

PFOX

The Official Newsletter of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays

Laying Down Our Shame

By Flo Hubbs, PFOX Director

As I was reading my Bible one morning, this passage really jumped out to me:

"As it is written: 'See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in Him will never be put to shame.'" (Romans 9:33)

The devil wants to keep us all in shame so that we can't feel the love of Jesus! He is diabolically good at this.

How do you feel when you first hear your beloved child say, "I'm gay!" Shame can be overpowering. It can cause a permanently negative opinion about self-worth. This makes it hard to be honest about pain, anger, disappointment and loneliness, even in the distant past. This hurt is real, yet the greater reality is that Jesus knows our pain. His truth gives us new self-worth, but not all at once. This is a process.

The Bible tells us of several families who experienced shame, but also God's restoring grace. God created the perfect family, gave them free wills, and they disobeyed. Adam and Eve went their own way and left their perfect relationship with God. But God restored them physically, mentally and spiritually. He clothed them, guided their path and renewed His communication with them.

Peter denied Christ three times. His shame drove him to tears. After the Resurrection, Jesus showed grace and restored Peter who, with Paul, founded



the church. We must learn to look at our self-worth through God's eyes, not our perpetually self-critical eyes, and trust in the Holy Spirit.

God may ask the hard question that Jesus asked Peter: "Do you Love Me?" His desire is to restore family brokenness and each one of us individually. One way is by daily surrendering your child to Him. He created each of us before we were in our mother's womb. He can restore the broken identity your child has claimed.

Sometimes young people cling to the fear of abandonment, the broken inner child of rejection, and lack of affirmation, which causes shame. Rejection can make it very hard for a person to fit in. LGBTQ+ activists spend a lot of time affirming young people, making them feel accepted. It's very powerful. We all need to offer them something far better: the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

When sharing with your child, it's important to stay focused on Jesus. Do

not let your child's decisions keep you in shame. Continue to pray for your child, and to ask God to help you speak to him or her with compassion.

At PFOX, we realize that today's parent /child conflicts over SSA (Same Sex Attraction) stem from a deeply rooted identity crisis. We must try to affirm our loved ones' God-given identity and sexuality. Let your child or other loved one "in the lifestyle" hear your heartfelt words of how much you love them!

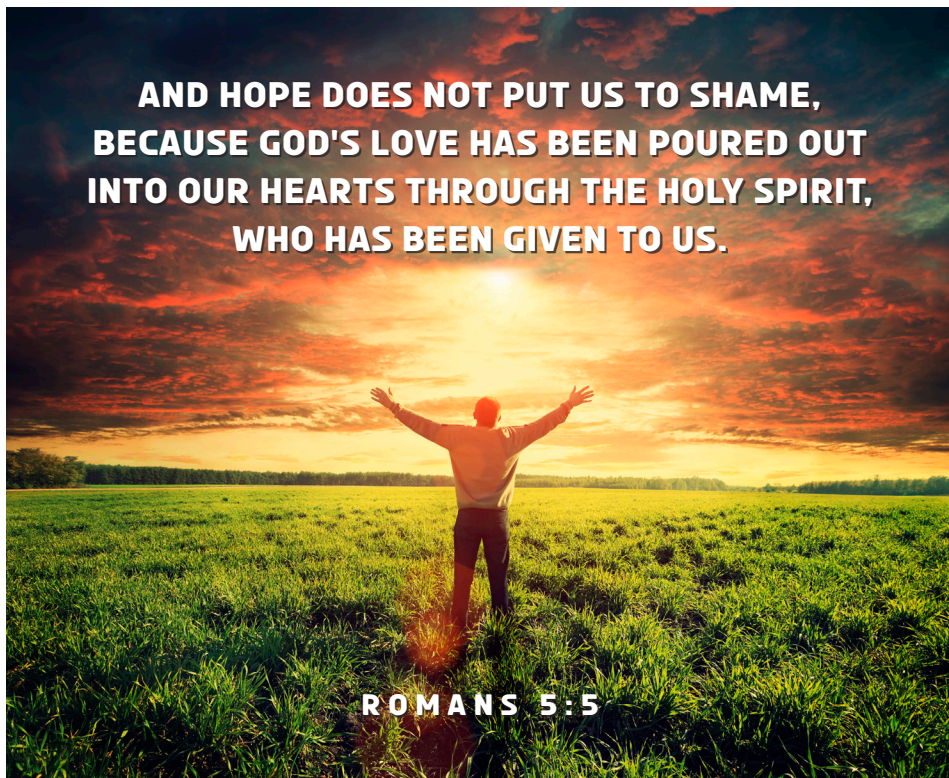
PFOX board member Denise Shick, who heads Living Stones Ministries/Help4Families, recently wrote a wonderful article, "Five Affirmations that Youth Need Daily" at www.help4families.org/help4families-blog/2022/6/28/five-affirmations-youth-need-daily. It's a simple set of steps, beginning with letting them know that God loves them.

We rejoice with others in ministry for the wonderful stories of people allowing Jesus to come into their lives and transform them, leading to reconciliation with their families. As people on the road to freedom (which is everyone who knocks at Christ's door), we need to pray for healing from wrongful or misguided efforts. We also need to pray that the Church stays true to the Bible.

There is no place for slander, gossip and unbiblical carnality within the Church. For the Church to be the Body of Christ, we need to reach out with unconditional love and share how Jesus can bind up even the most broken heart.

In his weekly *Washington Times* column, PFOX board member Robert Knight recently shared a startling example:

Here's a story the "mainstream" media will ignore. South African Satanic Church co-founder Riaan Swiegelaar recently renounced satanism and said he



has been saved by Jesus Christ. He shared his testimony on Facebook and on CBN.com. "I think the reason a lot of people resonate with satanism is they come from a very broken place," he said. "They are extremely broken and extremely hurt."

His conversion came after he did a radio interview defending satanism. A station employee came over and surprised him with a hug. "That's all she did," he said. "I've never had a Christian do that. I've never experienced a Christian show[ing] that much love and acceptance unconditionally....After I said the things I said, she did that."

Later, while performing a satanic ritual, he mockingly challenged Jesus to show Himself. "He flooded me with the

most beautiful love and energy and I recognized it immediately because that woman at the radio station showed it to me. That's how I recognized the love of Christ."

The Bible says that "by their fruits you shall know them." Those who have chosen to die on the hill of abortion and sexual confusion clearly have picked a side in the great cosmic struggle of good versus evil.

But they do not have to stay on that side.

No, they don't. And that's why we do what we do at PFOX!

Thanks for your prayers and support.

Flo

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