

# Arnold Hernandez

My name is Arnold Hernandez and I was an inmate in TDCJ. I am a recovering alcoholic, drug and sex addict. I am also a sex offender. Because of the life I was living I tried suicide more times than I could count.

All this started when I was 8 years of age. My uncle got me high on mushrooms and then he raped me, that's when my hell started. That abuse lasted 14 years. In those 14 years I became a male prostitute and I was living a bisexual life. I was 13 at that time, I was struggling about my sexuality, was I gay or bisexual? But all I could think about was suicide. It was the only way out.

That's when I started drinking and doing hard drugs. I didn't care if I lived or died. Being a male prostituted paid well for my habits. I mean that I had all the drugs I wanted. I was at the best parties. The men really care about me but all they wanted to do was use me for sex.

I became depressed and tried to commit suicide again. By 21 I was in a bisexual relationship for 2 ½. Again I didn't know who or what I was any more. Before I knew it, I was having sex with teenage boys at sex parties.

I knew I needed help. I told myself and God that I wanted to stop all of this, that was in 1985 but at the same time I was still having sex with young men from the college. I was no longer having sex with teenage boys.

But in 1990 my world fell apart, I was charged with two counts of indecency with a child. I made a big mistake in my

life. I was not what the courts said I was. Again I cried out to God to work in my life. After 10 years of probation, I just couldn't take any more. I gave up and got locked up in 1999.

By that time I was ready to let God work in my life. These past 13 years God has worked through me to help other sex offenders to find Christ and finally have peace in their lives.

When I get out I will come back as a Kairos Volunteer into the prisons to let other inmates know that God loves them and so do I and I will let them know my love for them is real, because I use to be an inmate just like them.

In the 13 years of being in prison, I have become a license Minister and Substance Abuse Counselor. Right now I am studying to be a sex addict counselor. Because God is in my life, I have helped so many other sex offenders. Only with Jesus help can I say to you today that I am a recovering alcoholic, drug and sex addict. The best of all is that I am a child of God. It can be your also, all you have to do is repent and confess and ask Jesus to come into your life.

## Can Homosexuals Change?

Bible Answer: Absolutely yes! If you can't change, then nobody can change. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11: *Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were*

*justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

Here Paul mentions a great number of sinners who will not inherit the Kingdom, especially the sexually filthy, including homosexual offenders, and by mentioning the list he purposely reveals the background of many in the Church, and he says "**that is what some of you were.**" In other words, they are not like that anymore. They used to be sexually immoral and adulterers and prostitutes, but not any more. They changed! Glory to God! There were many in the Corinthian church that used to be homosexual offenders, but through the power of the gospel they changed. In my churches, I, too, know those who used to be homosexuals, but the Lord changed them, and I know that He can change you too.

I want you to notice that Paul doesn't just pick on homosexuals, as if they were the only immoral people, but he mentions many different kinds of immoral people, including adulterers, fornicators, prostitutes, and he goes on to mention thieves, drunkards, slanderers and swindlers. In other words, it doesn't matter what kind of sin a person is trapped by, the Lord can deliver him or her. If homosexuals can't change, then can thieves change? How about adulterers? If these people can't change, what's the point of preaching the gospel? The gospel can change anyone; regardless of the bondage people are imprisoned by.

This scripture also mentions how these people changed. It says, "But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (v 11). There are three things that Jesus provides in order to change our corrupt nature into a saintly one: washing, sanctification, and justification.

First, Jesus washes us clean by His own blood. Second, He sanctifies and separates us from the world through the work of the Holy Spirit. And third, He justifies and forgives us of all our sins so that we can serve God without feeling guilty about our past lives. This is wonderful! This is supernatural! No one will change just because he wants to change. The Lord must perform a miracle, and He will do it for anyone who will meet the conditions. For you to experience the miracle of grace which can change you, you must be willing to first of all acknowledge that homosexuality is a sin. You can't justify it by saying, "I can't help it. It's not my fault. I was born this way." You must confess that what you are doing is sinful. Period! Second, you repent of homosexual actions. Notice I said repent of "actions." The Bible doesn't simply condemn "homosexuals," but it condemns "homosexual offenders." It is not sinful to have homosexual desires—after all that's what temptation is all about—but it's wrong to act on bad desires. This is true regarding any sin. Repentance means that you quit the sinful act. You may say, "But I can't help it. I'm a homosexual. How can I repent from who I am?" First of all, if you're saved you are not homosexual. You're a new creature in Christ Jesus. You may have homosexual desires, but that doesn't make you a homosexual. Separate your fleshly desires from who you are. Before your desires can change, you must be willing to stop the action that fuels your desires. You see, acting on your sin only produces a desire for more sin. The Bible confirms this, "They have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more" (Eph 4:19). Many people are deceived into believing that if they just do this little sin, then they'll get it out of their system and not want to sin anymore. But the truth is, these people will simply want to

graduate to bigger sins. Once you repent outwardly, God will work inwardly to change your abnormal desire into a natural one. This is what Paul meant when he wrote, "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose" (Phil 2:13-14) Your part is to work out your salvation; God's part is to work in you to cause you to desire to do His will. It takes faith to do your part, trust that God will do His part. He will! He's faithful. And in time, perhaps quickly, or, maybe, not as quickly as you would like, God will begin to alter your character and heal your sexuality. You'll experience a metamorphosis. It'll feel like you've changed from a creepy caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly. You will change by God's power. You might want to contact the Exodus International. It is a Christian ministry geared toward those struggling with homosexuality.

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I hope this testimony has been a blessing to you. If you would like to read how others have experienced the life transforming power of God please write to me at the address below. We now have over **100 testimonies** of those whose lives have been transformed by God's amazing Grace. We also have over 100 con-tracts.

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### Testimony



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alcoholic, drug and sex  
addict.