



# homepage

June 2007 - homepage newsletter

## Homosexuality What Would Jesus Do?

Homosexuality has become a polarizing issue in the current culture wars. Some think we should allow homosexuals to marry, and some think that God hates such people. What should we really think about it? The current climate has a lot more heat than light. In light of *Nikos*, our new support ministry, here's a humble attempt at a Christian position.

*Nikos Support Group*  
7 p.m. Fridays - Room 110

- 1. Is homosexual behavior sin?** Yes, the Bible is clear. This *behavior* is sinful. Just like any other sin, being tempted is not the issue, but acting on temptation is. God calls all of us to holiness, regardless of our temptation.
- 2. Are people born gay?** Probably not, though it is often repeated, "God made me this way." God is not the originator of homosexuality. All sin is the result of the fall. While many homosexuals will claim they made no choice about their feelings and attractions, all of us have a choice about our behavior.
- 3. A speck or a plank?** In Matthew 7, Jesus admonishes us to deal with our own sinful

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## Sunday Mornings New Schedule Begins June 3

Beginning June 3, people will feel a lot more relaxed and learn even more on Sunday mornings. In the new Sunday morning schedule, the first worship service will be from 8:15 - 9:20 a.m. Children's and Youth Sunday School classes and the Adult Communities will meet from 9:36 - 10:45 a.m. The second worship service will remain at 11:00 - 12:10.



*New Schedule begins June 3*  
Worship 8:15-9:20  
Sunday School 9:36-10:45  
Worship 11:00-12:10  
Worship 7:00-8:00 p.m.

The new schedule allows for a longer time in the Sunday School classes and Adult Communities. The teachers and leaders of these ministries have been wrestling with a cramped time frame for quite some time. Children and youth will use the extra time for music and additional Bible teaching time. The adults are looking forward to seeing more time invested in conversation and relationship building along with additional teaching time.

The Sunday Night Live worship service will remain at 7:00 p.m. This time slot works especially well for those who are scheduled to work on Sundays, for those out of town for the first part of the weekend, and for those who prefer an evening worship time.

## Sermons & Adult Communities Summer Topics

Why is there evil in the world? What does the Bible say about Hell? What's the scriptural understanding of the Trinity? What about stress? These are a few of the topics that will be addressed by the pastoral staff during the summer sermon topical series "Ask the Pastor."

Earlier this year the congregation was invited to suggest topics they would like to have addressed from the pulpit on Sunday mornings and Sunday

"Ask the Pastor" summer sermon series begins May 27

nights. In response to these suggestions, the summer message series was crafted (see newsletter insert).

Due to the remodeling of our existing classroom space this summer, the Adult Communities will meet in one large group in

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## Homosexuality (Cont. from pg. 1)

actions and attitudes before we turn to help others see their sin. Addressing our own shortcomings first brings a sense of humility as we call others to holiness. This is too often lacking in Christian discussions of homosexuality.

**4. Should we hate sin, and love sinners?** Yes, but this is more difficult than it might seem. Many gays see their entire identity in terms of their sexuality. If we say we 'hate' a certain sin, that will often be perceived as hatred for them personally. Part of a biblical witness is helping people see themselves as God sees them, not as the world has labeled them.

**5. Extending an open hand, or a fist?** Sadly, many in the homosexual community perceive nothing but judgment from Christians. Showing grace to someone and accepting them is not necessarily condoning sinful behaviors. Remember, Jesus died for all of us while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8).

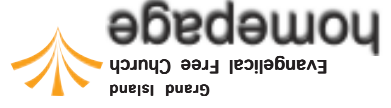
**6. Is change possible?** There are many testimonies of people who have changed their attractions, but also many have prayed for such change and have yet to experience it. Changing one's sexual orientation is possible, but the Bible makes no promises. The bottom line for someone tempted to homosexual sin, like any other sin, is obedience – will we follow God, because He is God, and not just for any benefit to us?

## Summer Topics (Cont. from pg. 1)

the Worship Center. They will meet from 9:36-10:45 a.m. and will enjoy delving into topics of critical concern in today's world (see newsletter insert). The individual Adult Communities will sit together for fellowship and announcements. Then they will explore and discuss critical topics taught by our pastoral staff.

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"A Place to Belong"

## Tearing Down the Walls – Extreme Makeover - Church Edition

Approximately 50 volunteers will be needed to demolish the classroom space north of the Gathering Place June 8 - 9. A major part of the present building project involves remodeling a large part of this classroom area. A very narrow window for construction lies between the end of Vacation Bible School (June 8) and the resumption of fall ministries (September 5). By tackling the demolition of this area with volunteer labor, our congregation can save a significant amount of money and complete this project in a short time frame.

*Approximately 40 volunteers are needed to help us save money and complete the project in a narrow time frame*

The extreme makeover includes: carpet removal; drywall demolition; removal of ceiling gridwork; salvaging ceiling tiles, light fixture, and doors. All of the electrical connections will have been disconnected by professional electricians. Volunteers, age 16 and older, should sign up on their Communication Cards soon.

### Louisiana Serving Team - April 21-28



*Huge amounts of clean-up work is still needed in neighborhoods devastated by Katrina*



*Ed Hoesser operates a chain saw. An EFC church in the area has hosted 10,000 volunteers over the past 20 months.*



*Team members worked on the home of this family. Ours was the 17th team to work on their home. Tens of thousands of homes still need major repair. Our church hopes to send more teams to serve in the future.*

### Important Dates

May 24  
**Red Cross Blood Drive**

May 27  
**No Sunday School**

June 4-8  
**Vacation Bible School**

June 8-9  
**Building Project Demolition**

June 16  
**Guy College World Series**

June 24  
**Car & Bike Show**

July 27-29  
**All Church Campout**

### Car & Bike Show Returns Sunday, June 24



Enjoy the coolest cars, hottest bikes

new food court:

**hamburgers, brats, hot dogs, nachos, tacos, kettle corn, ice cold soda and water.**

**Live music - "No Better Cause" and others, personal testimonies, dunking tank, late model racer, Kyle Berk, Baja racing car, ladder fire truck, "Transformers" funny car, demonstrations, children's give away tent (bring your own lawn chair)**

**Exhibitors - \$5 to register your car or bike in the competition**



**A great day with the guys!  
Two games • Bus transportation \$36  
Register soon!**

### www.giefc.org Church Website

Recent updates to keep you informed of all that is happening around this growing and exciting church family.

- Recent building project photos
- Vacation Bible School Registration forms
- Summer Sermon Series Topics
- Podcasts of recent sermons
- Church calendars

### Serving the World



Solid Life students traveled to Lincoln in early April to serve at the People's City Mission. In addition to sorting canned food they cleaned shelves, floors, and windows. One of the goals of Children's Ministries is to provide kids with opportunities to serve.

### Mission Teams Update

Louisiana - April 20-28 (*Mission Completed*)  
7 team members helped rebuild New Orleans

Zambia - July 1-15 (*Fully Supported*)  
5 team members will serve alongside national pastors in ministries and construction

Mexico/Los Angeles - July 6-18 (*Support Raising*)  
14 high school students and staff serving at an orphanage and helping people in need

Germany - July 8-22 (*Support Raising*)  
4 team members teaching English to teens in a Janz Team camp

Mexico - Aug 4-12 (*Support Raising*)  
13 team members serving in construction and community outreach

Chicago - Sept 15-22 (*Forming Soon*)  
Up to 12 members will be involved in light construction and community outreach at the Rock Church of innercity Chicago.



### Vacation Bible School

June 4 - 9, - 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.



This year's Vacation Bible School takes on a **MEGA Sports Camp** theme for kids entering 1st-6th grade. Children learn spiritual truths while participating in events such as basketball, babysitting, cheerleading, drama, crocheting, soccer, and taekwando. Age 3 through kindergarten will experience **Veggie Tales Trust Connection**. 9-11:30 a.m. June 4-8. Early registration is encouraged. Forms are available on the Children's Table in the Lobby and at giefc.org.

**June 10, - 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. - Multi-Purpose Room**

Demonstrations by some of the Vacation Bible School groups: Taekwondo, cheerleading, kindergarten bell choir, drama, presentation of certificates to kids in babysitting class, violin special music.

**June 10, - 11:00 a.m. - Worship Center**

Children from both Veggie Trust Connection and MEGA Sports Camp will present special music.