



A blue curved line starts from the left edge of the slide and curves downwards towards the bottom right. A grey triangular shape is positioned in the lower right quadrant, with its hypotenuse following the curve of the blue line.

UNDERSTANDING HOMOSEXUALITY

Dr. Jerry Harris
“Families Under Fire” Conference
Oct. 4, 2001

- “IS IT LEGAL TO KICK HIM OUT BECAUSE HE’S GAY?”

About James Dale, Eagle Scout.

A decorative blue arc curves from the top left towards the right. A grey, trapezoidal shape is positioned on the right side of the slide, partially overlapping the blue arc.

- “SHE APOLOGIZES AFTER ANTAGONIZING THE GAY COMMUNITY.”

- Dr. Laura, Talk Radio host.

- “UTAH COULD FACE SUIT FOR BANNING ADOPTIONS BY GAYS”

Deseret News, Friday, March 17, 2000.

Harris Poll—January 2000

- ✓ 56% favor legislation to make discrimination against gays and lesbians illegal.
- ✓ The public is evenly split (46 vs. 44) on whether sexual orientation can be changed through will power, therapy, or religious conviction. (56% in 1998)

Harris Poll—con'd.

- ✓ Opposition to same sex marriage is still fairly strong at 55%. (64% in 1996)
- ✓ 48% of respondents said they had close friends or relatives who are gay or lesbians.

The Family—A Proclamation to the World

- “...solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God...”
- “...Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.”

Myth # 1:

“YOU ARE BORN GAY”

- ✓ *Even the Gay and Lesbian Medical Assoc. recommends they not use the biological argument—there is simply not enough evidence.*
- ✓ *“No genetically determined human behavior has yet been found.” (Neil & Briar Whitehead, 1999.)*
- ✓ *When a person says he or she is born gay, they generally mean that they felt different from members of their own sex .*

Myth # 2: Once Gay, Always Gay

- Homosexuality has long been recognized as treatable...Indeed, it would be accurate to say that all the existing evidence suggests strongly that homosexuality is quite changeable.” (Satinover, 1996)
- In the year 2000 LDS Family Services surveyed 381 clients desiring change from homosexual thoughts, feelings and behavior. 72% reported “significant progress” in therapy.

Myth # 2: con't

- At the beginning of treatment 89% viewed themselves as exclusively homosexual—at the conclusion of therapy only 13% viewed themselves as exclusively homosexual.
- Average length of therapy 3.3 years

(Nicolosi, et al. Psychological Reports, 2000, 86,1071-1088.)

- “All of us have some feelings we did not choose, but the gospel of Jesus Christ teaches us that we still have the power to resist and reform our feelings (as needed) and to assure that they do not lead us to inappropriate thoughts or to engage in sinful behavior” (Oaks, *Ensign*, Oct. 1995.)

Scenario # 1

What would you think if a relative, friend, or colleague had a condition that is routinely, even if not always, associated with the following problems:

- A significantly decreased likelihood of establishing or preserving a successful marriage.
- A five –ten year decrease in life expectancy.
- Chronic, potentially fatal, liver disease.

- A much higher than usual incidence of suicide.
- A much higher than usual incidence of other mental illnesses.
- A higher than average incidence of infectious diseases.

(Alcoholism)

scenario # 2

Now imagine another friend or colleague who has a condition associated with a similar list of problems:

- A significantly decreased likelihood of establishing or preserving a successful marriage.
- A twenty-five to thirty year decrease in life expectancy.
- Chronic, often fatal infectious hepatitis, which increases the risk of liver cancer.
- Frequently fatal rectal cancer.

- Higher incidence of other infectious diseases.
- This condition accounts for nearly 30% of a potentially fatal virus

(Homosexuality).

STEPS TO RECOVERY

- ☑ Decrease the focus on the disturbing thoughts and feelings.
- ☑ Cease hating themselves.
- ☑ Give up compulsive sexual behavior.
- ☑ Give up isolation.
- ☑ Experience a spiritual re-birth

WHAT CAN LOVED ONES DO?

- ① Help overcome fear of criticism and rejection.
- ② Show love, compassion, and kindness.
- ③ Be open to talking about the problem.
- ④ Encourage the loved one to get professional help.
- ⑤ NOT telling them to date more or get married.
- ⑥ Never give up...never.

RESOURCES

- *UNDERSTANDING AND HELPING
THOSE WHO HAVE HOMOSEXUAL
PROBLEMS*

Suggestions for Ecclesiastical Leaders.
Church publication.

A blue arc starts from the top left and curves towards the bottom right. A grey wedge shape is positioned on the right side, pointing towards the center of the slide.

- *BORN THAT WAY ?*

- Erin Eldrige. Deseret Book. 1994.

A blue arc starts from the top left and curves towards the bottom right. A grey triangle is positioned on the right side of the page, with its hypotenuse facing left towards the center of the page.

*HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST*

A. Dean Byrd, Ph.D., Cedar Fort Publishers, 2001.