

# Chosen by God

Who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood... -1 Peter 1:2

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## Exodus Denied Apple Bite

**The real reason Exodus International's "gay cure app" was distorted, censored**

*Too offensive to too many people.* That's the sole reason Exodus International, a ministry to those struggling with same-sex attractions, received from Apple in late March when the organization's iPhone app was abruptly removed from iTunes.

A month earlier, Apple had approved the Exodus app, which provides mobile access to information for those struggling with matters of sexuality and faith. But after gay activist group Truth Wins Out launched a petition and supposedly gathered 150,000 digital signatures, Apple caved.

Apple has yet to offer a full explanation, other than to say the app "violates developer guidelines by being offensive to large groups of people." Last November, the company, which provides hundreds of apps specific to the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community, removed an app from The Manhattan Declaration, a group of Christian leaders supporting biblical teaching on marriage. Once again, the app was approved until gay activists lobbied for its removal.

Yet both cases also highlight gay activists' power in distorting reality through major media outlets. The Exodus incident drew national attention, partly because Truth Wins Out swayed media to peg Exodus' app as a "gay cure app," and the ministry an "anti-gay religious extremist" group full of "closet cases [who] put people in therapy and try to make them straight." Meanwhile, Truth Wins Out clearly won out as heroic defenders of gay rights—and not a word was mentioned about free speech.

Jeff Buchanan, a senior director at Exodus, found the silver lining amid the backlash: "While we will always advocate our constitutional rights to be a part of civic dialogue, being 'offensive' can sometimes provide opportunities to love those who oppose us all the more fervently."

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## Identity Matters

### Why sexual orientation doesn't define you

Many Christians believe chastity is the *only* answer for those with same-sex attractions. They believe people are gay or straight and that their identities, in that regard, are fixed. If someone is gay, the only option, according to these Christians, is celibacy. Everything else that comes with gay life, however, is OK.

Sadly, we're so behavior-driven as Christians that we believe as long as we keep our pants zipped and legs crossed, we're doing well. *Sexual sin is not the beginning of a problem; it's the result of one.* While some fall into sexual sin due to a momentary temptation, most stay in sexual sin because it *seems* to satisfy a core, God-given need for intimacy and relationship. But sex was never meant to be a substitute for

relational intimacy. Sex is a godly expression that flows out of healthy intimacy within the confines of heterosexual marriage.

Celibacy is the godly option for all single men and women. Yet today, while many Christians with same-sex attractions are choosing celibacy, they're also opting to keep the gay identity/label. This falls short of God's best because identity matters. How we view and refer to ourselves is very important.

Twenty years ago when I began my journey out of the gay lifestyle toward holiness, I could've simply worked on my sexual urges and opted not to deal with the deeper issues that fueled my desire for sex. I could've called myself a celibate gay man and left it at that. But that wouldn't have taken me far.

The extreme changes that have since occurred in my heart, mind and life were fueled by an identity transformation. In those early days, I chose to focus most on figuring out who I was in Christ, which led to a change in how I behaved. Simply discontinuing or curbing how I expressed my same-sex attractions wasn't enough.

The problem with being a gay Christian is that gay takes center stage. But God won't share His throne with anyone or anything. It's vital to understand who God is and who He created us to be, especially in light of the fallenness of humanity. Search the Word and you'll find He has a plan for you that's born out of the fullness of who He is—and your identity in Him.

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# Christian Publishing Pioneer Passes

Industry leaders have paid tribute to longtime Christian publisher and CBA founding member Robert L. Kregel, who died Sunday (June 24) after a brief illness. Regarded as a pioneering giant in the Christian product industry, the former president of Grand Rapids, Mich.-based Kregel Inc. was 92.

After his father died in 1939, Kregel took over the family's used book business at age 20 and expanded the company into a publishing house and bookstore chain. In 1949, he began publishing classic reprints under the Kregel Publications name. Kregel Inc. now includes Kregel Publications, its Spanish imprint, Editorial Portavoz, and two Kregel Parable Christian Stores in the Grand Rapids area.

Kregel, who served a two-year term as CBA's president from 1960-1962, attended the association's first meeting at Chicago's LaSalle Hotel in 1950.

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## Fighting Human Trafficking in Ukraine

Human trafficking is out of control in Ukraine.

More Ukrainian men, women and children have been trafficked abroad and forced into indentured labor or prostitution than in any other Eastern European country since the Soviet collapse.

EFCA's Reach Global missionary Amy Richey says traffickers

target the most vulnerable: “The most vulnerable in Ukrainian society today are kids currently living on the streets, and/or kids that are just coming out of the orphanages. Fifty percent to 60 percent end up in some sort of a trafficked situation.”

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## **Gay Rights Laws Spark Talk of Constitutional Amendment**

First, gay marriage in New York. Now, civil unions in Rhode Island.

On a vote of 21-16, the Rhode Island state Senate on Wednesday approved legislation sponsored by Rep. Peter J. Petrarca to allow civil unions for same-sex couples there. In May, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the bill on a vote of 62-11.

The civil union legislation grants legal rights to same-sex partners without the historical and religious meaning associated with the word "marriage." The measure now heads to the governor for consideration.

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## **U.S. Government Funding Marriage, Fatherhood**

Amid a heavy push for gay marriages in some states, the U.S. government is doing something a little more traditional: funding responsible fatherhood and healthy marriages.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services just announced \$150 million in funding for Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood grants. The grants aim to help fathers meet their parenting and financial responsibilities and assist married couples or people considering marriage in building strong relationships with each other and their children.

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## **Obama Insult Gets MSNBC Journo Suspended**

MSNBC political analyst Mark Halperin said President Obama was acting like, well, an unseemly part that is unsuitable for exposure. Now, he may be out of a job.

“I thought he was kind of a d- yesterday,” Halperin said about Obama. Apparently, he thought it would be bleeped out. But it wasn’t, and the entire MSNBC viewing world heard the foul language.

“Mark Halperin’s comments this morning were completely inappropriate and unacceptable. We apologize to the president, The White House and all of our viewers,” MSNBC said in a statement. “We strive for a high level of discourse and comments like these have no place on our air. Therefore, Mark will be suspended indefinitely from his role as an analyst.”

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# Youssef: Every Issue is a Moral Issue

CNN's Jack Cafferty has advice for the GOP: Park your morality at the door.

On June 14, Cafferty expressed surprise that, in the previous night's presidential debate, "social issues—like abortion, gay marriage, [‘don't ask, don't tell’](#)—still manage to work their way into the conversation. And that may prove to be a problem for Republicans. ... These are not the issues that middle America is worried about. They would like to be able to find a job."

I submit that these so-called "social issues" mean more to "middle America" than Cafferty realizes. We call them "moral issues." To us, abortion is the slaughter of innocent human life, on a moral level with genocide or the slave trade.

What Cafferty doesn't understand is that every issue is a moral issue. The current bad economy didn't just *happen*. It was the direct result of immoral choices made by our leaders.