

EXTENDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD...ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

ONE-TO-ONE

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REVEALED IN FELLOWSHIP





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From the Editor

Well-Done, Good and Faithful Servant Honoring Pastor John Duke (1940- 2014)

BY STEPHEN SIMPSON

In December of 2014, Pastor John Duke, one of my heroes and one of my Dad's best friends, went home to be with the Lord. He had courageously battled Parkinson's Disease for the past few years. Even in the midst of great personal suffering, he continued to minister, counsel, pray, prophesy, and care for those in his family and church. The anointing of God never left him, and continued to pour out of him until he breathed his last breath.

For me personally, the worth of his life, example, love, and wisdom is incalculably great. I knew him all of my life, from my earliest memory. He and his extraordinary wife, Ellen (a heroine in her own right), were always close to my parents, and our families were close together. John Duke personified friendship.

I was honored to grow up watching him, listening to him, being encouraged by him, being chastened by him, and ultimately, receiving a prophetic blessing over my life and my family's life that I will always cherish. John Duke was humble, and preferred the role of the servant rather than the served. And, he certainly wanted no pomp or fuss made over him. Therefore, I will not give him the title of "prophet" here, but make no mistake: he was prophetic and carried a prophet's mantle. He was in ministry for more than 50 years across the USA and in New Zealand, where he and his family



From top to bottom: John Duke with his great-grandson, Tolf; John and his wife, Ellen; and John and his brother, Billy Duke, on the Gulf Coast Fellowship softball team.

lived for 2 years.

He was a powerful preacher, with great insights. Among the many great sermons I heard by Brother John, I was especially affected by a message he gave in 1984 about Job entitled, "Gird Up Your Loins, and Act Like a Man!" That night, he inspired hundreds of young men to embrace the call of God on their lives and to be relentless in pursuit of Him.

I never saw a more loyal or faithful man than John Duke. He was tenacious in his desire to serve God and God's people. He was tough, as tough as anyone I've ever seen. More than once, I saw his face, head, and ears get red with the intensity of his desire to do right, and to see right done. John Duke was a worker, and he attracted people who loved to work. He never demanded more of anyone than he demanded of himself; in fact, it wasn't ever anywhere close to what he demanded of himself.

Brother John was sincere and passionate in his prayers. As he would pray, it was a privilege to be a witness to the dialogue he was having with God. He would listen to the Holy Spirit, and pray out of what he was hearing. Sometimes he would laugh, sometimes he would cry. He would stand up with his hands in the air, or he would lie flat on the floor, face down, calling

[JOHN DUKE continued on Pg. 12](#)



Keynote

*God's purpose and hope come to us
through personal relationship with Him and one another*

REVEALED IN FELLOWSHIP

BY CHARLES SIMPSON



I like to be comfortable, don't you? And familiar people, places, and things make me comfortable. The unfamiliar can make me uncomfortable. But I've learned this: if I get too familiar, I can lose my appreciation for people, places, and things. There is an old saying: "familiarity breeds contempt."

Sometimes we can get familiar with a biblical passage and fail to see its deeper truth. Or, we can become overly familiar with a person and fail to appreciate their gifts or contribution to our lives. We can start to focus more on their human

Virginia near Washington, D.C. There was a planning meeting which I was unable to attend, in which Derek suggested that I be assigned the topic, "Discipleship, Fellowship and Worship." At first I was reluctant because amazingly, I had not ministered on those topics. Nevertheless, I accepted. The preparation for that teaching affected the rest of my life! I'll be forever grateful.

In this article, I want to focus primarily on fellowship as



The trial of Jesus, the innocent Lamb of God, the beatings, mocking, and finally the Crucifixion had destroyed their hope and the cause to which they had dedicated their lives. Walking down the rugged hill, they tried to reason it all, but could think of nothing but loss. The phrase, "We had hoped" summed it all up. Hopelessness is "hell on earth."

JOINED BY JESUS

It was at this point that Jesus joined them, but they were unaware of His majesty, blinded by their own grief and doubt. They had heard the report of the women who found the empty tomb, but the testimony failed

"FELLOWSHIP IS THE PLACE WHERE JESUS REVEALS HIMSELF. THERE IS NO GREATER GIFT TO US THAN THE PRESENCE OF JESUS IN WHICH WE BECOME ACUTELY AWARE THAT HE IS SPEAKING TO US."

frailties more than their worth and usefulness to God.

There is another old saying: "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country." That saying is as old as Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and even Jesus. It was true of most of the prophets recorded in the Scriptures. In 1970, I was privileged to begin working with Bible teachers Don Basham, Bob Mumford, and Derek Prince as a team in a committed relationship. Later, Ern Baxter was added to this team, and he also became one of my life's greatest blessings.

In 1971, Don, Bob, Derek, and I were scheduled to do a 6-week seminar in Northern

the place where Jesus reveals Himself. There is no greater gift to us than the presence of Jesus in which we become acutely aware that He is speaking to us. That is a life-changing and perspective-altering experience. To illustrate that, I will describe what happened to two of His disciples as they walked away from Jerusalem going down to their house in Emmaus, seven miles away—after the Resurrection which they had not believed. (*You can read this story in Luke 24:13-35.*)

Shared disappointments are often the basis for fellowship. I cannot fully imagine the disappointment, pain, and despondency of the two men walking away from the worst experience they had ever had.

to stir their hope again or their faith. Sometimes the words of others are not enough.

We should know that our Lord is aware of our conversations (see Malachi 3:16-18). He knew their sorrows. Two had now become three and the third person was the Chief Shepherd, but they continued to look down at the dry, hard rocks as they descended the steep hillside.

Then Jesus spoke: "What things are you talking about?" He questioned. Then they recounted what had happened just three days earlier. Their thoughts were summed up by saying, "We had hoped that He would be the Messiah to redeem Israel." Now, there seemed to be no Messiah, no redemption, and no hope.

God's ways are not ours and when the two collide and outcomes are not what we hoped, we can be despondent. The darkness that had settled on Calvary was still settled upon their minds. The Resurrection had already occurred, but not in their thoughts. It was still Friday for them.

THE AUTHOR EXPLAINS THE BOOK

The answer to their unbelief was in the Scripture, so Jesus began with Moses and the prophets to explain the Word that He, Himself had inspired. I do not know the specific texts to which He referred; it was probably many texts as they walked the seven miles. Perhaps He referred to Deuteronomy 18:15, Psalm 18, Psalm 22, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 50, or Isaiah 53. From Scripture, He explained why it was all necessary. Later they would reflect that their "hearts burned within", as He spoke.

"Ought not the Christ (Messiah) to have suffered these things and enter His Glory?" He asked, gently rebuking their doubts as He opened the Scriptures. To the natural mind, suffering is unreasonable, but to Jesus, it was His portal into Glory (see John 12:23-32). That truth continues to haunt us in our disappointments and often obscures our vision of Jesus. But it is the truth that we as real disciples experience, both in His Cross and ours. There is no path around the Cross, either His or ours. A gospel without a Cross is no gospel. There

can be no resurrection without a death (see 1 Corinthians 1:18-19; 2:1-2).

ABIDE WITH US

They finally came to a house, entered and sat, resting from the long walk down the steep hillside. Jesus had indicated that He would walk further but they said, "It is getting late; *abide with us.*" Their interest was still intense and wanted to hear more. "Please don't leave," they were saying. So it is with His presence, we do not want it to leave.



"JESUS HIMSELF
STOOD IN THEIR
MIDST AND SAID,
"PEACE TO YOU.
WHY ARE YOU
TROUBLED? WHY
DO DOUBTS ARISE
IN YOUR HEARTS?"

"Abide With Me" is a poem written by Henry Francis Lyte in 1847, shortly before his death. It was set to music by William Henry Monk and can be heard today on Youtube being sung a cappella by the Mennonite Choir. It is a

powerful rendition. I offer only the first and last verses, but all are moving and profound, inspired by the request of those Emmaus disciples:

Abide with me, fast falls the evening tide;

The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.

When other helpers fail and comforts flee,

Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy Cross before my closing eyes;

Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;

In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

So it was and so it is when in His presence, there is light in the gloom, time slows and His voice transfixes us and transforms our view of life's events, suffering, and even death.

BREAKING BREAD

"And it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight" (see Luke 24:30-31).

They knew Him in fellowship and eating together. Before, their eyes were restrained; in fellowship with Him, their eyes were opened. Now they had a testimony of their own as they basked in the afterglow. They recalled His Words and how they were affected. Jesus had opened their eyes to see **Him** in it all! They did not want to leave that place that had been

sanctified by the visit from the risen Christ.

It is a bad sign when people hurry from a church meeting. When such is the case, the Lord's presence has not been evident. His Word was not made alive and they are left with nothing to tell. When we encounter Christ there is an afterglow like embers yet red with heat. The words spoken linger in our minds and hearts like the echo of a powerful voice. Our perspective is transformed as we behold His glory.

BACK TO JERUSALEM

They sat and thought in amazement, but not too long; they had a message. In that same hour they climbed the hill that they had so recently descended now energized by the visitation of Jesus. They climbed past their previous doubts and depression to find the other disciples who themselves were wrestling with doubts and fears. Charging through the door they exclaimed, "The Lord is risen indeed!" They recounted the things that had happened along the road and the revealing of Jesus as He had broken bread with them.

And while they were telling their story, Jesus Himself stood in their midst and said, "Peace to you. Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?" Then He invited them to see His wounds and touch Him. Soon He was eating with them again.

The real presence of God removes doubt and fear. Eating the blessed and broken bread with Him and one another opens our eyes; He

reveals Himself in fellowship that he is the Prince of Peace!

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

I love this passage of Scripture. These events that occurred one day and into the evening tell us what happens when Jesus is evidently present. The walk away from Jerusalem is too much like so many discouraged disciples for whom life has ceased to make sense. Hope has been dashed and the unrecognized Jesus is walking beside them. As He begins to open the Scriptures, perspective is changed. It was all necessary.

For many disciples, it is all about getting the world into the house. But I pray that we can get His disciples out on the road to deal with the doubt and hopelessness of shattered dreams. The greatest meetings are when Jesus meets us on the road. They are when we gather two or three and know Him in the breaking of bread together. It is when we finally see His perspective that drives ours away.

It is a legitimate invitation to say, "Come and see" or "Come and hear", if it is Jesus that we are inviting them to see and hear, and not merely the pastor, worship team, or facilities. When we truly meet with Jesus, He will explain His Word, reveal Himself, and change how and what we think. When we meet with Jesus, there will be an afterglow as we reflect upon Him and His Word. And, there will be a burning desire to tell others that "He is risen indeed!" The Gospel of Jesus' death, burial, and

Resurrection cannot be kept a secret or confined by any force.

There are many among us still walking away. They have not recognized the Lord Who is speaking, or have seen that those events that discouraged them were necessary for a fresh revelation of Jesus. Perhaps we can fellowship with them, break bread, and Jesus will show up and make Himself known. Don't stay in the house too long; go look for others who have not yet realized for themselves that ... He is alive! 121

CHARLES SIMPSON is Editor-in-Chief of *One-to-One* Magazine. He ministers extensively throughout the United States and among the nations.



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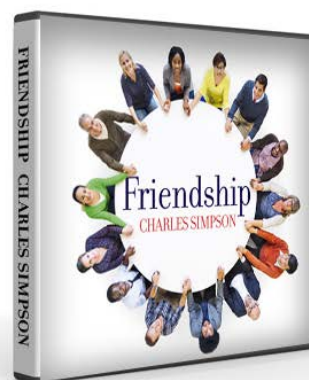
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“This has been one of the best received messages that I have ever been privileged to deliver in a very moving and powerful atmosphere. I was receiving communion recently when the Holy Spirit spoke to me through Jesus’ words to His disciples, *‘with fervent desire, I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.’* In the message I also recall a very moving story of how two boys become friends and how that relationship saved the life of one.”

—Charles Simpson

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Familygram

LIVES WORTH CELEBRATING

How to keep Jesus in
the center of our homes
by Stephen Simpson

On a Sunday night, more than one billion viewers worldwide huddled around their TV sets and computers to watch highly paid and meticulously pampered Hollywood stars throw their annual Oscar bash to congratulate one another and to preach political correctness to their fawning fans. Countless pundits, admirers, and analysts carefully scrutinized every dress, hair style, and syllable. Who's hot? Who's not?

In those moments, it would seem that the focus of the world was on that theater, on those luminaries,

On that very same night, two hundred parents and friends gathered at Oak Pointe Church near Detroit, MI, to celebrate the baptism of 24 of their children who had personally received Jesus as their forever Friend and Lord. The kids read their testimonies that they had personally written. Many specifically said they were getting baptized because they wanted the world to know that they belonged to Jesus, and they wanted everyone to know about Him.



A question could be asked: which event will have more eternal, cosmic significance?

RIGHT RELATIONSHIP

One of my greatest joys in ministry has been being able to stand in a baptismal pool with parents and their child who is preparing to enter into baptism. One of my greatest burdens is to stand with parents in prayer for a wayward child, and agree with them in faith for that child to be drawn into a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

For a parent who has received Jesus, there can be no greater or more powerful desire than to see their child in right relationship to the Lord. Even when our children become adults, we never stop praying for them and longing for them to be close to their Heavenly Father. When they stray, we grieve. When they return, we rejoice! Nobody can or will make you pray like your own children or grandchildren!

This desire that we have actually comes straight from the heart of Father God, and gives us some insight into how He must feel about us as His children. As a good Father, He has a loving and eternal

perspective that will equip us for the wonderful life He prepared for us to live. He calls and inspires us as parents to place a high priority on preparing and leading our own children into a closer walk with Him.

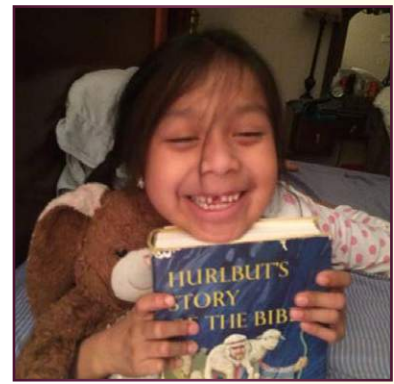
TEACH DILIGENTLY

One of the most precious and profound statements in all of the Bible is the instruction He gives to us as His people:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

The picture we receive here is that our walk with God must be constant and consistent. He says, "Teach diligently", and explains this means every day, throughout the day, whatever we are doing or saying. Surely it means equipping them via church gatherings, but it's clear that it also means in our homes, and all of our waking moments.

It may mean teaching by directly sitting down with them, reading the Bible to them,



Liza Simpson

telling them stories, asking questions about what they have just heard, affirming God's love and your love for them, and praying with them. Recently, I received a wonderful picture from my brother, Jonathan. He and his wife, Sarah, are teaching the Bible to their sweet daughter, Liza. They are using the very book that our Dad and Mom read with Jon, my sister, and me, *Hurlbut's Story of the Bible*.

THROUGH THE DAY

It can also mean taking your child with you to work at appropriate times, if that is encouraged in your place of employment. Let them observe you in your environment and take time to show them something about what you do and how you interact with your fellow employees. That way, when you ask them later to pray for you during the workday, they can understand better how to pray. Tell them how God meets with you in and through your work, and about the blessing of serving others and working with excellence "as unto the Lord".



For some parents, homeschooling is an option for shaping a strong and balanced curriculum with a biblical worldview. For others, a Christian or private school is best for their children. And, there are circumstances when a public school offers the best option for families. In every case, parents must be exceptionally alert and proactive regarding the material their children are being taught...as well as who is doing the teaching, and who is learning alongside of their children.

Of course, kids don't simply learn at school. Who are their friends? What are they reading? Where do they surf the internet and what do they glimpse when they do? What music do they hear on their smartphones and apps? What do they absorb via TV or Netflix? You have the calling and authority as parents and grandparents to lovingly, but diligently understand what is influencing your children.

EVERY WAKING MOMENT

When you bring (as opposed to merely sending) your children to church, set the tone for them in thanksgiving, reverence, and joy. Let them hear your voice singing praise; let them hear authentic conviction in your prayers. If they see that you are more focused on the pastor's mistakes, or the worship leader's attire, or the wrong carpet color, then that's what they will focus upon.

According to Deuteronomy, the Lord should be both our first waking thought and our last waking thought, and we are to invite His presence to be with us throughout the day. Brother Lawrence taught "practicing the presence of God" in all that we do; to have awareness and gratitude for Him that causes all of our lives to be sanctified for Him, and not just for an hour a week in a pew.

Instilling these things in our children is not a formula, nor does it mean they will avoid struggles and doubts in their lives. Sometimes, they may even seem to step away from faith or reject what you have taught them. This is hard and heartbreaking when it happens.

But if it happens, don't stop loving, don't stop praying, and don't stop watching and waiting for what God can do in their lives. Be prepared at any moment to run to greet them as they return. If we can agree with you in prayer here at CSM, please let me know, and we will.

I love films, music, and entertainment, and I am very happy when great art and great artists are encouraged and rewarded. But, every gold statuette ever presented could not match the worth and glory of one soul saved. Let's continue to be diligent in teaching and praying for the sake of our children and the children in this generation. Now, that's something worth celebrating! 121

FROM THE EDITOR

JOHN DUKE continued from pg 3

out to God. And the tangible sense of God's presence in the room would be electrifying.

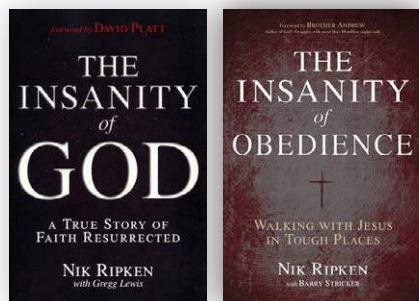
As fierce of a prayer warrior as he was, he was just as tender with his family; his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were precious to him and he delighted in being with them. He had an unshakable trust that God's faithfulness does indeed endure from generation to generation. And to that end, he also made disciples, right up until he passed away, among many generations. Young people were drawn to him, to learn and to receive an impartation of his spirit. Brother John leaves with them an exceptional legacy.

Nearly 30 years ago, he founded Covenant Life Church in the Atlanta area. In early 2014, he began the transition with Presiding Pastor Curtis Forman and now Senior Pastor Chris Hyatt. The church family there is in good hands with these faithful men and the outstanding leadership team that is around them. Please continue to pray for Brother John's family and the church there.

Thank you, Jesus, for the life of your servant, John Duke. May we be worthy of the legacy we have received, and may we serve you with the same joy and faithfulness that he did. 121

STEPHEN SIMPSON is the Editor of *One-to-One Magazine* and the Director of CSM Publishing. For information on speaking availability, please call (251) 633-7900 or e-mail onetreesteve@bellsouth.net. You can also follow him on Twitter @BamaStephen.

Book Reviews



THE INSANITY OF GOD

A true story of faith resurrected
by **Nik Ripken**

with **Gregg Lewis**

Foreword by David Platt

B&H Books (2013)

THE INSANITY OF OBEDIENCE

Walking with Jesus in tough places

by **Nik Ripken**

with **Barry Stricker**

Foreword by Brother Andrew

B&H Books (2014)

Missionary **NIK RIPKEN** and his wife, Ruth, asked God to send them into hard places in order for them to be a light for Jesus in the midst of darkness. God sent them to war-torn Somalia, where they encountered some of the most dangerous, harsh, and heartbreaking circumstances imaginable. Not only did they witness suffering, but they experienced it themselves first-hand.

Amidst tragedy, they experienced a crisis of faith. It seemed as if perhaps the Gospel would not work everywhere; at least, not in such difficult circumstances. As they sought the Lord over time, they experienced healing and a fresh vision for mission.

It was out of these experiences that they began to travel specifically

to nations where Christians suffer the most oppression and persecution; even martyrdom. Their quest was to discover once again why Christianity not only survives in these nations, but is being extended by courageous believers.

Over the past 25 years, they have visited more than 60 nations and have personally interviewed more than 600 Christ-followers. Both of these books contain many of these testimonies from people who have endured exceptional hardship for the sake of the Gospel. Amazingly, their perspectives are not bitter or fearful, but are faith-filled and inspiring.

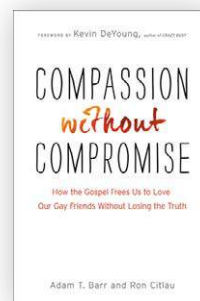
Together, these stories paint a picture of what radical discipleship for Jesus looks like in the 21st Century. Their testimony is that Jesus is worth it; He is worth it all. Their love for Jesus burns brightly and directs everything they do. The reader is struck by the sense of joy these faithful followers of Christ have and share so readily.

A central question becomes, not why are these believers being persecuted in their nations, but why are we in the West not being persecuted in ours? How much have we compromised in order to be accepted or to avoid hardship? These are sobering and challenging questions, but our persecuted brothers and sisters light the way for us to be found faithful in our generation.

These interviews have had a profound effect on Nik and Ruth, and will grip the heart of every reader. For those who love Jesus, the challenges do not deter our faith, but rather confirm it. To walk in discipleship with Jesus will eventually lead us into a place of being opposed and even persecuted, even as Jesus and His biblical disciples experienced opposition.

We are witnessing the earliest stages of this in the United States, Europe, and other nations that once welcomed the Gospel message. While the level of opposition is nowhere as intense as it is in nations dominated by Islam or forms of Communism, the winds of culture have definitely shifted. Some believers are already suffering great loss and separation.

Jesus not only sends us out, but He sends us as "sheep among wolves". Both of these books provide insights and inspiration that will equip us to walk wisely and boldly in a paradigm that may be new for many Westerners, but is normal to believers in many other parts of the world.



COMPASSION WITHOUT COMPROMISE

How the Gospel frees us to love our gay friends without losing the truth

by **Adam T. Barr**

and **Ron Citlau**

Foreword by Kevin DeYoung
Bethany House (2014)

Few issues have confronted the Church with greater force in the past decade than the question of how to deal with homosexuality. This question resonates particularly strongly among emerging generations, and it is not going away. The Church today not only needs to give an answer; the Church needs an answer, and one that goes past bumper sticker pat answers.

BOOK REVIEWS continued on Pg. 14

For the sake of relationships or cultural acceptance, many religious leaders, spiritual celebrities, and waning denominations have begun catering to the popular novel notion that homosexual behavior is normal and should be affirmed and celebrated.

Other religious folk have reacted to gay people with venom and fear, building walls and raising drawbridges, throwing the occasional stone or caustic cliché. As a result, the biblical principle of “speaking the truth in love” has often been cast aside in favor of convenience, whether it means an “anything goes” permissiveness or a “circle the wagons” exclusiveness.

Authors and Pastors Adam Barr and Ron Citlau challenge these notions using sound biblical teaching and personal testimony. Though the book is very well-researched and deeply rooted in Scripture, both authors maintain a relatable, humble, humorous, easy-to-read style that is never stuffy or preachy. It is also immensely practical in the real-world questions that it asks and answers.

Furthermore, Barr and Citlau present a moral template that will assist the reader in being a true Gospel witness in changing and turbulent societal circumstances. Patiently and graciously, they expose the false arguments made in favor of compromise, and guide readers using the compass of godly wisdom. They encourage followers of Christ to fully engage with everyone in culture who is lost and looking for a Savior, rather than retreating in fear and anger.

Some of the questions they address include:

- What is the purpose of sex?
- Are Christians hypocrites?
- Is sexual sin different from other sins?
- What do you do if someone close to you tells you they are gay?
- What if your cousin or co-worker invites you to their gay wedding?
- Does Jesus care about our sex lives?
- Are Christians really just homophobes and haters?
- How does the Gospel transform lives?
- How should the Church respond?

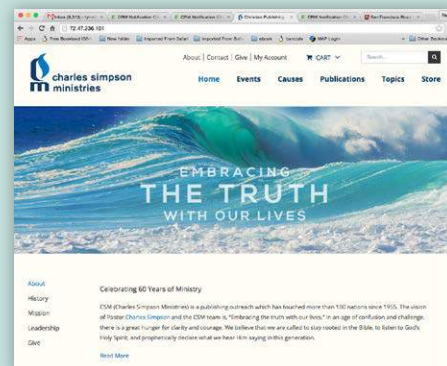
Along the way, the authors offer valuable insights into healthy relationships and marriage. In understanding God’s beautiful plan for human interaction, we more fully see what perspectives and behaviors point to life and joy.

Adam Barr was raised in a strongly Christian and missional home, and shares personal stories of how his upbringing, study, experience, and personal faith have shaped his life and ministry. Adam is married to Jennifer, and has four sons. He pastors a church in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area.

Ron Citlau grew up in church, but struggled with gay feelings from an early age, resulting in many years of sexual chaos and brokenness. In 1997, he said “yes” to Jesus, and began a journey of transformation and healing, and this amazing testimony allows Ron to offer unique and practical wisdom on the issue of sexual restoration. He and his wife, Amy, and their four sons live near Chicago, where he pastors a church. **121**

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