

I Questioned Homosexuality.

And when I discovered a way out, I took it.

I AM RANDY THOMAS and I'm sure my story will prompt a few questions. Good, because the answers are worth the effort. Like a lot of homosexual men, I grew up with an absentee father. He left me desperate for the physical touch only a father can give. *I also never heard nor knew his affirmation of me as a man.* That's why, when a male co-worker showed special interest in me as a teen I was like putty in his hands. Routine touch soon led to sex, and by age nineteen I had been sexually abused by at least three other older men. I felt vulnerable and rejected, but *still* I was drawn to their attraction with me.

I soon found that all the male attention I'd ached for so long came packaged with a gay identity. *So that's what I became*, even though I was still conflicted about who I really was...I began living gay on the outside, but was hurt and broken inside.

Seven years of the gay club scene and circuit parties was like a blur, going from guy to guy, medicating my emptiness with sex and short relationships.

It took an old friend to see past the mask I wore, to help me finally face the doubts and scars I'd been avoiding. He showed me the irony of how my 'mask' was the very thing keeping me from genuine male intimacy.

So I questioned my homosexuality.

I wondered why I'd always *felt* gay? Was there *really* a gay gene? Why couldn't I get past the hole in my heart that my father's leaving left for me? Would I ever find the male acceptance not rooted in sex? Over time, the answers I found – especially that I wasn't *born* homosexual – began leading me away from a gay identity.

Today I am an ex-gay. No, wait...I don't define myself anymore with a sexual identity. I'm just...Randy. Because I know that my homosexuality wasn't really a sex issue...but a heart issue. And what once was broken as a child has now been made whole to the point I have hope one day for a wife, and children of my own.

This is *my* story and I'm living proof that change *is* possible. But there are tens of thousands of other men and women just like me who have also questioned their homosexuality. EXODUS was there to help with answers...plus vital understanding and encouragement, and the tools for them to find their way out.

If you, or anyone you know would like to know more, EXODUS has more than 120 local member chapters ready for *your* questions. All contact is confidential, so please get in touch today at 1-888-264-0877, or visit www.exodus.to.



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