

# I Questioned Homosexuality.

*By finding my way out of a gay identity, I found the love of my life in the process. Gay marriage would only have blinded me to such an incredible joy.*

**M**Y NAME IS ALAN CHAMBERS and I lived for 9 years with a homosexual orientation. Today I'm married to Leslie, and we're beginning a family with our first child this year. *Okay, that's the good news.* But to know why our marriage is so improbable, you'll need to know the other side of the story, too.

*I grew up with the secret shame of being sexually molested by an older man.* I was a child. I instinctively believed it was my fault. I was afraid of what happened, and nothing quenched the confusion that choked me. I developed an insatiable need to be accepted and liked by other boys, yet I isolated myself from them. I was teased and taunted and spit at with words like "fag," and "homo." The more I disengaged, the more my anxiety and insecurity over not fitting in grew.

Homosexual feelings began for me at the age of ten, and I grew to think I had more in common with women than men. I never imagined my marriage partner could *ever be a woman.* I just assumed if I ever 'got married,' it would be with a man.

Like so many of the gay men I came to know, I was starved for genuine male love and affirmation. But after years of searching, I realized that acceptance in the gay community always wore the same tired nametag called "sex," and every sexual encounter with a man only emptied more of me than it filled.

And so the questions began.

In all honesty, my search for answers was difficult. The hole in my heart was raw, and took everything I had to touch it with the antiseptic of honesty. I had to re-learn trust, and to try forgiveness. Changing old responses and patterns, then finding security on the deepest level, takes time. *But, it was totally worth the journey!*

Here's the truth. *If I had a gay marriage option 10 years ago, I'd never have dealt with the root issues of my homosexual behavior.* I'd probably be in and out of half a dozen 'marital' relationships. And I'd never know the complete peace I now have about my past. Leslie is not my diploma for 'healing,' nor is she a prop that shows how I've abandoned a sexual identity. She *is* my perfect complement and completes me in ways no male relationship can ever do...physically or emotionally.

I'm living proof that change *is* possible. And there are tens of thousands of other men and women like me who also questioned homosexuality and found answers that challenged and changed them. EXODUS was there to help with those answers...plus the vital knowledge and tools for them to find their own way out.

If you, or anyone you know would like to know more, EXODUS has more than 120 local member chapters ready for *your* questions. All contact is confidential, so please get in touch today at 1-888-264-0877, or visit [www.exodus.to](http://www.exodus.to).



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Change *is* possible. Discover how.