unfortunate consequences. An example would be driving under the influence and getting into an accident, causing death, resulting in imprisonment. God will definitely forgive you but the law will not.

CHAPTER 5 CROW AND GLOW

You must learn to MASTER and CONTROL your physical body, thoughts and human desires and do not allow yourself to become its slave. God calls His children to be honest, sincere people, kind, gentle, humble, generous, serving the needs of others, spreading love, joy, peace, justice and equality. He calls us to be encouragers by lifting up the broken hearted, bringing hope to the hopeless, peace to the depressed mind, food to the hungry, clothes to the naked, and companionship to the lonely. You must take into consideration the needs and expectations of others, and not toy with emotions that may be fragile or use people for selfish gain. Seek to develop friendships and relationships with other believers.

In seeking a life partner, you should focus on a believer, who is committed to your spiritual and emotional health in order to be a blessing and not a hindrance in your relationship with God. You and your companion should desire to build each other up and inspire each other to grow in Christ. When you first meet a new person, your first thoughts should not be on how soon you will have sex, but on building a friendship in which you learn about each other. Your relationships must be based on love that promotes health and spiritual growth. You should ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in all of your relationships as you prayerfully search for your lifelong companion. The Bible warns us not to become one with an unbeliever.

2 Corinthians 6:14

“Be ye not unequally ‘YOKED’ together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”

Having an unsaved person as a companion can jeopardize your relationship with Christ because their interest will conflict with your goal to live for Christ. God has called YOU! And because He has called YOU, it is possible for YOU to be a born again, spirit-filled Christian who is also GLBTQI, living a life of integrity, and bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit with the manifestations of the gifts operating through YOU!

So YES! I believe that, just as Esther was chosen, you as a believer who is also GLBTQI are also chosen, called, and ordained by God for such a time as this; to become a voice and a representative of God to all your GLBTQI friends. They too need to know that God loves them. He always has, and longs and hungers to have a relationship with them. They need to know that they, like you, can also be chosen to become part of God’s army that will usher in the kingdom of heaven and the coming of Jesus Christ.

This may surprise you, but I have come to believe that GLBTQI people have been chosen of God to test the church, to see if those who call themselves followers of Jesus

Christ can love all people unconditionally even as He does. Truly the prophet Hosea was right when writing the following verse, “For my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). Unfortunately, religious institutions are filled with people who blindly receive and believe whatever is taught, accepting the preacher/teachers interpretation as truth. The Apostle Paul tells us that in order to be an EXCELLENT student of the Word of God; we must practice the study style of the Berea community.

Acts 17:11

“These were nobler than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

After Paul was done teaching the Word of God, the Berea people went home and compared their notes to the Old Testament, to make sure that what Paul was teaching agreed with the scriptures. People, who wish to fully understand the Bible and its teachings, must study each book relative to the history, culture, language, ethics and laws of the era in which it was written.

One must also enter into this process of study in prayer asking for the revelation of the Holy Spirit. It is every Christian’s responsibility to study the Word and not believe everything they are taught as truth. Jesus said that Satan blinds the minds of people so that they do not understand. But He also said that it would be the Holy Spirit that would bring us into all truth by opening up our spiritual eyes and giving us a mind that can understand the Word of God.

John 14:26

**“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost,
whom my Father will send in my name,
He will teach you all things.”**

Churches are filled with Christians who are too lazy to read the Bible at home, much less commit to a serious study of it. Many barely remember what was taught after Sunday service lets out. What is the price of this ignorance? The price is the blood of innocent wounded GLBTQI sons and daughters of God who have ended their lives believing themselves to be dirty, evil, and condemned already by man and God.

Many of God’s special sons and daughters have been beaten, tortured, permanently maimed or murdered by fanatics claiming to be doing the will of God, totally disregarding His law that condemns acts of abuse, violence and murder. Much of this hostile attitude is due to the teaching and preaching that accuses the homosexual community of destroying the world. There are all types of people in our world, consider if you will people who are known as Androgynous. They are people whose features may be described as neither male nor female. Reflecting on this fact, how would it be possible for any pastor or church official to look at such a person and say to them, “you are really a male, therefore you must live as a male and marry a female,” and vice-versa? Can anyone judge correctly a

person who is intersex, which is someone who is at some level biologically and physically both male and female?

Is it right for religious institutions to require Christians who are Androgynous, Intersex or GLBQT, to live a lonely celibate life without intimacy, because of who they are? That is a request only God could ask of His servant. What is to be of the transsexual person, who hears the message of salvation and receives Jesus as Lord? Is that person going to be told they must reverse their transformation? Again, a request only God could ask of His servants and I doubt that He would make such a request. Nevertheless, let God be the miracle worker He is!

YOU NEED HEALING AND FREEDOM

I NEEDED HEALING AND FREEDOM A LITTLE OF MY STORY

When I was a little girl my idols were Superman, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. I loved Dale Evans's cool Cowgirl outfit, her matching skirt and vest, her boots with spurs, her hat, and even the rope, but I especially loved her holster which held a gun on each side. So I am sure you can imagine how thrilled I was when I got her entire outfit as a Christmas gift from my parents. Before you knew it, I could manipulate the rope to do cycles and easily lasso and catch my siblings. I also mastered spinning a gun in each hand at the same time and placing them back into their holster just like Roy.

I was also a huge fan of Superman because he was strong and powerful and could break through barriers, see through walls and bend steel with his bare hands. I wanted to be so much like him that I had my mom cut my hair really short so I could slick it back and create that Superman curl on my forehead, just like his. I hated dolls and girly toys and envied my brothers who always got cool toys like machine guns and tanker trucks.

It was because I wanted so much to be a boy that prompted the sexual abuse I suffered as a child. My father had been my abuser and in my adult years I confronted my father and demanded he confess and tell my mother the truth. And although he minimized everything, he did confess, repent and asked both my mother and I for forgiveness. It was after my father's death that my mother told he had explained to her his inappropriate behavior towards me. According to his sick mind, it was because I was a Tomboy and he feared I would be gay, and thought it a good idea to introduce me to what he referred to as harmless sex play.

The abuse started when I was six and continued until I was 12, and although there were many clues throughout the years, till this day my mother still claims she was

unaware. Like many mothers confronted with such a horrible thing, my mom chose to remain deaf and dumb and live in denial. As a consequence, I did learn to enjoy sex with a male, however, the abuse created emotional and mental health issues, such as severe depression, suicidal ideations, addictions, anger, resentment and hatred towards the male sex.

At sixteen, I got pregnant and used that as a way to get married and away from my father who still pursued me at every opportunity. During my married years, I suffered mental, physical, verbal, and sexual abuse, which began my need to self-medicate with drugs and alcohol. I always believed my husband was the cause of my addictions, so when he died in 89 due to his own addiction to Heroin, I thought my own problems with addiction would end; they did not. I continued abusing my own drug of choice, alcohol, and began drinking on the job. Soon The Holy Spirit began to speak to my heart causing me to realize that I needed healing from sexual abuse and trauma. Although I resisted and fought against the Holy Spirit's lead, I became so depressed that I finally gave in and submitted. I spoke to a drug counselor at my place of employment and she prepared all the paperwork and sent me to a 21-day inpatient treatment facility for female survivors with a dual diagnosis of sexual abuse and addictions.

It was during the 21-day inpatient treatment that I was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder and suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, (P.T.S.D) due to the many years of sexual abuse. It was an excellent, but very emotionally-painful, intensive program, where I came to understand the trauma and long-term, negative effects caused by sexual abuse. After completing the 21-days of inpatient treatment, I had to go to AA's 12 Step meetings and find a counselor for one-on-one, follow-up treatment. It was during the year of one-on-one counseling that I began to develop a stronger hatred towards every male and struggled with a strong pull toward the same sex, questioning whether I was a closet Lesbian.

Although I felt an attraction to the same sex, I never felt that I could enjoy having sex with a female, so I tried dating a few men who claimed to be Christians but was left disillusioned. And because I didn't want any man telling me how to raise my 4 children (16, 14, 13 and 8), I decided to commit my life to serving God and raising my children alone. Because I chose to remain alone, I entered into fasting and prayer asking God to bless me with the gift of celibacy and He has graciously answered that prayer.

So, what I am saying is that in my personal case, because of my disillusion with the male sex, and because I was struggling with a strong pull toward the same sex, I could have chosen to explore and begin having sexual relationships with the same sex, and could have decided that being with a female was better than being with a male. So in many cases such as in mine, people who have suffered traumatic experiences with the opposite sex do choose to have a relationship with the same sex.

My dear child of God, if you want to live the full, abundant life of freedom and peace that God offers you, it is necessary for you to allow Him to completely heal you of any trauma you may have suffered throughout your life. I can tell you that today, I live in such a peace that I could never have imagined, and my life is full, happy and free in Christ. As I said in chapter two, it does not matter what contributed to who you are today; however, it is your heavenly Father's desire and intention to completely heal you of any negative, hurtful or traumatic experiences you have suffered.

Please understand that I am not saying that the therapy and healing you need is so that you can become heterosexual; I am saying that it is God's desire that all His children be healed. Therefore, it is vital at this point for you to enter into God's healing process and examine the following questions and answer them honestly. So get yourself a journal or notebook and write down each of the following questions and answer them to the best of your ability. Writing is a wonderful healing tool, so write as much as you like. Your answers are private and only for your healing benefit.

YOU'RE HEALING PROCESS BEGINS RIGHT NOW!

- 1) When did you first become aware of your assigned gender role? i.e. (the gender that society declares that you are)
- 2) Were you comfortable and accepting of your assigned gender role? If no explain.
- 3) If you answered yes - 'you were comfortable with your assigned gender' - then explain when you started to become uncomfortable?
- 4) When did you first become attracted to the same sex and what were the circumstances?
- 5) When do you believe you became aware of a sexual identity struggle?
- 6) Were you raised in a religious environment? If yes, what was the response to your struggle?
- 7) Were your parents, siblings, and/or friends aware and supportive of your struggle? Explain.
- 8) Were you threatened verbally or attacked physically because of your struggle? If yes, tell your story.
- 9) Were you sent into a special recovery group by church leaders or counseling, reparative therapy or to a psychiatrist? If yes explain.
- 10) Were you exposed or introduced to sex, pornography or anything related to sex at an early age, if yes, how old were you and what were the circumstances?

- 11) Have you suffered sexual abuse of any kind? Incest – rape – forced prostitution? If yes at what age and what were the circumstances?
- 12) If you suffered any type of sexual abuse, how did it affect you? Some people become disgusted with sex altogether, others become promiscuous – others become frigid or become unresponsive towards sex and expressions of love.
- 13) According to the questions you have answered, do you believe you were born gay or do you believe that early introduction to sex or past trauma may have played a role in your sexual orientation?

If some of your answers to the questions above were ‘yes’ – ‘maybe’ – or ‘I don’t remember’, or if you came to the conclusion that past sexual experiences or trauma have contributed to your rejection or repulsion of the opposite sex; then you need God’s healing, Christian counseling and therapy that will set you free of your past and heal you inwardly. (Get my booklet – *Understanding & Overcoming Sexual Abuse*) Again, I stress that I am not talking about becoming heterosexual; I am talking about inner healing that you need, and that God wants you to have.

On the other hand, if you believe you were born gay and have not chosen your present orientation due to trauma or abuse, than you must believe that God accepts you as He created you to be. Nevertheless, if you have suffered any type of trauma God wants to heal you. I know that many of you have been deeply wounded and scarred by family, friends, strangers and especially the church. And no one knows more than God how hurt and wounded you are. Believe me when I say, as you were reading this book, God’s healing process has already begun to work in you. This is only the beginning. It is important for you to seek the Holy Spirit who will guide you into God’s plan and purpose for your life.

In conclusion, my dear GLBTQI daughter or son reading this book; God, your heavenly Father loves you! I reiterate that I believe YOU were chosen for such a time as this. And if you are someone who does not know God, or someone who has kept your distance from Him because you were told that He has condemned you, I encourage you to trust Him, believe in Him and get ready for the greatest adventure of your spiritual life! And if you already know and love Him, continue to hang onto Him no matter what people say. Do not doubt any longer that you are part of His family. God has provided a way for YOU to be included into His family. Jesus died and took upon himself the curse of separation that was between you and God, removing it forever. Now you are accepted together with the Gentiles, Sumerians, Ethiopians, Greeks, Romans, Eunuchs and ALL who were considered cut off, imperfect, outcast and cursed. All are now included because JESUS became accursed for all those rejected by the law and the church.

So I encourage you with all my heart, to grow and glow, to share and sing, to dance and worship Him, as you take the Good News to your GLBTQI friends and relatives, guiding them into the waiting arms of our heavenly Father. I encourage you to seek first the kingdom of heaven and a personal encounter with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. I promise you that once you have a personal encounter, and experience the touch of the Holy Spirit, (and I hope this book inspired one) the only thing your heart will focus on is loving and living for GOD! So dear reader, if you know any of God's Other Sheep that have been wounded and need to hear the words in this book, please pass it on to them so that they too may be healed and free to serve our awesome heavenly Father God and savior Jesus Christ!

My blessings and love Jen

*

***A LOVE LETTER FROM THE HEART OF YOUR
FATHER GOD TO YOU***

**At last I have found you.
Oh how I have waited patiently for you
At last I have your attention
my love, my child
Now hear my words,
I love you, I love you!
You have been told that I hate you
and wish you dead
Oh how my heart broke with yours
when you heard those words
My hands caught your every tear
And now that I have you
I will never let you go
I will heal your wounds
I will gather the broken pieces
I will hold you,
comfort you,
and tell you
of my great love
for you,
yes, for you
my child!*

*Love you forever
Your heavenly Father
God**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1- Homosexuality in the Church – both sides of the debate’ by Jeffrey S. Siker editor – 13 contributors from a variety of authorities on scriptures.
- 2- Homosexuality The Questions - Joseph A. Dilenno, M.D & Herbert F. Smith, S.J
- 3- What the Bible really Says About Homosexuality – Daniel A. Helminiak, PhD
- 4- Same-Sex Unions in Pre-modern Europe – John Boswell
- 5- Adam’s Gift – A memoir of a Pastor’s calling to defy the churches persecution of Lesbians & Gays
- 6- A History of Women – from Ancient Goddesses to Christian Saint

RESEARCH PAPERS ESSAYS

www.zuberfowler.com/seeking.html

www.mccchurch.org/am/template.cfm?

www.isna.org/fag/marriage

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/intersex>

www.rayofhopechurch.com

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eunuch>

www.iglhrc.org/site/iglhrc/section.php?id=85

www.forplu.com/

ANSWERS BY RABBI'S

<http://home.earthlink.net/ecorebbe/id18.html>

Rabbi Steinberg-Caudill

Rabbi Jacob Milgrom

Rabbi Gershon Winkler

Rabbi Michael Lerner

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

'Amazing Grace' – by Malcolm Boyd and Nancy Wilson – stories of Lesbian faith

'God's Gay Tribe' – by M. R. Ritley

'Stranger at the Gate' –
'Wrestling with Angels' – by Mel White

'Tribe' – by Wayne Eley

WEBSITES

<https://ChristianGays.com>

<http://GayChristians.ca>

<http://RainbowChristian.com/>

<http://www.uumc.org/>

<http://www.GayChristian101.com>

<http://ucccoalition.org/>

<http://Soulforce.com/>

<http://www.BeyondExgay.com/>

<http://Whosoever.org/>

To invite Jenny to speak or minister or if you have questions or comments send an email to: terrerojenny@yahoo.com

Jenny gives many of her books away without charge to persons incarcerated and would be blessed by any size donation to help her continue to be a blessing to others. You can donate on my paypal or send check or money order to:

Freedom Publications/Rev. Jenny Terrero
460 N. Franklin Street,
Suite # 520 Syracuse NY 13204