

A Fresh Look at God's Infinite Compassion

By Flo Hubbs,
Director of PFOX

As September ushers us into fall, the cooler air and falling leaves beckon us to ponder things in a different way. Several years ago, someone sent us this little story. I think it speaks volumes about the heart of God:

A homosexual fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out. A pharisaic fundamentalist came along and said, "You deserve your pit."

A psychologist came along and said, "Accept your pit. That way you'll be happy."

An apostate liberal came along and said, "Your pit is God's beautiful gift to you."

A gay activist came along and said, "Fight for your right to stay in your pit."

A researcher came along and said, "Discrimination against pits is illegal."

A charismatic came along and said, "Just confess that you're not in that pit."

Respectable people came along and said, "We don't associate with pit-dwellers."

His mother came along and said, "It's your father's fault you're in that pit."

His father came along and said, "It's your mother's fault you're in that pit."

His wife came along and said, "It's all my fault you're in that pit."

But Jesus, seeing the man, loved him, and reaching into the pit, put his arms around the man and pulled him out.

—Author Unknown

The title is: "Love accepts a person



at face value for who they are no matter what they may do."

That's so true.

Unconditional Love

Jesus doesn't ask us how we got into the pit (whatever our pit of sin is), or what mistakes we made to trip and fall into it. Jesus simply reaches down and pulls us out. Jesus shows us what unconditional love really means.

In John 4, Jesus meets the woman at the well. He acknowledges that the

woman is not married, had several husbands and is in fact living with a man. Jesus in no way conveys approval or indifference. Instead, He speaks unconditional love and truth into her life. This sets her free from her feelings of being unlovable and rejected. She is so excited that she rushes to tell others.

Christian parents struggle in knowing exactly how to treat their child caught up in homosexuality, transgenderism or some other sexual sin. They want to continue to show love,

but don't want to appear to approve of their child's behavior. It can be tricky.

Acceptance and approval are quite different. Acceptance is to acknowledge what's true. You recognize that your child is practicing this behavior without giving your blessing. Approval, by contrast, is to convey that the behavior is good and right and giving your child a green light. That's not love, although it may seem more compassionate and alleviate conflict – for a time.

Playing on Heartstrings

At PFOX, we understand that today's sexually confused youth challenge parents' love with the statement, "If you reject my choice of whom to love (or my chosen gender), then you reject me!" This is emotional blackmail, and you don't have to give in.

The children who do this are unable or unwilling to distinguish between what they do and who they are. They've been fooled by our fallen culture to equate their homosexual behavior with their real selves. But they are so much more than that. God created them in His image. He loves them beyond what we can imagine. Parents need to summon all the patience they have, pray for guidance and accept their child without accepting the false identity. They also need to let the child know that he or she must respect their values and not cross a line, such as flaunting the behavior.

Parents will often tell us, "My child was raised in church! How can he (or she) now say he's (she's) gay or transgendered?" When people actually believe that they're born in the wrong body or born with homosexual attraction, they have been deceived and this makes change difficult. But as Jesus said, "The truth shall make you free." Just because they have been deceived doesn't mean that parents should also be deceived. Parents need

to search for the truth and take a stand.

Science has *confirmed* that no one is "born gay," but that there are environmental factors that can lead some vulnerable people into the behavior. In times past, many people who had unwanted feelings would eventually grow up and grow out of



them. Now, all too many young people are being groomed to see themselves as biologically gay or transgender.

This battle has many components, but at bottom it's a spiritual struggle for the souls of our loved ones. Parents need encouragement to continue to seek God's help in speaking the truth with compassion.

Remember, God has a deep, deep, deep love for the lost.

As Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Cleansing and Healing

Recently, the Rev. Franklin Graham delivered a timeless message in London, England:

"I want to say a few words to you tonight because I believe there are people here who have hurting hearts. A lot of people here have been searching and looking and trying to find purpose to what their life is all about. I'm here to say this to you tonight — God loves you! He loves you, and He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, from Heaven to this earth to save you from your sins.

"If you are willing to repent and turn from your sins, and by faith lean on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ tonight, God will forgive you, cleanse you, heal you. But you have to come to Him through Christ" (August 26, 2023 at the ExCel London convention center).

Where to Get Help

At PFOX, we know this can be a long journey. You are not alone. Our website (pfox.org) has lots of helpful materials. And we offer a **Parent Support Phone Conference call** on the **2nd & 4th Mondays** of each month and **Zoom calls** on the **third Wednesday** of each month. Email info4pfox@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you for your faithful support of PFOX.

Flo

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