

Voice of the Voiceless Advocacy is a mouthpiece for former homosexuals in South Africa. Over the past few years, the politically correct, but scientifically unfounded, narrative has been created that one is born gay and cannot change. We are tangible proof that change is possible. As an Ex-gay, I am deeply concerned about the decisions of the Dutch Reformed Church's General Synod regarding Gays and the church.

Christ's relationship with his broad Church is depicted in the New Testament by the figure of a Head and his body. Ephesians 1: 22-23 says that Christ was *"given as head over all things to the church, which is his body."* Christ, the Head of the Church, has authority over it and indicates the direction for the church. A person gains access to the body of Christ at rebirth, when Christ connects the believer through one Spirit *"to one body, whether we are Jews or Greeks, slaves or freemen; and we are all permeated by one Spirit,"* says 1 Corinthians 12:13. Paul declares in verse 12 *"For just as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of the one body, though many, are one body, so also is Christ."*

Hand in hand with rebirth is conversion. This implies that a person's life in Christ has changed. The change takes place due to the fact that he/she has undergone a complete change of mind and attitude regarding sin and righteousness. Rom. 6:16 asks the question: *"Do you not know that to whom you make yourself available as servants to obey him, your servants are to him to whom you obey - or from sin to death, or from the obedience to righteousness."* Verse 22 goes on to say, *"But now that you have been set free from sin and become servants to God, you have your fruit for holiness and ultimately eternal life."*

This is the path an ex-gay has walked. 1 Cor. 6:11 declares *"And such were some of you; but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."* A converted Ex-gay is therefore full-fledged, according to the standard of Scripture, a member of the church. This is also the only way in which one can become a member of any Christian denomination. Important: This implies that the whole gay debate should never have been a discussion in the church. One cannot be gay and a Christian who is truly born again. You deceive yourself if you think that way. Proverbs 28:13 says, *"He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper: but he that confesseth and forsaketh it shall find mercy."* It is strange, therefore, that in the entire debate in the church, the ex-gay Christian is for convenience sake never mentioned. They are never asked for their testimonies and experiences in synod meetings. There is never any reflection on the fact that Christ has

renewed the lives of many many gay people by way of conversion and rebirth. Yet the church consults those who *"have the devil as father, and do the desires of their father."* The church proverbially bends its knee to Bal and becomes its own god, giving the status of *"members of the body of Christ"* to those disqualified ones, not having the blood of the Lamb at the doorposts of their hearts. Christ is denied and betrayed, not for 70 shekels of silver, but for political correctness and in the process the work of Christ is made suspect in the hearts and lives of Ex-gays, we who are truly part of the body of Christ.

Therefore, we cannot help but express a deep concern about the recent decisions of General Synod. Sin is approved with a "love is love" narrative, while people are lost. We were in such a lifestyle and can attest to the devastation that homosexual sin brings. The truth, however, sets a person free, and that is, "sin is sin", confess it and let it go. It is time for people to truly come to repentance and rebirth, then being gay is not an issue. As ex-gays, we are examples of this and we give a serious warning to the church NOT to stray. Tell the truth as it is! Arrive at a place of freedom like us. Nothing is better than the biblical precepts for sexual purity, believe me. At this hour, the Church MUST NOT welcome the behavioural patterns of the world in our own midst, thus contributing to the moral decay of the land! The church is the last remaining entity that sets standards in society. If we submit to the influences of this world, everything crumbles. May those who worship God in spirit and truth not remain silent at this hour! We as ex-gays prove your Scriptural view to be correct.