



Leadership Talking Points

1) Beliefs and Methods

I believe it's important that you know me and the direction that I believe God is leading the Hope for Wholeness Network. I'm an open book when it comes to sharing my life and beliefs.

Affiliates may either teach a more grace based message or a more conservative message and still belong to HFWN. I believe individuals and churches should be respected as to how they choose to worship the Lord. There are many different expressions within the Bible believing and teaching genre of the Body of Christ. I believe that all who call on the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will be in heaven (Romans 10:13). We must respect the many different avenues that individuals, ministries and counselors choose to seek, find healing and communicate their beliefs on the issue of freedom from homosexuality to include sexual and relational wholeness in general.

However, I do not want to include ministries that promise a change in attractions, i.e., from same-sex attractions to opposite-sex attractions.

“Hope for Wholeness is a group of individuals seeking to live lives that are consistent with the teachings of the Bible, which encompass issues surrounding our sexuality. Hope for Wholeness's members choose to change their sexual behavior to align with biblical teaching on sexuality and may experience a shift in sexual attractions; others may not. We are motivated not by a shift in attraction, but by the desire to live a life consistent with our faith.” (From Policy Statement “Reparative Therapy and Change” by HFWN)

I believe same-sex attractions often decrease in some measure as one grows and matures in Christ. There may be long periods when the burden is light, and other times when these attractions rise up with a vengeance. I believe emotional and sexual intimacy with the opposite sex is obtainable if He so leads, but may not be experienced by all. I believe that everyone is able to walk in sexual and relational wholeness through a well maintained love and grace based relationship with Christ and through a transparent relationship with those in the body of Christ.

I've been told that the openness I bring to sharing my own personal struggles might be discouraging to some individuals. Some think I am over-sharing, or that I obviously need more healing. Perhaps they are right, but I feel compelled by God to live a transparent life, and doing so strengthens others in their walk with Christ. I am open to honest critiques and I speak daily to my accountability partners. They know me intimately. I've been through years of counseling, conferences, healing prayer, etc. I'm in a healing journey and will be for the rest of my life, as I believe each of us will be.

For those of us who have a homosexual past, I believe it is important to be open and honest in our current state of our journey. I think that if we do not share with our participants where we are with our own lives, it could well be misconstrued that we are now attracted [exclusively] to the opposite-sex. While not required of you as a ministry leader in HFWN; I hope you will join me in radical transparency. We ask our participants to share about the most intimate parts and details of their lives, so why shouldn't we? Please note that I do not encourage sharing inappropriate details. I believe that surface level sharing is a trap that encourages secrets and bondage. I believe that authenticity and vulnerability is the best way to lead in a healing ministry, the best way to have authentic relationships, and brings freedom to not just our own lives but to those we serve that would follow our lead.

2) Public Statements

I realize that what I say, write, and believe will be carefully scrutinized. Any of my personal video or blog postings that I think may be controversial, I submit to leaders for input. Other than posts in this group and private communication, my writing is thoroughly edited by several trusted leaders and staff members - usually 3-5 people. I would encourage you to have a similar process in place.

3) My Belief about Homosexuality

I believe a developmental model (i.e., that life experiences can shape one's sexuality over time) is useful in helping people understand their feelings and attractions. I am aware of the complexities of life and the individuals' uniqueness of childhood environment and history. A developmental model that includes reactions to abuse, influence of significant persons, perceptions of events, and styles of relating, helps our participants understand themselves and this issue better. It should not be used to blame parents or anyone else. I offer videos on this topic (created about eight years ago). I still stand behind the content, but plan to replace them with shorter versions, to also include the complexities mentioned. Feel free to use them if you find them helpful.

[Key's to Understanding Male Homosexuality](#)

[Male Gender Development](#)

Additionally, some may not be able to relate or find the classic developmental model to match their own personal journey. Some may not even find it helpful. It should not be used to "pigeon hole" anyone. We should not attempt to make everyone fit within its constraints. This is why I speak of "complexities of life and the individuals' uniqueness." Most of the people I have helped over the years were not sexually molested and did not come from a bad home. However, most of the men felt disconnected from their fathers and were much closer to their mothers and other females. Of course, there were also some men who felt closely connected to and loved by their fathers. Each should be encouraged to seek their own understanding, especially if they cannot relate to this developmental example. I would encourage each to seek the Lord along their journey, and lay or professional counseling as needed.

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4) Rules and Expectations

Please do not set unrealistic expectations for others. This would include expectations that you, yourself have not personally met. Even if you have overcome some troubling area of your life, please do not be legalistic in setting rules for others to follow. Please do not tell participants to abandon talents that you feel are not appropriate of their gender, such as gender neutral art or music. We want them to be able to live out their lives as led by the Holy Spirit.

I believe our ministry helps men and women to grow in their walk with the Lord. Our #1 goal should be for individuals to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. We also encourage repentance in Him. Participants should additionally grow in confidence, maturity, and learn how to have healthy relationships. They should feel better about themselves, and be encouraged to share their stories of Christ's transformational power when appropriate. We would encourage individuals to participate in ministry or small group setting; to find and participate in a local Bible believing church; and if needed, to seek after additional lay or professional counseling. Our goal is to instill a biblical practice of James 5:16 and Revelations 12:11 to the realization of 1 Corinthians 10:13, to “live according to God’s design.”

5) Terminology

I do not care what language you use in your mentoring message. I don’t have a problem with terms commonly used such as ex-gay, lifestyle, former homosexual, walked away, counseling, and mentoring.

I shared my testimony recently and a lesbian approached me after and said that she loved what I shared but asked me to please not use the word “lifestyle.” I told her that I did have second thoughts about that word the minute I said it. I had intended to say "my gay life." We should be aware that our words do affect our audience. I encourage us all to use care and to explain what we mean, but I have no intention of micro-managing anyone’s vocabulary.

You will hear me use some phrases that others may find unacceptable. For instance, I will say, “I left homosexuality; I left it but it didn’t necessarily leave me.” I also have used the word “counsel” a great deal. I have moved to calling it mentoring, but occasionally still use the words “counseling” and “client.” If you say you offer counseling, and you are not a licensed counselor, you need to be forthright, explaining that you are not a professional counselor.

6) Doctrinal Issues Such as Eternal Security

On eternal security, you may teach as you believe. HFWN is a non-denominational organization. I do my best to not promote a particular denominational belief. I do believe that our actions are covered under His blood—including future sins. There remains a question of whether you are actually saved according to verses like Matthew 7:21, but I am not God to judge anyone who professes to me that they have a relationship with Jesus Christ. I cannot determine a person's eternal destination.

Each individual needs to pursue Christ and their relationship with Him. We are all clay being formed in the Potter's hands. Do I believe that homosexuality is a sinful path? Yes. I believe sexual relations are to be fulfilled as our Creator designed it to be: only between a husband and wife. The only other option scripture gives us being celibacy.

I believe we should encourage and disciple anyone confessing to live in unrepentant sin, to turn their whole life over to Christ. I also believe Christ is doing this Himself through His Spirit as a part of the on-going maturing process through Him.

As we mature in Christ, I believe He leads and directs us where He wants us to go. He's never going to guide us in a direction that is not already laid out for us in His Word. He also knows our temptations and does not judge us for them.

I was led away from my gay life by a man and woman who loved me to the Lord. They did not tell me that I was doing wrong or that I would go to Hell. I wanted what they had.

Let us ask ourselves—are we living a life that is desirable or one that stinks with piety and hypocrisy? May we, as Christians, draw men and women to the Lord and let Him be the transformer.

7) Other Groups

I do not want this network to participate in venting, gossip and fighting about other groups in any forum. If you have concerns or comments, I urge you to share them with privately. We will not use our organization as a public platform to defame any individual, organization or ministry. Instead, let us speak of our work and efforts in spreading the gospel of hope in Christ.

Members of Restored Hope Network and Exodus Global Alliance may become members of HFWN. We will invite them to join our network and have no problem if you wish to be part of both networks. We will try to be mindful that our calendar events do not overlap.

8) Governance

Hope for Wholeness Network is a subsidiary of Truth Ministries, Inc., and is governed by the board of Truth Ministries (known as Truth Ministry). [Click here to see our governing board.](#)

The board adheres to the [John Carver of Governance model](#). They do not micro manage the Executive Director, nor will they micro manage the HFWN. They have the best interest of the ministry and network at heart and of course, the individuals and families we serve. I consult them for guidance and to request votes on issues that are structural changes that are important and as our policies may mandate. We meet every other month, unless special meetings are called, for which may include proxy votes via email.

Brief background on governing board:

Former homosexuals: Tony Moore (pastor), Carol Bachtel (businesswoman)

Former client (not SSA): Darlene Blackwell (businesswoman)

Family members of those affected by homosexuality: Susan Kines (businesswoman), Judith Hartzell (author), Mara-lee Lapp Stricker (artist and state child facility care giver).

10) Member Advisory Board (MAB)

Per Truth Ministry board vote, a Membership Advisory Board (MAB) is to be created, consisting of HFVN members. The MAB will oversee all network happenings. The MAB will be 9-13 members. Truth's board will remain governance but the MAB will oversee everything HFVN. Members will be selected after the nominating process, by the MAB members collectively. Meetings will be primarily via video conferencing and a secret Facebook group. We will have regular meetings and assigned tasks.

11) Hope for Wholeness Curriculum

The Hope for Wholeness curriculum will be a part of the HFVN membership benefit package.