



For Our GLBT Friends

The following explains in detail how FOTOS implements each of its four vision principles: Share, Care, Heal and Protect. We invite you to read and learn more about what FOTOS is and what it is not. God bless you.

Our work to **SHARE** the Gospel within reach of homosexual communities is:

- Intended to share the Gospel of Christ with many who feel judged by Christians and thus have never had the opportunity to directly hear of Christ's unconditional love for them and His inclusive invitation for them to receive God's gift of salvation offered in kindness to His creation.
- Intended to show the faithfulness of Christ to give those who follow Him a life of peace, joy and hope that far surpasses our lives and our wills surrendered to Him at the Cross.
- Intended to show His wonderful plan to bless and prosper our lives with great meaning and purpose beyond what we can ever imagine prior to giving our hearts - and our very lives - to Him.
- Intended to publicly and boldly declare the awesome and unbounded love that Jesus has for us all.

It is:

- NOT intended to "evangelize the evangelized" ...if you are a Christian, we recognize you as our brother or sister in Christ even as we may disagree with one another on various matters.
- NOT intended to promote marriage or heterosexuality as the definition of healing - healing is entering into a relationship of surrender and trust in Jesus Christ and seeking His plan for our lives...a plan that may or may not include marriage. That is true for EVERYONE.

Our work to **CARE** for families in our churches who have homosexual children is:

- Intended to encourage families to love and relate to their homosexual children (and loved ones) as Jesus loves and encounters us all.
- Intended to counter the perception that to be a "good" Christian family battle lines and degrees of separation must be drawn - a "good" Christian family loves their children like the Father loves the Prodigal Son (we're ALL prodigal sons and daughters).

It is:

- NOT intended to make guarantees or promises that their children can easily and fully overcome same-sex attractions.
- NOT part of our SHARE initiatives when we extend the Gospel at university campuses and other public events within or near homosexual communities...our CARE initiatives are handled exclusively within the churches we work with.

Our work to **HEAL** those seeking assistance with sexual brokenness is:

- Intended to offer assistance to those who carry spiritual beliefs and convictions that prevent them from being able to fully embrace and live out their homosexual identity in same-sex relationships.
- Intended to shed light on the true nature and content of "healing programs" to counter the impressions that such ministries use abusive and forced techniques that cause physical, psychological and spiritual harm.
- Intended to shed light on the fact that such "healing programs" that a decade ago exclusively ministered to gay men are today offering incredible ministry to people of all kinds of sexual and relational brokenness...men and women, homosexual and heterosexual, of all kinds of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

It is:

- NOT intended to make guarantees or promises that same-sex attractions will 100% disappear.
- NOT intended to make guarantees or promises that marriage will be in one's future.
- NOT intended to judge people or attack the gay culture of those who are not interested in such programs.
- NOT part of our SHARE initiatives when we extend the Gospel at university campuses and other public events within or near homosexual communities...our HEAL initiatives are handled exclusively within the churches we work with (in other words, such programs are available for those who are voluntarily seeking such assistance within the church - we in no way are forcing this issue upon those who are not interested).

Our work to **PROTECT** all touched by homosexuality is:

- Intended to reduce violence against GLBT persons.
- Intended to reduce teen suicide rates.

- Intended to value and esteem the dignity and worth of homosexuals and their right to live out their lives free from physical harm and intimidation.
- Intended to value and esteem the dignity and worth of persons in the church struggling with same-sex attractions and their right to voluntarily seek healing programs free from physical harm and intimidation.
- Intended to protect very young children from pre-mature exposure to sexual issues in light of their incredibly innocent hearts and our responsibility to protect such innocence in accordance with the teachings of Jesus.
- Intended to encourage parents to be physically and emotionally present in their children's lives in a world that often pulls parents away from their children in the pursuit of the American Dream.
- Intended to encourage parents to celebrate each child's individual and natural gifts and talents whether their children are academically, athletically and/or artistically inclined.
- Intended to create safer churches and families where children with sexual and gender issues can openly share about themselves instead of hiding in fear of rejection and abandonment.

It is:

- NOT intended to make guarantees or promises that loving and present parents will absolutely prevent homosexual orientation (we recognize the reality of homosexuality in society).
- NOT intended to blame parents or hold them responsible for a child's homosexuality.
- NOT intended to overlook the complexity of factors that likely contribute to homosexual orientation, including biological, hormonal and environmental factors such as parenting style, various forms of abuse and other developmental factors.

Concluding reflections...

It is understood that Evangelicals and the GLBT Community differ in many significant areas on the issue of homosexuality. While we understand the tension and emotions that are present in the midst of such disagreements, we nonetheless share notable areas of common ground that should be recognized and even celebrated. We at FOTOS believe it is possible to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a manner that honors and respects each one of us even as we feel discomfort about our areas of disagreement.

We welcome dialogue on our ministry and this website...simply Contact Us with your questions or comments. Thank you for visiting our website. God bless you.