

# THE CHURCH & HOMOSEXUALITY

by E. Richard Brown, D.Min.  
*Contributor*

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A real problem for me as a gay Christian is the way many churches view homosexuality. Their interpretation of scripture is from a theological perspective that sees homosexuality as a sin. I have been a victim of that viewpoint for many years. I do not subscribe to that position. I believe that God was absolutely delighted when he created me the way I am. I also believe that God has called me to be an advocate for people that are marginalized by the churches.

In 1992, I graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California with a Doctor of Ministry degree. I earned that degree by writing a position statement on homosexuality and the church from a gay man's perspective. I was told by my theological mentor to keep a low profile about my homosexuality because the school had a position statement on sexuality. I could be kicked out of the program if certain people found out about me. We decided not to make a political issue out of my studies and I just focused on getting the degree.

In May of this year I moved back to the Monterey Peninsula. In the middle of January 1995, I will be leading some classes called "Homosexuality and the Church." The classes will be held for 8 consecutive weeks and will look at what the Bible really says about homosexuality. One of the objectives of these sessions will be to educate gay and lesbian people, whether they are Christian or not, so that we can counter the attacks by the religious right. There will be support and participation from many local pastors as well as the Monterey County AIDS Project, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and the John XXIII AIDS Ministry. If you or your church would be interested in participating in these classes, please contact Richard at 373-5811. ▼