

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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When Your Teenager “Feels Gay”

(Jerry Fite)

You have just heard the disturbing news from friends that your son or daughter is saying that he or she “feels gay.” There was a time in our society when such a statement might not be a concern to you, for “feeling happy” is a positive expression of youth in harmony with God’s Word (*Ecclesiastes 11:9*). But sadly, we know what that statement means today. The word “gay” has become a euphemistic expression identifying one as “homosexual.”

“But my child is a Christian! I have seen no indication of disbelief in God or departure from Christ.” You might not have seen blatant apostasy yet, for they are saying they just “feel gay.” They are thinking about initiating a date with the same sex. They feel the need to try it. The only condemnation they feel is from other people, not God. If you are a Christian, what do you say to your friend who has these feelings? If you are a parent, what do you say to your teenager who expresses such feelings, and feels no condemnation from God?

Sitting down as Christians with your teenage friend or adolescent offspring to read Romans 1:22-28 might be a helpful re-

sponse. Paul describes the downward spiral of a society that rejects to honor God in their mind and body. Society’s decay begins in the human mind. Refusing to acknowledge God, people exalt themselves “*by professing to be wise*” (*Romans 1:22*). The conflict of two competing sources for wisdom is solved for man “*exchanges to the truth of God for the lie*” (*Romans 1:25*). Man now worships and serves “the creature rather than the Creator.”

Our teenager has made the mental exchange already. Notice how one’s “feelings” are the new standard for conduct. I “feel gay.” I “feel” the need to try it. I do not “feel” condemnation from God. Your ears may hear the young person still professing the reality of God, but he or she only summons His silence in their subjective hearing room. Actually, “*...their heart is far from Him*” (*Matthew 15:8*). God’s expressed Truth has been replaced with “my feelings.” How I feel about homosexuality takes precedence over God’s condemnation of the acts of homosexuality (*Leviticus 18:22*).

God’s Holy Spirit condemns the acts of female “lesbianism” and male “homosexuality.” The mind serving the desires of the creature is seen in not only that

“*their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature.*” (*Romans 1:26*); but “*also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lusts one toward another, men with men working unseemliness*” (*Romans 1:27*). The exchange of serving the creature rather than the Creator, has led to the exchange of the natural, inborn, agreeable-to-nature sexual use of the physical body. How God designed it is out (*Genesis 2:24*)! How I feel about it is in!

Another level of the downward spiral may have been entered without realizing it. Paul reminds us of the consequences when people turn to worship and serve the wisdom and desires of the creature, instead of God: “*For this cause God gave them up unto vile passions*” (*Romans 1:26*). God provides restraints against sin through His Word and prayer (*Matthew 4:4,7, 10; Matthew 6:13*). Our teenager, so committed to his or her feelings, and not listening to God’s Word while being watchful in prayer, may have already experienced God’s “giving one up.” Shameful passions are no longer to be restrained with their deadly consequences (*Romans 1:27-28*). “Feeling gay” may be more dangerous than you thought!