

The Thorn of Lesbianism - *from an Ex-Lesbian*

I have been pondering on what lesbianism is all about. My same sex desires stemmed from seeking someone to nurse my woundedness and to reciprocate this caretaking to that same someone. Each of my relationships boiled down to enabling each other's victimization on some level. I was undeveloped emotionally trapped by hidden or not so hidden bitterness and anger. I embraced a victim mentality.

I was not whole, but fractured. No, it wasn't my fault that I was wounded. This is the human condition due to the Fall. But more specifically, because everyone is bent toward selfishness, pain and suffering come naturally. But God calls me to move out of my woundedness and into wholeness. Even though it was not my fault I was wounded, I am held accountable in how I respond to my pain.

Rather than "growing up" emotionally and being responsible regarding the issues of my heart, I sought to nurse these damaged emotions wanting another safe person to placate me.

The truth is... even though I performed as a Christian, I was angry at God. I was bitter toward my family. I distrusted men. I was ungrateful and blamed everyone else. I had a rebellious spirit. I wanted someone to take care of me. I was looking to be enabled. I didn't want to grow up and be emotionally responsible. When I was with my partners, I sucked the life right out of them. I *needed* them.

In addition to my same sex relationships, I also experienced a secret fantasy life, a secret longing. This longing or dreaming of being with this certain special someone is a safe place even though it may never happen. It is about holding out hope or secret desire of being safe and taken care of – in the arms of a certain safe woman.

My focus on meeting my insatiable longing took time away from me focusing on the areas of my life that I refused to deal with – or didn't want to face --- basically – not wanting to be responsible. I wanted someone else to take care of me.

God calls this idolatry. He is correct when He states in Jeremiah 2:13 that His people forsake Him the Living Waters and dig their own wells.

Hurt feelings, bitterness toward God and others, victim mentality, self pity, fear of being alone – all of this led to my secret fantasy inappropriate desires.

Yet, Jesus came to find me in my wilderness. *"Which man of you having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing... for I have found my sheep which was lost,"* Luke 15:4 & 5. *"For thus saith the Lord God, 'Behold, I, even I will both search My sheep, and seek them out...I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick...,"* Ezekiel 34:11-16.

Even though I turned from Him and rejected Him, He pursued me.

Romans 2:4 says that His goodness is what leads us to repentance. Titus 3:4 says that His kindness and love appeared toward man.

Broken, I understood my guilt and my unrighteousness. God Himself died for me, in my state of depravity. He knew that my actions, my walls, and that my inability to love would cause great harm to other people in my life. But He took my guilt, my shame, my thorns – my unrighteousness and put it upon Himself and died, buried and rose again victorious. As I surrendered my life, and identified with His sufferings, His death, burial and resurrection, I too became victorious. As I crucified my flesh, I received His life, His righteousness. His work on earth redeemed my soul. He rescued me. And now He calls me to walk in His righteousness. Surrendered to His will and refreshed in the Spirit, I can be like Him; full of mercy and truth.

God wants me to be honest with myself, Him and others. He demands forgiveness having no tolerance for bitterness and pride.

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil," Ecclesiastes 12:14. (Hebrews 4:13)

It was time for me to grow up. It was time to repent of my inappropriate longings and secret fantasy life because He sees. It was time to face God and His expectations and seek His mercy and truth and forgiveness for my own bitterness and ungratefulness. It was time to seek His purpose for my life. It was time to face my world head on and push through the hard stuff, surrendering to God, knowing He will give me the grace and strength to persevere regardless of the circumstances. It was time to be emotionally responsible.

Like David in Psalm 51, I desire a clean and contrite heart before God.

God's standard:

I am to confront others and hold them accountable for how their actions affect me. I am to forgive them and let go of all bitterness. *"Take heed to yourselves, if thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him, and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, 'I repent,' thou shalt forgive him."* Luke 17:1-4 See Matthew 5:22 & 23.

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But, if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses," Matthew 6:14 & 15.

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice, and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you," Ephesians 4:31 & 32.

Jesus said regarding those who brutally murdered Him, *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,"* Luke 23:34. Peter wrote that when Jesus was reviled, He did not revile in return. He did not threaten when He suffered. He committed Himself to Him that judges righteously, I Peter 2:23.

I made a mess of my life until He rescued me. He confronted me in His Word and through His godly people. Reading and studying His Word renews my mind! I am complete and whole in Christ. I am so thankful to God for truth. I am so sorry for how my victim mentality held me captive for so many years.

Over and over again, I see consistent themes in the women struggling with same sex attraction who are seeking healing. Many have deep woundedness looking for someone to nurture them. Many are angry, bitter and resentful. A secret fantasy life plagues most. Many have an outward appearance of doing well, and have surrendered some parts of their life to God, but yet, there are areas of the heart that are not surrendered. I see clearly that when a person suffers from same sex longing, there is some other area of their life that the person is refusing to deal with – or doesn't want to face.

Support groups and self help groups were very helpful to me for a season. I also know many people have been greatly helped by AA. However, there is a danger in getting stuck in these groups. One attending can fool themselves with the thought, "I am doing something about my issues" even though they never really address their hidden sin. The group can be a crutch, an idol and be more about are about *feeling* better, camaraderie, and staying in one's stuff.

The answer lies in the Word of God. Romans tells us that the Word is what renews our mind. It is heavy duty. It calls us to be responsible – to forgive, to be tenderhearted, to love unconditionally, to surrender ALL. This includes the anger, bitterness, rage and fear. God's mercy is powerful, drawing us to Himself. But God is not just about mercy. He is just and has standards. He is truth. It is facing His truth and the truth about our life, our wounds, our actions, our responsibilities that brings us into reality. Surrendering to His truth, not ours, is what sets us free.

Sometimes, godly people come along side and tell us the truth. Proverbs tells us over and over again that a wise person listens to rebuke and wisdom, but a fool shuts his ears.

We know we are on the right path when we allow the Holy Spirit to unravel previous beliefs, dismantle Satan's lies and then lead us into all truth (John 16:13).

No matter what our addiction or fleshly lust is, the answer is the same. Woundedness and sin is the human condition. Jesus came to save us from the lies of bondage and the darkness of false reality; our sin. The narrow way is to embrace His love, surrender to His truth, die to self and live selflessly in Him.

There are many resources that can help you continue your search for healing and growth. The greatest tool for understanding life is the Bible. Other helpful resources include the book, *Redeeming Love*, by Francine Rivers, *Silent Pain*, by Kathy Olsen, and the movie, *Reconciliation* (www.reconciliationmovie.com).

God is sovereign and it takes time to understand the answers to all of our hard questions. This process is explained by the verses, *"Work out your OWN salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you, both to will, and to do, of His good pleasure,"* Philippians 2:12 & 13.

Each of us is responsible to wrestle with God. But those who seek Him will find Him. *"And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart,"* Jeremiah 29:13.

God bless your search for truth.