



A Monthly E-Newsletter For CenterPeace Parents Volume 9 February 2022



## FEAR ... WILL IT EVER END?

*By Liz Moore*

Overwhelming fear choked me when I first found out that our son is gay. What is going to happen to my child? Will they be safe? What will people think? What if people don't love us anymore? All those questions are based in fear, planted by Satan. Are they valid questions? Yes. Will some people choose to turn away from us? Again, yes. Will God ever turn His back on us or our child? Absolutely not!

I remember coming to grips with having a gay child, and telling God, "Ok God, I can handle my child being gay, but please don't let him bring home a date," or "don't let him show affection in front of me," or "don't let him bring someone to church," or ... you fill in the blank.

We want to have all the answers NOW but it doesn't really work that way. I learned as I grew even deeper in my love for my son and who he is that I was stronger than I thought I was. All those things I was afraid of? Well, they happened. One by one, they happened. I learned that every time I thought I could not do the next thing, God said, "Oh, but you can. Just remember to love first." And you know what?

When I loved first, not only did I get through "the next thing," I gained understanding and knowledge along the way. The uncertainty of fear can leave you paralyzed, and when you are paralyzed, you become stunted – stunted in growth and stunted in your capacity to love.

**"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us."** - 1 John 4:18-19 (ESV)

But I have learned that we don't need to have all the answers to step out of our fears. We just have to trust in the One who already knows all of it and knows what it looks like. We have to trust in the One who has a plan, even if we cannot see it yet. We have learned to take things one step at a time and be okay with not knowing what the next thing is. Because God will prepare us and our hearts for the next thing in His time if we will let Him. We just have to let go of our fears, and love our child in the moment. God will do the rest.

# *The Other Side of the Boat*

## **PART 5: HOW CAN I KNOW?**

*By Dena A Edwards*

Growing up in conservative Christian world, I was taught from my Momma's knee "you shall not add to or take from" the Holy Bible and every single word in that beautiful book was breathed from God Himself. Never was I taught that the words in my New International Version were a bit different from the words in the English Standard, or the King James, or the Revised Standard. As I grew and read more, I saw word choice differences between the different translations, but always stood on faith that God wouldn't let man contort His Word. Which explained my utter inner turmoil when my deep dive into the study of homosexuality and the Bible led me to Greek word translations through the centuries.

**If you are grateful for where you are, you have to respect the road that got you there. - Cleo Wade**

Within two of the passages most used against the LGBTQ+ community – I Corinthians 6:9-10 and I Timothy 1:9-10 – are the Greek words "arsenekoites" and "malakoi." (Read [Part 1](#) of our Series for more on this.)

"We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality (arsenekoitais), for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ..." I Tim 1:9-10, NIV

"Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals (malakoi), nor sodomites (arsenekoitai), nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." I Cor 6:9-10 NKJV

These translations use words within these verses with which we are familiar. But what do other translations throughout time use in place of those two particular Greek words?

### **Arsenekoitai**

While "arsenekoitai" is rarely used in Paul's day, the Greek words "arsen" (men) and "koiten" (lie) were used 1,600 years before Paul and suggest the then-common practice of pederasty, or men having sex with young boys, not men having consensual sex with other adult men in a monogamous relationship.

Here are some ways in which "arsenekoitai" was translated in English in different time periods: liars with mankind (1582), abusers of themselves with mankind (1885) and those who abuse themselves with men (1890). "Arsenekoitai" didn't refer to the sexual orientation of men, but rather to the active role a man played in sex with other males. The American-translated Revised Standard Version of 1946 changed everything. This was the first time the word "homosexual" was used in the Bible, which shifted the condemnation to any gay man, not just the sexually dominant man in an abusive relationship. After that, this is what we see "arsenekoitai" translated as: pervert (1962), sexual pervert (1966), those who practice homosexuality (1978).

As you can see, the Purity Culture affected those

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## PART 5: HOW CAN I KNOW ? (cont'd from page 2)

who translated the Bible, whether they realized it or not. But aren't we all affected by our culture? Today we use universally known words like "googled" and "a Karen." But how will those words be evaluated 1,000 years from now?

### Malakoi

The translations of "malakoi" really shook me: weaklings (1525), effeminate (1592, 1901), those who make women of themselves (1890). Then, the Revised Standard Version came out, and next we see: those who participate in homosexuality (1958), sexual perverts (1972), male prostitutes (1989). Drastic shift in word choices and their meanings from character traits to people who perform "perverse" sexual acts.

The best translation of "malakoi" is "effeminate" but not in the way we view effeminate now. In ancient Greek and Rome, women were nothing more than property, maybe even valued less than that. Women were thought to be weak, vulnerable,

unable to control their emotions, easily swayed to destructive behavior, and in general lesser than all males, even male slaves. So, to be considered effeminate in ancient times was one of the worst criticisms of the day but had no connection with sexual behavior or orientation.

When I read Kathy Baldock's book "Walking the Bridgeless Canyon" (see Book Review) which is the primary source for this article, my world was deeply shaken. If I couldn't count on the translation accuracy of these words, what other words might not be translated correctly? My mind quickly spiraled to deep, panicky questions like "What CAN I believe?" and "Is my Bible even real?" But I studied where the Bible came from and how it was put together and translated, and slowly rebuilt my faith, brick by brick. While doing so, I learned an important lesson: learning more about the history of my Bible and its writers isn't adding to or taking away from the Word of God. It's enriching it.

### Go deeper

For more about interpreting 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:9-10, we recommend these books:

- [Bible, Gender and Sexuality](#) by James Brownson
- [Scripture, Ethic, and the Possibility of Same-Sex Relationships](#) by Karen Keen

## Nourish Your Faith



*By Chris Altrick*

### THIS IS MY BODY

This spiritual exercise helps you feel centered when stressed, anxious or distracted. It takes one sentence spoken by Jesus at his final supper with his disciples and turns it into a breath prayer. It is a great breath prayer for the beginning of a day.

First, sit in a comfortable chair, away from noise and distractions. Place both feet flat on the ground, lay your hands in your lap palms up, and close your eyes. Take a deep breath through your nose. Exhale through your mouth. Continue this for several seconds.

Second, bring into your mind these words from Jesus: "This is my body, which is given for you." Align these words with your breathing. Inhale as you silently say, "This is my body." Exhale with

"which is given," inhale again with, "for you," then exhale to close the thought. Repeat this and continue this for several seconds.

Third, picture Jesus saying these words to you, as you continue to breathe and repeat these words mentally. Receive Jesus' body – His presence – as a gift in this moment. Trust that Jesus is with you, fulfilling these words.

Fourth, picture yourself saying these words to Jesus, as you continue to breathe to the verse repeating in your mind. When you are ready, place one hand on your stomach to bring full attention to your body. Breathe and pray, offering these words and yourself back to Jesus.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

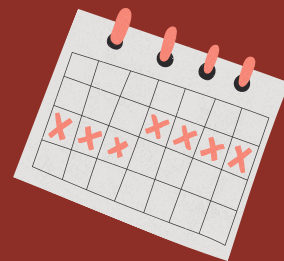


## PeacePrints Retreats

A safe place for parents to express their feelings with fellow believers in Christ

[More information](#) on PeacePrints

- Mar 25-27, 2022 - Nashville, TN



## Group Spiritual Direction for Parents

A place to help grow your awareness of God's work in your and your family's life and to share this spiritual journey with others

[More information](#) on Group Spiritual Direction

## CenterPeace Conference

- Nov 3-5, 2022 - Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas, TX

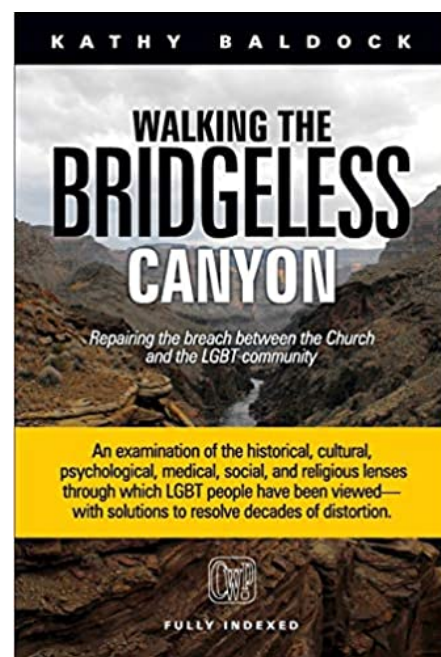
[More information](#) about Conference

## BOOK REVIEW: "WALKING THE BRIDGELESS CANYON: REPAIRING THE BREACH BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE LGBT COMMUNITY" BY KATHY BALDOCK

In 2001, Kathy Baldock, a straight conservative evangelical Christian, met a lesbian Native American on the local hiking trails near her home in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Their friendship challenged Baldock's religious beliefs about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. In this book, Baldock uncovers the historical, cultural, medical and political filters of discrimination through which the LGBT community is seen. With the foundation firmly established, she examines the most controversial filter of all: what the Bible says about same-sex behavior.

Ten years of research, as well as relationships with thousands of LGBT people, led to answering important questions: How did history, culture, science and politics intertwine to create social discrimination against the gay and transgender community? When and why did the conservative Christian community turn their focus on the gay and transgender community? Should Christian fellowship be extended to gay and transgender people? Should civil or Christian marriages be granted to them? What is happening within the LGBT Christian movement today?

Baldock carefully constructs a timeline as she untangles the details of various influences and influencers. Along the way, she shares fascinating stories and testimonies enriching the historical journey. Finally, for those who are wondering how they might enter into productive and respectful conversations about the LGBT community, this book offers the resources and tools needed to make informed and wise, Christ-centered choices.



Baldock also has a series of videos on her [YouTube Channel](#)

A recommended resource list can be found on the [CenterPeace Resource Page](#)



# CenterPeace

A place to belong

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