



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Friends,

update october 2024

“What should I do?” We often get this question from people who have a friend or family member who’s embraced an LGBTQ identity. Maybe this is a question you’ve asked yourself. Or maybe you’ve asked this in relation to your own personal struggles, whether they be with sexuality, gender, addiction, or identity. As Christians trying to navigate this fallen world, the depth of brokenness around us can often feel overwhelming.

In recent months here at Portland Fellowship, we’ve encountered all kinds of sexual and relational brokenness:

- A father whose daughter identifies as trans, and has changed her preferred name and pronouns multiple times.
- A man whose struggle with unwanted same-sex attraction led to him having a criminal record.
- An alumnus of our Taking Back Ground program who accepted the lie that he was born gay, and has embraced a “gay Christian” identity.



As discouraging and confusing as these examples are, we know we’re not alone. You may also be facing similar painful situations and wondering, “Why is our world going crazy right now? What is happening?!”

Thankfully, God’s Word has some answers for us. Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 says, “*What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, ‘Look! This is something new?’ It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.*” While I may not understand all of the current cultural jargon, or the new “politically-correct” ways of relating to people with sexual brokenness, I take comfort knowing that this isn’t new. For thousands of years, and in different cultures all across the world, hurting people have looked to fill their sexual and relational needs in broken ways.

Similarly, for those of us who follow Jesus and believe in God’s design for sex and gender, it can be tempting to think that we are all alone. The increasing tidal wave of people, institutions, cultural messages, and even laws that promote and celebrate LGBTQ ideology can make it seem like no one else is obeying the Lord in this area. Yet here again, we see the truth that there is nothing new under the sun. In 1 Kings 19:14, the prophet Elijah said, “*I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.*” How many of us can relate to that sentiment?!

Praise be to God, for He doesn’t leave us without hope. The Lord replied to Elijah saying, “*Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.*” (1 Kings 19:18) Here at Portland Fellowship, we see God answering

“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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us in similar ways. For all of the discouraging stories we hear about sexual brokenness, we also get to see and hear how God is *still* calling, convicting, and transforming people's minds and hearts! Some recent examples include:

- A mom who was involved in our Hope Group wrote to tell us that her son, who had been in a gay relationship, is now repentant—he left his boyfriend, began going to church again, and is pursuing intentional discipleship.
- KathyGrace, PF's Women & Transgender leader, talked with a woman who lived as a man and was a pro-trans activist. This woman is now detransitioning and seeking to live as the woman God created her to be.
- One of our TBG alumnus wrote in to tell us that even as he's facing some trials, he's "looking toward God for all the new things he has for me in the future...now I know to project and expect God's love, thanks in large part to PF. I will be forever grateful for your willingness to minister to me and pour into me so faithfully!"

The Apostle Paul shares a similar story of redemption:

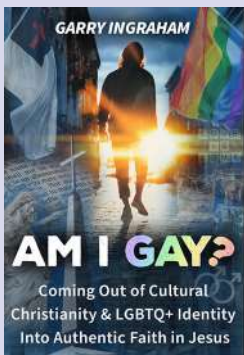
Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Cor. 6:9-11)

Just as God transformed the Corinthians of Paul's day in their sexuality, He is still redeeming and restoring broken people to sexual and relational wholeness today. We are so grateful and proud to continue offering support to individuals and families impacted by unwanted same-sex attraction and gender confusion. And, we praise God for you and your continued prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts that allow us to offer our Taking Back Ground and Hope Group discipleship programs, both locally and online. Thank you so much for your support.

In Christ,

Patrick Silvis
Program Manager

Encouraging Book: "Am I Gay?"



If you are looking for a book with a hopeful testimony, look no further than *Am I Gay? Coming Out of Cultural Christianity & LGBTQ+ Identity Into Authentic Faith in Jesus* by Garry Ingraham. Garry and his wife, Melissa, are founders of the Love & Truth Network, a national ministry that equips pastors and Christian leaders in restoring relational and sexual wholeness, and biblical identity.

Garry writes: *This is a story of a God who relentlessly pursues. This is a story...of how the church can be equipped to live in love and truth through strength and compassion; inviting broken people into genuine and growing relationships with Jesus and His authentic community. I once was broken and lost. I invite you to learn my story—how I found belonging, purpose, and meaning through the greatest and most enduring love of God.*

To order your copy of *Am I Gay?*: www.loveandtruthnetwork.com/am-i-gay

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

tuesdays in october
Taking Back Ground & Hope Group
Discipleship programs for Christians struggling with unwanted SSA, and for friends & family of LGBTQ loved ones.
Zoom: 6-8:30 p.m. PST
In-Person: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

november 9
Jason Speaking
Jason will be sharing about the hope and healing found in Christ at a church conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Speakers and personal support can be arranged through the office.

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com