

Real Love Has No End

By Flo Hubbs, Director of PFOX

"Though the Mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you. (Isaiah 54:10)

The word "compassion" means to cherish; to soothe; to love deeply, to be tender.

All of our lives, God has these strong feelings toward us, no matter what we do. He never lets us go. He wants us to come home to Him.

The commercial build up for Valentine's Day seems bigger every year, with sales of jewelry, candy and flowers. These things have a beauty, sweetness and fragrance that convey affection or even love. But it may or may not last.

Real love—God's kind—lasts a lifetime and beyond.

We are created to be accepted and encouraged, and to encourage one another. The LGBTQ culture takes advantage of this need and welcomes those they sense as being vulnerable. Some call this "grooming"—and not in a complimentary way.

However, there is positive grooming that teaches biblical moral values. God's compassion, love and protection are demonstrated in the story of Ruth.

The book of Ruth talks about God's sovereign hand of protection as Ruth



and her mother-in-law Naomi walk more than 120 miles from Moab to Bethlehem. They didn't have a widow's assistance program; they had to rely on God alone for protection. They also had to trust God to bring a kinsman redeemer, some who would want to care for a widow and her mother-in-law.

Ruth listened to Naomi's wisdom and stayed in one field—owned by Boaz—to glean a picked harvest. After Boaz noticed her, he told his workers to leave a few extra stalks of grain for Ruth to find. He also told the men to leave

her alone. As a result, God gave Ruth an abundance of leftovers.

The Power of Faith

God's long-range plan was for Ruth to become part of the family line of the Messiah—Jesus. She was faithful and so it came about.

When simple faith gets distorted, however, bad things happen.

Aberrant theology has ensnared many in our culture. Some ostensibly Christian pastors go along with the "I was born this way" fantasy or they

preach the "prosperity gospel," which treats God as some sort of kind genie who enriches us if we will believe in just the right way.

God doesn't want us to be mired in poverty or a sinful lifestyle, and He doesn't want us to worship the things of the world.

Advocates for false faiths excel at reaching into a person's loneliness and making the person feel like they are special and belong.

Throughout the Bible we are warned about false gods and false prophets. They come in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ferocious wolves.

We have an enemy, Satan, who has for thousands of years worked to destroy families by spreading lies.

When Ruth and Naomi walked the miles together, they undoubtedly talked about many things. They shared in the grief over their husbands' deaths and loss of property. Perhaps they asked, "Why did God permit our emptiness and how can He use it for His purpose?"

We know now that God used their brokenness as part of his plan of salvation for the whole world.

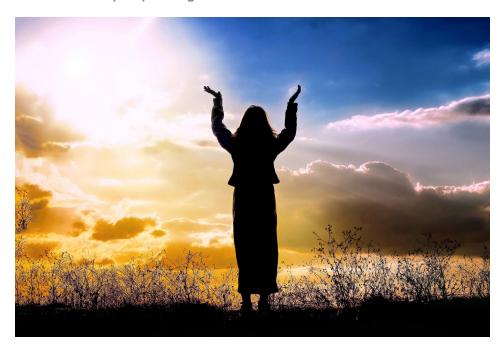
A Kind of Grief

When I talk with parents about their heartache for a child who identifies as gay or transgender, it is very much like hearing about grief over the death of a loved one.

Also, when I talk to some about stepping away from the gay life and about maintaining their walk with Jesus, they often express loneliness or emptiness.

Both groups—the parents or the children—are embarrassed and can feel rejected by the body of believers where they attend church to worship God. They share about the pain they feel from hearing the gossip.

When Naomi and Ruth reached



Bethlehem after coming from Moab, the town was all stirred up, with the women saying, "Could this be Naomi?"

She replied, "Do not call me Naomi, call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter."

But her story did not end there. After Boaz married Ruth and she conceived a son, the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord who has not left you without a redeemer... He will be a comfort for your soul and support you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

The boy, named Obed, was the father of Jesse, father of King David, in whose line Jesus was born.

Our prayer at PFOX is that for parents and children in seemingly intractable crises to feel God's

reassurance in each situation. And for all believers, that He will give you His boldness, understanding, and compassion to continue to share the life-saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

Where to Get Help

At PFOX, we know this can be a long journey. You're not alone. Our website (pfox.org) has lots of helpful materials.

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. E-mail info4pfox@gmail.com for more information.

We can't do this ministry without your support. Thank you!

Happy Valentine's Day,

Flo

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