

# Forum

## Christian ad campaign claims gays' behavior is sinful and voluntary **CAN SEX ORIENTATION BE CHANGED?**

### PRO: Gays' case cites weak science, ignores sin

BY NINIE O'HARA

The writer is publisher and founder of *Southeast Outlook*, the newspaper of Southeast Christian Church.

**I**F YOU REALLY love someone, you'll tell them the truth. That's the theme of a series of full-page ads placed last Monday in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*. The ads, signed by 15 national ministries, are part of a campaign called Truth in Love, which proclaims that homosexuality is behavior that can be changed.

Of course, the newspaper ads hit gay activists like a drop of water in hot grease, and the rhetorical sizzle spattered from Bangor to Bakersfield. But absent the hype, the fundamental differences between the views of the Christians who placed the newspaper ads and the homosexual community are pretty basic. The Christian worldview is based on the presupposition that the God who created the universe defined right and wrong in immutable terms. That God has forbidden homosexual behavior. Period.

Gays argue that science has "proved" they were "born that way," that because homosexuality is passed down from generation to generation, it is perfectly normal and should be sanctioned as the moral equivalent of heterosexuality.

As scientific "proof," homosexuals cite the fact that the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of aberrant behaviors 25 years ago. And they point to more recent studies reportedly showing differences between the brain cells of gays and straights.

But there are holes in those scientific buckets.

Yes, the APA did strike homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. But it based that decision solely on the scientific research of one man: Dr. Alfred Kinsey.

Does that name ring any bells? It should. Alarm bells. One researcher after another has unearthed dirty little secrets about Kinsey since the APA used his research to declare homosexuality "normal."

In her book *Kinsey, Crimes & Consequences*, Dr. Judith Reisman described the Indiana University researcher as a homosexual, a masochist, a pedophile — and a lousy scientist. His claim that 10 to 37 percent of the male population was homosexual for some period of their lives was based on a sample that included 1,400 prison inmates — a high percentage of them sex offenders! — hundreds of male prostitutes, and a motley collection of pimps and pedophiles. The sample also included — oh, by the way — roughly 2,000 sexually abused boys.

You don't have to belong to MENSA to figure out that Kinsey skewed his results to justify his own perversions. Later research confirms that assumption. A study by the Guttermacher Institute that *The New York Times* called "the most thorough" national study on male sexual behavior published in 40 years, found that "about 2 percent" of men surveyed had "engaged in homosexual sex," and 1 percent considered themselves to be exclusively homosexual.

OK, so Kinsey lied. There's still Dr. Simon LeVay's discovery that a tiny cluster of cells in the hypothalamus appears to be larger in heterosexual males than in homosexuals. But LeVay unearthed absolutely no evidence that the cell cluster he studied even affects sexuality!



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Boil it down to the essentials, and this issue really is about truth. Homosexuality is behavior God has forbidden. That's the truth with the husk still on it. Just like stealing, lying, envy and greed, homosexuality is sin.

Sin. There, we've said it, the "s-word." If ever a word has fallen out of favor, this one is it. What is sin? Well, for starters, we've all got it. Like earlobes and opinions, everybody has sin in their lives. That's the bad news. The good news is that the God of grace we serve will forgive anybody's sin; He can and will change anybody's behavior.

But the itchy part of sin, the part nobody wants to talk about, is that it has consequences. Homosexuality is far from "harmless." Homosexuals have hugely higher rates of all forms of sexually transmitted diseases than heterosexuals. A national study shows that even with deaths from AIDS factored out, a male homosexual's average life span is only 42 years!

Being willing to sound the alarm about those facts is "speaking the truth in love."

The trouble is, gay rights activists want Christians to keep those uncomfortable truths to themselves. They think freedom of speech only applies to them. Disagree with their agenda and you're instantly labeled. Ignorant. Stupid. Backward. Bigoted. Zealot. Homophobe. Extremist. Gay basher. If those terms sound familiar, it's because in the last couple of weeks they've been hurled like rotten eggs at Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and professional football player Reggie White.

The Truth in Love campaign seeks a moratorium on name-calling, and the beginning of a reasonable national discussion about homosexuality. The Christian organizations that sponsored the full-page newspaper ads believe "there's room in the First Amendment for both of us."

They also believe an even more fundamental truth — there's room in the kingdom of God for everybody.

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