

Subject: Update

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Conversation: Update

BIBLE STUDY – CANCELLED FOR TWO WEEKS

Rev John Brown will be tied up for a couple of weeks so **Chat Bible Study** will be cancelled for the next two Sundays. We will resume on Sunday Dec 14 at 9 pm ET.

If you're missing **Chat Bible Study**, please subscribe to **Email Bible Study** and discuss Scripture with the others via email. <http://christiangays.com/subscribe.shtml>

You can also read **John's Bible Study Notes** on his blogging pages at <http://christiangays.com/blog/johnbrown.php>

EVENT – WORLD AIDS DAY VIGIL – DEC 1 - CHICAGO

Chicago hosts a **World AIDS Day** vigil in Lake View (aka: Boystown)

On December 1st at 7pm, a group of volunteers will come together with members of the community, neighbors & friends to share memories, hopes and dreams on World AIDS Day. Meeting at Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted, Chicago.

This is NOT a religious event or political rally: all promotion is by word of mouth so feel free to spread the word.

(Thanks RJ!)

VIDEO PRESENTATION – HOMOSEXUALITY AND RELIGION - MEL WHITE

Mel White has served as a pastor, seminary professor and writer for religious leaders

that included Billy Graham, Pat Robertson, and Jerry Falwell. Since acknowledging that he was gay in his 1994 autobiography, "**Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America**", he has traveled across the country seeking equality and understanding for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons.

This video presentation was recorded at the University of Northern Colorado on Oct 27, 2008. It is about an hour long and well worth listening to.

*You will find it in the **Articles** at <http://christiangays.com/articles/melwhite1.shtml>*

NEWS – SHORT VIDEO CLIP OF PROPOSITION 8 PROTEST IN AUSTIN, TX

<http://christiangays.com/news.shtml>

REPEAL PROP 8: RESTORE MARRIAGE EQUALITY TO CALIFORNIA

The birth of a new Marriage Equality Movement -- the civil rights movement of the 21st Century -- is unfolding before our eyes. Organized from the bottom-up by thousands of ordinary people just like you, this people-powered phenomenon is exponentially growing by the minute, online and offline.

This is our moment to stand strong together -- gay and straight -- and say that we refuse to accept a California where discrimination is enshrined in our state constitution.

Please join over 275,000 people in signing the pledge to repeal Prop 8, launched by the Courage Campaign and joined by CREDO Mobile and MoveOn.org. Then forward this link to your friends:

<http://www.couragecampaign.org/page/s/repealprop8>

Note from Mary: *This is not just for Californians. I signed it with my Canadian Postal Code and it was accepted. Let us tell them that people EVERYWHERE want marriage equality for ALL!*

PERSONAL STORY – “UP THE FLOOD WITHOUT AN ARK” – COMING TO TERMS WITH BEING TRANSGENDER

Pennyjane from our **Social Group** uploaded her story to our files last week. It is such an excellent work that I asked if we could share it with others. She graciously agreed.

Read what it was like for her to come to terms with being transgender at <http://christiangays.com/articles/pj1.shtml>

NEW TIDBITS

The concept of homosexuality as an orientation was unknown until after 1869 when the first writing was published that put forth the idea that there really were people who were "homo" sexual. Until that time everyone was understood to be a person who was sexually attracted to someone of the opposite sex. Same-gender sex was widely practiced in both OT and NT times by many people who were obviously what we would call heterosexual. ~ Rev Bruce Lowe

The word "homosexual" did not appear in the Bible until 1958.

*For LOTS more great **Tidbits**, go to <http://christiangays.com/tidbits.shtml>*

NEW BANNER AD - “CAN YOU PROOF THIS?”

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CHURCH

Once upon a time there was this ratty little man who showed up at church. He looked as if he'd slept in his clothes, maybe more than once, and he did smell a bit. The nice clean congregation wasn't all that pleased with him. They went to the pastor and asked him to do something about it. As the service was letting out the pastor pulled the ratty little man off to the side. He told him he should go home and ask God what might be appropriate to wear to church. The ratty little man said he would do so and was off. The next week he showed up for service again, in his same ratty little way. The congregation was now annoyed, they told the pastor he needed to do something about it! Again, as the service was letting out he called the ratty little man over.

"I thought I told you to go home and ask God what would be appropriate to wear to church?"

"I did," said the ratty little man, "God said He didn't know.....He'd never been to this church before."

(Thanks PJ! - Part of her Personal Story mentioned above)

MAYBE

Maybe . . . we were supposed to meet the wrong people before meeting the right one so that, when we finally meet the right person, we will know how to be grateful for that gift.

Maybe . . . when the door of happiness closes, another opens; but, often times, we look so long at the closed door that we don't even see the new one which has been opened for us.

Maybe . . . it is true that we don't know what we have until we lose it, but it is also true that we don't know what we have been missing until it arrives.

Maybe . . . the happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.

Maybe . . . the brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; after all, you can't go on successfully in life until you let go of your past mistakes, failures and heartaches.

Maybe . . . you should dream what you want to dream; go where you want to go, be what you want to be, because you have only one life and one chance to do all the things you dream of, and want to do.

Maybe . . . there are moments in life when you miss someone -- a parent, a spouse, a friend, a child -- so much that you just want to pick them from your dreams and hug them for real, so that once they are around you appreciate them more.

Maybe . . . the best kind of friend is the kind you can sit on a porch and swing with, never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.

Maybe . . . you should always try to put yourself in others' shoes. If you feel that something could hurt you, it probably will hurt the other person, too.

Maybe . . . you should do something nice for someone every single day, even if it is simply to leave them alone.

Maybe . . . giving someone all your love is never an assurance that they will love you back. Don't expect love in return; just wait for it to grow in their heart; but, if it doesn't, be content that it grew in yours.

Maybe . . . happiness waits for all those who cry, all those who hurt, all those who have searched, and all those who have tried, for only they can appreciate the importance of all the people who have touched their lives.

Maybe . . . you shouldn't go for looks; they can deceive; don't go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile, because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright. Find the one that makes your heart smile.

Maybe . . . you should hope for 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.

Maybe . . . you should try to live your life to the fullest because when you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling but when you die, you can be the one who is smiling and everyone around you crying.

Maybe . . . you could send this message to those people who mean something to you, to those who have touched your life, to those who can and do make you smile when you really need it, to those who make you see the brighter side of things when you are really down, and to all those whom you want to know that you appreciate them and their friendship. And if you don't, don't worry; nothing bad will happen to you. You will just miss out on the opportunity to perhaps brighten someone's day.

God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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