

Unconditional Love, Here and Above

By Flo Hubbs, director of PFOX

At Easter, we celebrate not only Jesus' resurrection but also His unconditional love.

We are thankful that He is risen! In doing so, He offers us eternal life in Him. Accepting His forgiveness, we walk in a closer relationship with God, looking to an eventual reunion in Heaven.

Yet, many believing parents also are grieving over children and other loved ones' embrace of an identity and behavior at odds with God's natural creation of male and female.

Some of the emotions and reactions that parents may experience are denial, anger, bargaining with God, bargaining with the loved one, depression, and shame. Common questions are: Who is to blame? What went wrong? Why has this happened to our family? What do we do now?

When parents first hear the news about their child embracing an LGBT+ identity, they find it hard to surrender their child to God. Parents naturally want to steer their children away from what is harmful and toward a healthy sexual identity. But, as hard as it is, parents might want to ask themselves this question: What things do we have a difficult time letting go?

God has unconditional love for each of us and loves each child more than any human parent can. It might be time to lay down your dreams and expectations for your child and let God work His will.



This doesn't mean doing nothing. Prayer is paramount. You can also write your child a love letter, stating five or more things you love about him or her. This will help show your unconditional love. It may be tough sledding to keep the communication lines open and flowing but remember: God can use even sorrow and suffering as a pathway to peace with Him.

As a parent facing what has happened, it is better to ask, "What now Lord?" rather than "Why me Lord?" Allow God to move in you with His unconditional love.

During a Support Group meeting a while back, a stepfather made this comment: "My father-in-law said, 'it would be hard to let that boy put his feet under the same table as me!'"

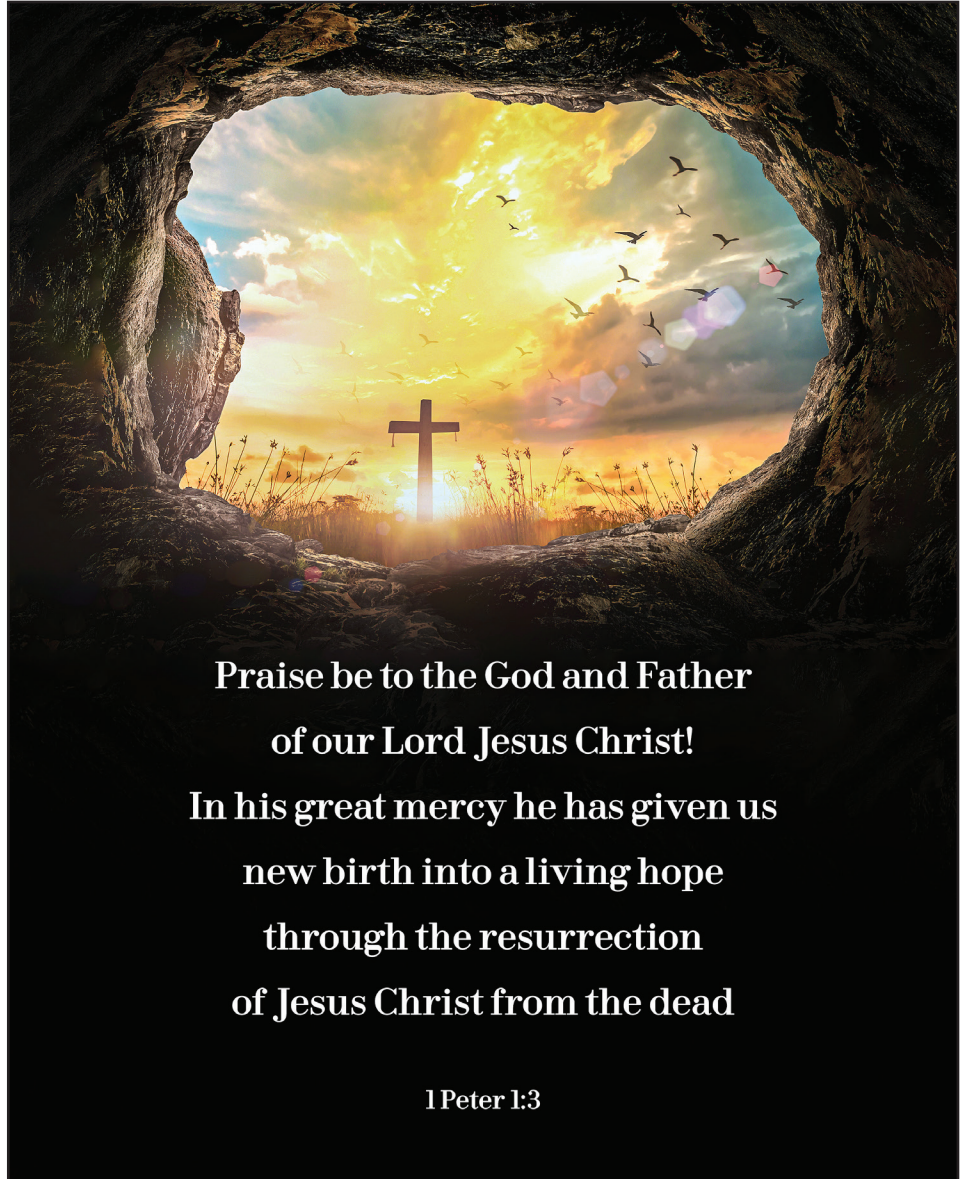
The stepfather replied, “He and his partner are welcome to eat with us. They have come to respect our boundaries. We respect and understand that we cannot control his decisions. God wants us to show His love!” The parents had discussed public displays of affection with the son as well as their daughter and the guidelines were the same.

In some families, separation has grown as the adult child issues an ultimatum, such as, “Don’t tell us how to live. Accept me and my partner!” The deep grief and heartbreak that these parents feel is real. But God’s unconditional love can heal their wounds. As denial and grief is shared with a trustworthy support group, healing through Christ begins. The PFOX Board is praying that your church body will be a place filled with God’s grace and people who can come alongside, listen and pray for your family.

Many parents in the Support Group have shared as they grow in their relationship with God. They are able to keep communications open with their adult child and his or her partner without betraying their biblical values. It helps to begin in prayer.

In some cases, the children’s same-sex relationships have been long-term. Some same-sex couples even have become parents. Now, the grandparents, with God’s love, are able to show unconditional love toward the grandchildren. One mother explained, “I heard God say, ‘this baby needs to know about My Love!’” She later shared how her granddaughter has learned to pray and loves the song, “Jesus Loves Me.”

When I was in an unhealthy lifestyle, my own mother allowed me to bring my partner home for the holidays. At her church, the gossips would whisper, “I can’t believe she lets those two come to her home.” I often look back at that and recall that Jesus Christ ate with sinners.



**Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us
new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead**

1 Peter 1:3

It didn’t mean that he agreed with *what* they were doing. His unconditional love helped me to repent and want to be in a relationship with Him. Later in life, I apologized to my mom for dragging her through the pit. Her response was unconditional love. She said: “A mother loves her child!”

May God’s unconditional love fill you this Easter with joy and hope.

PFOX would like to help you develop a Support Group in your area. If you’re interested in Zoom training to become a Support Leader, please contact us at info@pfox.org.

Thanks for all your prayers and ongoing support of PFOX.

May God bless you,

Flo

Family & Friends Prayer List | Joel, Lance, Mary Beth, Tom, Sean, Stan, Christopher, Lucas, Beth, Elaine, Joshua, Benjamin, Hampton, Cheryl, Stacy, Carol, Mattie, Nicole, David, Bob, Rose, Steve, Ronald, James, Madeline, Jesus, Rick, Gary, April, Maureen, Jen, Michael, Eric, Allen, Sara, Damon, Sam, Matthew, Deborah, Corey, James, Jeffery, Melanie, Stan, Brooke, Lisa, Emily, Tyler, Jim, Chad, Brett, Charles, Brian, Jerome, Pamela, Kelly, Tim, Roger, Gaetano, Christian, Judy, Michael, Monte, Gary, Karen, Hillary, Stephan, Brooke, Terri, Elise, Joseph, Vickie, Tricia, Paul, Bobby, Sandy, Brian, Larry, Alan, Christian Tom, Delores, Mark, Tara, Angela, Jessica, Dawn, Alicia, Jason, Frank, Paul, Edward, Maria, Mario, Michelle, Connor, Angela, Carl Jr., Marcus, Brandon, Gaylon, Edmond, Keshia, Shannon, Paige, Melissa, Donny, William, Wendall, Leno, Mandy, Andy, E., Erik, Lauren, Chris, Todd, Jayson, Carl III, Steve, Zachary, Kelly, Toby, Cody, Dylan, Wayne, Tom, Jeff, Walt, Cayce, Tim, David, Charles, Edward, Matt, Marc, Heather, Gary, Bill, John, Jeremy, Jen R, Cindy, Karen, Brian, Shellee, Pattie, Emily, Carrie, Alicia, Michelle, Bruce, Rebecca, Suhmin, Phil, Bryce, Ethan, Doug, Tom, Nick, Harold, Kent, Glenn, Rob and Heath, Angela, Julia, Wess, Christine, Catherine, Jeremy, Katie, David, Troy, Mike, Lisa, Bruce, James, Mary, Samantha, Victoria and Buddy, Christopher A., Jeramie C., Adam C., Christopher K., Perry N., Eric, Missy, Nathan, Michelle, Joe and Idario, Miranda Marie, Sarah, Seth and Rob, Kent, Tim.