

Risking Grace, Loving Our Gay Family and Friends Like Jesus

Dave Jackson



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As someone who helped write a book advocating reparative therapy for gay people back in 1987, it was with gut-wrenching love that my wife and I did not let our daughter go when she came out 16 years ago. We fi rst prayed that God would change her, then that he would work out his purpose in her life, and fi nally, "Lord, what are you trying to teach us?" God answered with insights that led me to write RISKING GRACE, Loving Our Gay Family and Friends Like Jesus. It's a father's story about my agonizing personal journey of coming to realize that we evangelicals have lost our way when it comes to gay people by substituting a works/righteousness requirement for the clear Gospel message that salvation comes by grace through faith alone. I explore alternative interpretations to the "prohibitive texts," but the main foundation for my change of heart is the life and ministry of Jesus, how he embraced marginalized people, and the way he and the early church dealt with diffi cult issues. I share our story with you, our church family, because many of us have family members or friends who are gay, and we all need help learning how to love like Jesus. I've written with as much transparent vulnerability as I can, wrestling with the questions and presuppositions of the average straight dad (or mom)... who loves his daughter and his church but discovers that we have been driving gay people away from Jesus.

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