

A response to Pastor Fei Weng* of the Victory Baptist Chinese Mission of Rochester, New York

(Pastor Weng has influenced certain prominent figures in China with his anti-gay rhetoric)

There are basic differences between viewpoints of fundamentalist Christian churches and progressive Christian churches regarding the Bible and God.

- Fundamentalist Christian churches of today generally preach that every word of the Bible came directly from God, and that there are no errors in the Bible.
- On the other hand, progressive Christian churches study the Bible contextually, where they explore questions such as: who wrote a particular book in the Bible, when was it written, who was the audience, and why it was written.
- Fundamentalist ministers teach that God is an omnipresent, all powerful, and all knowing God, i.e., the model of God we typically learned in Sunday school.
- Progressive Christian ministers and rabbis generally embrace Process Theology as the model of God that better fits the world today.
- Because of newfound understanding that sexual orientation is NOT a choice, fundamentalist ministers face the difficulty of reconciling that knowledge with their own personal religious beliefs, as well as their public positions. Some fundamentalist ministers fear that acceptance of sexual orientation being innate would crumble their belief system.
- Progressive Christian denominations such as the United Church of Christ, the Unitarian Universalists, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, and the Presbyterian Church of America have either fully embraced gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders, or have taken major steps that lead toward full acceptance.
- Due primarily to the mainstream media in the US (and justice-seeking ministers and allies), the change in the understanding of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders (GLBT) has been surprisingly rapid in the past 10 years. Research and study in major universities as well as clinical studies of societies has shown that a percentage of people in all cultures of the world will be gay, lesbian, bisexuals or transgender.
- Because of the relative freedom in communications within the US, mainstream books, TV and movies now show gay characters frequently as a normal part of everyday life.

In many countries, in many cultures and in many families, sex is never mentioned in the family, much less discussion of sexual orientation. In those families, the expectation is that every child will be heterosexual, and parents find it very difficult to accept a child who is not heterosexual. Much more precarious is the predicament of the child, who had feared the day that he or she might have to disclose their sexual orientation.

Widespread information on the diversity of sexual orientation will help ALL parents and ALL children, and will improve the mental and physical health of ALL children, and will help them achieve their full potential in life!

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