

## My “Ex-Gay” Apology

It’s been many years since I was involved in ex-gay leadership, but I know—as a survivor who also endured the treatment—that the harmful effects last for a long time. My initial involvement was prompted by a sincere, but misguided, desire to change my sexual orientation. I was motivated by the expectations of those around me, as well as my sincere desire to fix what I perceived...what I’d been told...was broken.

I honestly hoped the techniques would work; I did what they said I should do. I also said the things I was told to say, which was part of the deception. It involved “speaking the truth” in a future tense as a confession of faith; say what you *want* to be true. (In other words, I *said* I was healed, when I wasn’t, because *saying* it would making it so.) And regrettably, I promised it would work for others. I know that because of my testimony, others joined these programs, and experienced harm in their self-acceptance. Because of my teachings, writing and public appearances, parents might have been encouraged to push their children in the direction of reparative treatment.

**Note:** A fuller version of my “ex-gay” story is available for download on my website.)

Please know that I regret my actions of the past. I did not *intentionally* deceive anyone, but that doesn’t change the fact that we were deceived. I won’t make excuses, but I will only say that I was acting on what I believed was right at the time. I was deceived, and I deceived.

I see now that I was wrong.

God has changed my perspective.

When I was involved back in the 80s, information was not as freely available. (This was long before Google!) I take some comfort in the fact that the lies and deception of these groups are more exposed these days. More and more leaders have abandoned their roles and are speaking out against the teachings of these groups. Major medical and mental health professions have come out against this kind of treatment. Cities, states and even entire countries are making these treatments illegal for children.

In the long run, I believe truth will prevail.

Please forgive me for my past involvement. Please forgive me for perpetuating the deception.

I ask that you forgive me if you were hurt, harmed or damaged in any way by ex-gay treatment.

If you would like a personal apology, please contact me directly. My contact information can be found on my website. I welcome the opportunity to interact, and to hear your experience.

If you currently struggle with your sexual orientation, and are considering an “ex-gay” or conversion therapy program, please feel free to get in touch with me. Again, my contact information is on my website. I will try to answer your questions honestly. If you are a leader in an “ex-gay” ministry and having doubts, I welcome dialogue with you as well. In fact, I am one of the founder of an Alliance of former leaders who have renounced the theology of these groups. We are here to help.

Thank you.

*Bill Prickett*