



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Friends,

update february 2021

Last month, CJ Coffee, a pastor at The Well Community Church, shared in our newsletter a compassionate and hopeful response to those seeking freedom from same-sex attraction and gender confusion. Portland Fellowship is blessed to be in a relationship with The Well, along with many churches and pastors that uphold the full counsel of God. These churches stand firm in truth, but also do so with deep compassion—which is so admirable as they navigate the pressure and persuasion the world inflicts upon them.

We would hope that all churches would have the same transformational message. Still, as we know, many within the Christian church struggle to respond to God's hope for the sexually and relationally broken person. For those Christians who are uncertain about God's will in this area, I would like to ask:

Does Jesus restore, heal, and transform the person struggling with same-sex attraction? And if so, how?

Most of us who believe God's Word would have no problem agreeing that Jesus saves, forgives, redeems and sustains those who struggle with same-sex desires. Yet, when it comes to God's work of restoration (to bring back to or put back into a former or original state), healing (to make sound or whole), or transformation (to change in character or condition), many people are uncertain of the answers to my questions.

This uncertainty reveals itself for various reasons. Perhaps the idea of "healing" sounds too charismatic, or has been tainted by the culture's accusation of so-called "conversion therapy". Maybe the idea of restoration sounds too challenging or even ineffective, because of observing people who once professed change, but are now living out their old identity. Perhaps the uncertainty is birthed out of one's own unresolved sexual and relational wounds, and therefore transformation seems implausible. Or maybe some Believers simply do not understand what God can do through a sanctifying process.

I understand these doubts and uncertainties. I've wrestled with some of these questions, and know others who wonder about these things as well. Maybe you, yourself, are questioning what God can do or what He desires to do in people with same-sex attraction and gender confusion. The good news is, we don't have to be uncertain about God's ability and plan to heal, restore and transform our lives! One of my favorite passages is the marvelous truth that, "...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion." (Phil. 1:6) This truth doesn't suggest that there won't be struggles, or that we will achieve complete wholeness this side of Heaven, but it does proclaim the reality that God is at work in us to become more and more like Jesus. This isn't just a nice idea, it's a promise!



"He has sent me to bind
up the brokenhearted, to
proclaim liberty to captives,
and freedom to prisoners."

ISAIAH 61 : 1

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The hope for those who struggle with unwanted same-sex attraction is the same for any Believer who seeks to become more like Jesus and experience deeper wholeness. Paul writes, “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, **created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**” (Eph. 4:22-24, emphasis added).

As we unpack this passage, we must conclude that, as we walk in obedience, the old self loses the power and influence it once had; the corrupted desires become new desires; our mind’s attitude is no longer about ourselves but rather is aligned with the Lord. The misguided cravings for others to meet our deep, genuine needs, begin to be met in Jesus. Again and again, the testimonies of those walking in this process are stories of hope, freedom, relational healing, newfound desires, renewing of the mind, and joy found in being more and more like our Lord.

I hope you will find encouragement in this truth for yourself, for your wayward loved one, for your church and, ultimately, for the body of Christ. I pray we are all reminded to proclaim the full counsel of God and not shy away from His amazing work of restoring, healing, and transforming our sexual desires and relationships.

On behalf of our staff, board members and volunteer leaders, I thank you for continuing to support the Lord’s message of transformation through the ministry of Portland Fellowship.

In His Service,



Jason Thompson
Executive Director



Proclaiming God’s Work

The worldwide pandemic continues to make it difficult for churches, groups and programs to meet. Despite these changes, churches, discipleship groups, small groups and accountability groups are finding new opportunities to connect using platforms like Zoom.

If you are in a current Zoom group or would like to reconnect with others in your church to learn more about the work of Portland Fellowship (and hear powerful testimonies of God’s transforming and freeing men and women from unwanted SSA and gender confusion), we welcome you to connect with us to schedule someone from our ministry to share with your group.

For more information on this opportunity, email us at:
office@portlandfellowship.com or call us at 503.235.6364.

Portland Fellowship is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 nondenominational organization. We are exclusively supported through private donations, support services and offerings. Thank you for your gifts.



events calendar

february 12 Hope Group

For friends and family of gay or trans-identifying loved ones.
7-8:30pm

To RSVP for Hope Group, please go to:
portlandfellowship.com/rsvp.php

tuesdays in february Taking Back Ground

Discipleship program for those struggling with unwanted SSA.
Group for wives as well.

*Call the office for Zoom option.
7-9:30 pm

Speakers, counseling, youth support and personal support can be arranged through the office.

Check website for additional updates
at www.portlandfellowship.com