

Subject: Update

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Conversation: Update

NEW! - EMAIL BIBLE STUDY

I have created a new Email Bible Study List Serve for the sole purpose of discussing Scripture, based on our Chat Bible Studies that we have on Sunday nights, although it is open to discussing all Scripture.

For more details, please go to the **Bible Study** link on the website at http://christiangays.com/chat_study.shtml

I hope you'll subscribe and be blessed by what you learn.

DATING SERVICE TOPS 1000 MEMBERS!

The Dating Service was started in January and we currently have 1060 members registered and active. Unfortunately I've had to reject over 300 people for inappropriate content or because they were frauds/scammers, but the Dating Service is growing at a good pace, and now that it's starting to get popular I'm getting half a dozen to a dozen new registrations every day. It will grow exponentially the bigger we get.

We still need many thousands more people to be most effective though, so if you know of any single friends who might benefit from registering, please send them to the **ABSOLUTELY AND ALWAYS COMPLETELY FREE Dating Service** at <http://christiangays.com/osdate>

GLBT HISTORY MONTH

Click on the blue banner ad on the right side of the page (for GLBT History Month)

every day this month to view a short video of some of our gay and lesbian icons. Every day will feature a new person.

Oct 1 – 5 – Del Martin/Phyllis Lyon, Stephen Sondheim, Gianni Versace, Sheila Kuehl, Tennessee Williams

JAMES DOBSON TO BE INDUCTED INTO RADIO HALL OF FAME – WAYNE BESEN

It is hard to believe, but the Chicago-based Museum of Broadcast Communications is planning to induct **Focus on the Family's** James Dobson into its Radio Hall of Fame. America's biggest homophobe will be honored on Nov. 8 at a fancy dinner party in the Renaissance Chicago Hotel.

In response, **Truth Wins Out** and the **Gay Liberation Network** have launched a dynamic new website, <http://www.DumpDobson.com>. Please visit and take an active part in our campaign to have the Radio Hall of Fame rescind its outrageous decision.

Let's not forget that Dobson once said that same-sex marriage will "end the earth."

Focus on the Family runs the nation's most high profile "ex-gay" ministry, Love Won Out.

Dobson regularly gives a platform to people who call homosexuality a "hellhole" and refer to gay people as "sexually broken" and "perverse."

His organization is now working overtime to outlaw gay people from marrying in California.

The fact is, if Dobson had spewed such hatred against any other minority he would never have received such an honor. We simply can't allow a "gay exception" to the rules of civility and common decency.

Visit Wayne's website to find out what you can do to help. <http://www.dumpdobson.com/>

"TWO" (TRUTH WINS OUT) DENOUNCES SARAH PALIN – WAYNE BESEN

Truth Wins Out criticized Republican Vice Presidential nominee Sarah Palin today for repeatedly saying in an interview with Katie Couric on CBS News <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4490713n> that homosexuality is a choice.

"We are disturbed that a person on the cusp of enormous power could hold such backward and unscientific views," said Wayne Besen, Executive Director of Truth Wins Out. "She seems to be in lockstep with her church, that promoted a 'pray away the gay' conference in Anchorage. We hope Palin will choose to educate herself so she will learn that being gay is not a casual choice, like eating moose stew for dinner. We want her to understand that you can't pray away the gay."

On the topic of sexual orientation, Palin told Couric the following:

"And you know, I don't know what prayers are worthy of being prayed and I don't know what prayers are going to be answered or not answered. But as for homosexuality, I am not going to judge Americans and the decisions that they make in their adult personal relationships. I have one of my absolute best friends for the last 30 years who happens to be gay, and I love her dearly, and she is not my 'gay friend, she is one of my best friends, who happens to have made a choice that isn't a choice that I have made. But I'm not going to judge people."

For more information visit Wayne's website <http://www.truthwinsout.org/>

FACT

There are 38,000 Christian Denominations.

See Wikipedia for more information - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_denominations

NOTABLE BIRTHDAYS October 1 - October 31

October 2: Photographer **Annie Leibovitz**, 1949

October 3: Writer **Gore Vidal**, 1925

October 10: Film director **Ed Wood**, 1924

October 11: American First Lady **Eleanor Roosevelt**, 1884; classical pianist **Vladimir Horowitz**, 1903; political organizer and creator of the AIDS Quilt **Cleve Jones**, 1954

October 14: Philosopher **Friedrich Nietzsche**, 1844

October 16: Writer **Oscar Wilde**, 1854; radical scholar **Mary Daly**, 1928

October 17: Actor **Montgomery Clift**, 1920

October 18: Tennis champion **Martina Navratilova**, 1956

October 19: Actor **Divine**, 1945

October 22: Actress **Sarah Bernhardt**, 1844

October 24: Playwright and director **Moss Hart**, 1904

October 31: Singer and actress **Ethel Waters**, 1896

(from gltq.com)

THE BIBLE IN MODERN TIMES

Many people are not aware that most available Bible translations are backed by denominations or specific ideological groups. Certain members of the USA "Religious Right" have successfully controlled the availability and content of some Bible versions. In 1997, lobbyists applied considerable pressure to the publisher (Zondervan) of the *New International Inclusive Language Bible* (NIVI) which was published in England, not to release it in the USA. The NIVI's crime? To translate gender language accurately; for example, to translate the Greek word meaning "person" by the English word "person" instead of the traditional "man". The lobbyists alleged that it was "tampering with" God's Word, and "misquoting God".

RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE - DIVORCE

Contexts of certain Biblical passages have come to light only in recent times, and the contexts have shown the original interpretation, and thus traditional translation, to be gravely wrong. For example, in Matthew 19 the Rabbis asked Jesus about his interpretation of Deuteronomy 24:1. The context, discovered only in recent years, was that there were two different Forms of Divorce available at the time. The "Any Matter" is a technical term from Jewish divorce law, a Form of Divorce introduced by the Rabbi Hillel. The other Form of Divorce, divorce on the ground of "General Sexual Immorality", was available to both men and women, both of whom were able to divorce the partner on the specific grounds based on Exodus 21:10,11. This traditional type of divorce was becoming rarer by the start of the 1st c, being replaced by the "Any Matter" divorce, which was for men only, and popular as no grounds had to be shown and there was no court case. For an "Any Matter" divorce, the man simply had to write out a certificate of divorce and give it to his wife. By Jesus' time, the "Any Matter" was the more popular form of divorce, but the rabbis were still arguing about the legalities of it. The disciples of Shammai were particularly opposed to it.

Matthew 19:3-8 has been mistranslated giving the impression that Jesus was asked the question, "Is it ever legal to divorce?" and he answered, "No, except on the grounds of sexual immorality." this is not the case. Jesus was asked if it was legal to divorce on the ground of "Any Matter" and he answered, "No, only on the ground of 'General Sexual Immorality'". In other words, he was disagreeing with the "Any Matter" form of divorce. Jesus certainly was not saying that at that time, or in the time to come, people were never to divorce except on the ground of sexual immorality.

TRADITIONS WITH NO BASIS IN FACT

The popular belief remains that there were "three" "wise men" and that these people visited Jesus as a baby in a manger. However, the Bible does not mention the number, and in fact states that they visited Jesus in a house. (History tells us that Jesus was around two years of age at the time.) At no time does the Bible, in any translation, suggest or imply that the "wise men" were present soon after Jesus' birth. Further, not one Bible version states the number "three"; this is purely unfounded tradition based perhaps on the number of different types of gifts, not even number of gifts.

(from "Study New Testament for Lesbians, Gays, Bi and Transgender" by Dr. Ann Nyland)

God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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Gay by God. Proud by choice!



**Want to meet more gay Christians? Please join us on our List Serve (social group).
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If you have any questions or concerns, please write to mary@christiangays.com

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