

Subject: Update

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Conversation: Update

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ – BIBLE STUDY

Several of the CG.com family would like to get Bible studies going in the chat rooms. To that end, those who are interested are invited to join us in the Bible Study Chat Room this coming **Sunday night at 7 PM Pacific time**. That's **10 PM Eastern time**, and Monday Sept 8 @ 3 AM London, England time, and 4 AM South African time (special request).

We are just in the process of working out the details of how it's going to be set up, what night(s) to have it on, what topics to cover, and what times will work out best, taking into consideration that we are crossing many time zones.

If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to have you join us. Just click on **Gay CHAT** and follow your way into the chat rooms. You will automatically arrive in Room 1 which is for general conversation. At the top of the page is a list of Rooms. Select "Bible Study"

Hope to see you there.

DATING WEBSITE – RAINBOW CHRISTIANS

I hope that those of you who are looking for partners are making use of the ChristianGays.com **Dating Service** <http://christiangays.com/osdate/> but why not double your chances of finding that special someone by also joining **Rainbow Christians**.

This is a great dating service that has been running longer than we have so they have more people. Give them a try. They are the top banner ad under the navigation links. Just click on their ad and perhaps find your soulmate.

Two Dating sites are better than one!

CONTEST

For those who missed last week's newsletter, please go to <http://christiangays.com/contest.shtml> to check out details of the contest. Everyone has an opportunity to win your choice of ANYTHING on the **CG.com Store** <https://christiangays.com/store/> Just put up some posters for us. That's all there is to it.

MUSIC ON CG.COM

Don't forget to listen to some great music while you're busy working away on your computer. Try it now.

Just open up ChristianGays.com <https://christiangays.com> and click the arrow on the **Music Player at the top of the page**. Right now we're featuring the music of Marsha Stevens.

Now drag that window somewhere on your desktop so that you won't be tempted to browse away from it accidentally. Just open a new window and do all your surfing (or reading this newsletter) from there while you listen to Marsha in the background.

POLITICS

I try not to get politics involved with the website but I also believe that for my friends in the U.S. it is vital that you know who stands for what regarding gay rights, and so I am saying as little as possible, but trying to give you a start on investigating for yourselves the candidates for President and Vice-President of the U.S.

*You will find this information on the **Gay GOOD News** page at <http://christiangays.com/news.shtml> with a direct link to each reference. I tried to take the references directly from the candidates' own websites so that it's not hearsay, but Sarah Palin does not have her own Political site yet, so I thought the Anchorage Daily News was the most impartial.*

Democrats

Obama will strengthen federal hate crimes legislation, expand hate crimes protection by passing the Matthew Shepard Act, and reinvigorate enforcement at the Department of Justice's Criminal Section. - from Obama's website

*"Our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters deserve to visit the person they love in the hospital and to live lives free of discrimination" ~ Senator **Barack Obama** during his acceptance speech for the Democratic Presidential nomination*

Senator Biden believes legal recognition should not be denied same-sex couples. He advocates for re-examining federal laws, including the tax code, to ensure our national laws are not unfair to same-sex couples, and that committed adults who are adopting are not discriminated against because of sexual orientation. He supports letting states determine how to recognize civil unions and define marriage.

Senator Biden supports ending the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy. Twenty-four of the nations serving alongside U.S. forces in Iraq permit open service, and it has no negative impact on their forces or the morale of the soldiers. Senator Biden believes turning away patriotic Americans who volunteer to serve solely because of their sexual orientation is wrong. - from Joe Biden's website

Republicans

John McCain - does not support a federal non-discrimination law that would outlaw job discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

*"The family represents the foundation of Western Civilization and civil society and John McCain believes the institution of marriage is a union between one man and one woman. It is only this definition that sufficiently recognizes the vital and unique role played by mothers and fathers in the raising of children, and the role of the family in shaping, stabilizing, and strengthening communities and our nation." ~ **John McCain**
- from John McCain's website*

"Elected officials can't defy the court when it comes to how rights are applied, but I would support a ballot question that would deny benefits to homosexual couples.

"I believe that honoring the family structure is that important," ~ Governor Sarah Palin - from Anchorage Daily News

*If you want to check the references, please go to **Gay GOOD News** at <http://christiangays.com/news.shtml>*

NEW WEBSITE - LGBT FOR OBAMA

- ~ The Case for Obama
- ~ The Case Against McCain

<http://www.lgbtforobama.com/why-yes-to-obama>

NOTABLE GLBT BIRTHDAYS, September 1 - September 30

September 1: actress **Lily Tomlin**, 1939

September 5: rocker **Freddy Mercury**, 1946

September 7: ice skater **Rudy Galindo**, 1969

September 11: novelist **D. H. Lawrence**, 1885

September 14: literary and social critic **Kate Millett**, 1934

September 15: Novelist **Ann Bannon**, 1932

September 17: actor **Roddy McDowall**, 1928

September 18: actress **Greta Garbo**, 1905

September 19: **Henry III**, King of France; Beatles manager **Brian Epstein**, 1934

September 22: punk-influenced guitarist and singer **Joan Jett**, 1960

September 23: singer and songwriter **Ani DiFranco**, 1970

September 26: **Louis XIII**, King of France, 1601; Anglo-American poet **T.S. Eliot**, 1888

September 30: writer **Truman Capote**, 1924; singer **Johnny Mathis**, 1935

(from glbtq.com)

EDUCATION – INTRODUCTION TO THE CASE FOR GENDER NEUTRAL LANGUAGE

In the past couple of weeks people on the **List Serve** have been discussing gender neutral language, i.e. we usually refer to "Father God", "He", "Him", etc. Some people feel very strongly that we should retain the masculine terms for God, but it is my contention that God is Spirit, comprising ALL genders, so although I personally am not in the habit of using gender neutral language, I certainly see that it can engender a larger concept of who God really is when we start looking at God's "feminine" attributes.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers. How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you would not let me." Luke 13:34

Surely this sounds more like a mother (hen) than a father (rooster).

So with that in mind, I have copied some text here for you from the **Study New Testament for Lesbians, Gays, Bi, and Transgender** by Dr. Ann Nyland (available on the Amazon pages).

"English is the only language in which masculine and feminine genders denote male and female persons. In other languages, grammatical gender is not related to biological (natural) gender. It is difficult for people who understand only English to grasp this basic point. Other languages assign grammatical gender to persons, inanimate objects, concepts, and in fact to all nouns, adjectives, and pronouns. The grammatical gender can be at odds with biological gender. The Greek word for a descendant (even a male descendant) is feminine gender as in Rom. 5:12, "a descendant of Jesse will come". There are two Greek words for a group of persons eating together, one of which is feminine gender and the other word is neuter, even a group comprised wholly of men.

The Greek word for "fox" (even a male fox) is feminine gender. The Greek word for "eagle" (even a female eagle) is masculine gender. The Greek word for "old woman is neuter gender". Even the word *patris*, which means one's hometown, one's homeland, commonly rendered in Bibles as "fatherland", is feminine gender. The priestly class of Luke 1:5 (*ephemeria*) is feminine gender. *Hegemonia*, the complete rule, leadership, over another (as in Luke 3:1) is feminine gender.

The Hebrew word for "Holy Spirit" (Old Testament) is feminine gender, and the Greek word for "Holy Spirit" (New Testament) is neuter gender. The pronoun used to refer to the Holy Spirit in the original Hebrew language of Scripture is "she", and the pronoun used to refer to the Holy Spirit in the Greek is "it". In English, people choose to substitute "she" and "it" with the English pronoun "he". Obviously, we do not think of the Holy Spirit as a woman when reading the Old Testament, and as a neuter thing when reading the New Testament. The gender is grammatical, not biological, and there is no necessary relation between the two."

(from ***Study New Testament for Lesbians, Gays, Bi, and Transgender*** by Dr. Ann Nyland) available from the Amazon pages at http://christiangays.com/amazon/amazon_books_title.shtml

If you want to get in on some good conversations, please join us on the **List Serve** at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChristianGays1/>

MORAL - MAY WE ALL BE COFFEE!

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up, She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil; without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, 'Tell

me what you see.'

'Carrots, eggs, and coffee,' she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, 'What does it mean, mother?'

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

'Which are you?' she asked her daughter. 'When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?'

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength? Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy.

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling.

Live your life so at the end, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

May we all be COFFEE!!!!

(Thanks Jacques!)

God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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Gay by God. Proud by choice!



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