

---

## *Love First: Learning to Love*

---

*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, April 28, 2019*

### **I Want New Hope to Be Pro-Love**

Take a Look at The Insert: Terms That We Will Be Using

The Problem:

The Evangelical Church Could Lose an Entire Generation of Christians

We Need a Better Way to Talk About LGBT Issues  
Fortunately, We Don't Have to Look Far...

"Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." *Matthew 22:37-40, NLT*

God's Answer Is To: Love First

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." *John 13:34-35, NLT*

### **There Is No Room in Christianity For Hate**

"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!" *Matthew 5:43-44, NLT*

Some of the Churches Big Problems:

Let's Set the Record Straight:

God's Love Is All Inclusive

God's Righteousness Is Exclusive

All Are Welcome – All Must Change

## Let's Deal with Some of The Hard Questions:

### 1. Is Same Sex Attraction a Sin?

“For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.” *Matthew 15:19, NLT*

Sexual Lust and Sexual Behavior Outside of Marriage  
Are Sins, Sexual Attraction Is Not

“Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.” *James 1:14-15, NLT*

### 2. Is Being Gay a Sin?

The Term Gay Means “Attracted to People of The Same-Sex”

This Is Why the Term Anti-Gay Is A Non-Loving  
Prejudicial Concept

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, “even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...” *Ephesians 2:1-5, ESV*

### 3. Can't They Just Pray It Away?

The Good News Isn't "God Can Make You Straight,"  
But "God Can Make You Holy"

What About Me and My Attitudes?  
Are They Under the Lordship of Christ?

“Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” *Romans 12:2, NLT*