



THE NEWSLETTER OF PRODIGAL MINISTRIES

MARCH 2015

Reaching Out

from the desk of our executive director

Under attack, and in need of your help

Yes, we are, literally, under attack. Under vicious attack.

I am speaking specifically, of course, about the ongoing, widespread attack on Prodigal Ministries and other Christ-centered ministries that provide counseling and support for persons struggling with same-gender attraction and other gender issues.

But the attack goes beyond this and other like-minded ministries. It extends to all in the Body of Christ who stand firmly on the authority of God's Word.

And sadly, this attack increasingly comes not only from the secular culture but also from leaders in the organized, "visible" church. Such forces claim that the "loving" and "Christian" response to persons experiencing same-gender attraction or other forms of gender confusion is to affirm and even encourage behaviors

"Destroy the foundation, and everything falls."

and lifestyles that are outside of God's creational design. Further, they insist on affirming and encouraging these dangerous behaviors even when individuals express a desire to be freed of such feelings. When organizations such as Prodigal Ministries express true love by pointing those individuals to the freedom and joy that Christ wants for them, we are maligned, ridiculed, legislated against, and labeled as

"hateful." We are under attack.

To be sure, this is—first and foremost—an attack on the authority of God's Word, and thus, on God, Himself.

The literal Genesis account of creation tells us that God created mankind in His image, male and female.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (1:27)

For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and the two shall become one flesh. (2:24)

That is God's only design for human sexuality—a male and female joined together as one by God in marriage. And it is a design intended to reflect the image—the nature and character—of God. That is, the image of our **one** God Who is **three** in Personhood, three **equal** Persons Who have distinct roles and relationships.

Our all-knowing, all-powerful, infinitely holy and loving God created each one of us "in His image" and in His wisdom He crafted each one of us as male or female. As Creator, He knows what will truly bring us the greatest joy and Him the greatest glory.

But we live in a fallen world. Sin has distorted every aspect of our being, including our sexuality. Even those of us who have come to Christ in repentance

and faith and belong eternally to Him, still experience feelings and desires that are outside of God's perfect plan for us.

Many, even many within the Church today, have bought into the lie that God's Word no longer is authoritative when it speaks of these foundational, creational issues. No longer authoritative or inerrant when it speaks about gender, sexuality, and God's design and intent in creation. But what we must never lose sight of is that an attack on these foundational issues is an attack on the trustworthiness and authority of all God's Word, and so ultimately, on the Gospel, itself. Destroy the foundation, and everything falls.

When questioned about a marriage-related issue, Jesus pointed His attackers **to the Genesis account.**

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh." (Matthew 19: 4-6)

At Prodigal Ministries, we follow Christ's loving example. When an individual comes to us because he or she is struggling with same-gender attraction, transgender feelings, or other gender issues, we point them to God's perfect plan in creation. And, most importantly, we point them to Christ Jesus, through

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Whom and by Whom all things were created and through Whom, alone, we can be restored to God's perfect plan for us in creation.

WE DO MORE THAN POINT THEM.

We walk along with these individuals as they journey toward the ultimate joy that can only come through union with and obedience to our loving Creator and Savior.

We do this because God has called all of us who are in Him to take His authoritative Word and its message of freedom, restoration and joy in Christ alone to those in our circles of influence. And we at Prodigal Ministries reach out to this specific group because we have been through a similar journey and we understand their conflicting feelings, their confusion, their frustrations, and their isolation. We reach out because, more importantly, we know firsthand that through surrendering to Jesus, by yielding to His love, grace and lordship, there is unsurpassed joy. Joy that surpasses even the circumstance of unwanted attractions or feelings.

With God, through Jesus and the power of His indwelling Holy Spirit, ***all things are possible.***

In Christ God can raise us from spiritual death to new, eternal life. And so He certainly can heal every aspect of our fallen nature, including our sexuality. We, ourselves, are living proof. And we've seen the living proof of His power and love working this way week after week, year after year in changed, joyfully transformed lives.

We also are confident that God wants to continue reaching out through this organization. We have that confidence because in spite of all the negative influences in our culture and even within the visible church, the Holy Spirit continues to urge precious men and women struggling with sexuality and gender issues to phone us or to contact us through our Web site. Last month, alone, He directed seven new clients to us.

And so, we are not surprised or intimidated by the attack against us.

More than ever, though, we do depend and count on your partnership and prayer.

First, we count on you and encourage you to personally reach out in love to the men and women in your circles who are struggling with these difficult issues...to care for them... and, as God opens the door, to direct them to God's Word and His better plan for their lives.

And then we count on you to encourage these precious individuals to contact Prodigal Ministries. So many others struggling with the same issues have been blessed by the community, the understanding, the accountability, and the professional, Christ-centered counseling that we have been uniquely prepared and called to provide.

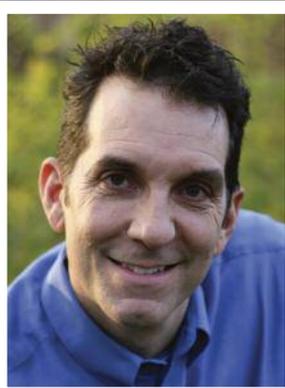
Finally, as the attack on God's Word becomes more and more vicious and widespread, we need your partnership through financial assistance.

This is not a "fringe" ministry that deals with disputable matters. For 29 years Prodigal Ministries has been a Gospel-centered, Christ-centered, Great Commission organization that stands on the authority of God's Word and reaches out in Christ-like love to precious souls who need to know of Christ's perfect love and plan for their lives.

Please pray for our protection both spiritually and physically. Please prayerfully consider helping us with a special gift and/or a commitment to ongoing support. And please share this letter with other Christ followers who may not know of His outreach through Prodigal Ministries. ✞

Grace, peace and joy in Jesus!

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