Dr. Joseph Niccolosi has worked with boys as young as six or seven. He says the most significant factor in preventing male children from falling into gay relationships is their relationship with their father.

"I have never met a homosexual male with a loving, respectful relationship with his father," says Niccolosi.

Single-parent families with absentee fathers put children at risk. Of course, there are other prominent factors such as abuse which affect sexual behavior and identity, too.

The gay community has stepped up its efforts to "protect" vulnerable gay, bisexual, or sexually confused youth. While their motivation to protect "at-risk" youth is commendable, it is desperately inconsistent. Here's why...

AT RISK FOR DISASTER

What parent, teacher, friend, or minister would encourage a child to engage in life-threatening behavior? This is exactly what the gay community proposes. And it is happening more frequently.

But instead of steering youth away from high-risk behavior, the gay community simply transfers blame for the risk to those who are seen as intolerant. As Alan Medinger of Regeneration observes, "It is absolutely criminal to take a confused kid and lead him into a life that could kill him" (3).

The sad truth is youth who identify themselves as homosexual are in serious trouble. The statistics are appalling. They are irrefutable—mentioned in gay and lesbian literature and on their web sites. But rather than adjust their behavior, they demand that we change ours!

It doesn't take much to recognize the disastrous consequences our youth face when they pursue same-sex relationships:

- Higher rates of depression
- Severe emotional and social isolation
- Homelessness due to family conflicts
- Higher suicide rates
- Higher drop out rates
- Higher rates of contracting AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases
- Higher use of alcohol and drugs

Making homosexuality more acceptable DOES NOT relieve these problems.

We will not remove these consequences by redefining the cause. We must REACH THESE HURTING YOUTH NOW! We must do so in a loving, intelligent manner. And we must do so BEFORE they are brainwashed into believing a lie—that they are gay AND they cannot change.

We need to give these hurting kids a chance to AVOID the painful and destructive consequences associated with homosexuality.

RECIPE FOR GREATER CONFUSION

In a new movie, *Show Me Love*, two young teenage girls find themselves in an awkward predicament. They have romantic feelings for each other. *Newsweek* magazine says, "With honesty, charm, and uncanny sympathy for all its characters, it takes us deep inside the awkward and exhilarating experience of first love" (4).

The movie may well be an advertisement for youth to "give it a try." Meanwhile, adults, "homophobic" classmates or fundamentalist Christians are the villains—intruding where they are unwelcome.

Our society—even some of our churches—perpetuate gay myths through our desire to be culturally relevant instead of spiritually authentic.

Youth Pride, Inc., a pro-gay group, has the following advice for teachers, counselors, and clergy who work with today's youth.

> "Combat heterosexism in the classroom"
> "Have something gay-related in your office"
> "Challenge homophobia"
> "Do not advise youth to come out to their parents"

Children from messed up families—who have been abused or unloved OR whose parent has left—will not find fulfillment of their deepest needs by becoming sexually active. This is a lie!

Rewriting the definitions of sexual wholeness will never bring lasting peace to sexually conflicted youth! Only Jesus Christ can. **Sexual liberation, heterosexual or homosexual, is not a pathway to happiness.** Rather, it is a passageway into the wormhole of hopelessness and despair.

Kids must be told that it is NOT OK TO BE GAY. There is help. There is hope through the power of Jesus Christ. Adopting a homosexual lifestyle is a dead-end road. We must tell this truth over and over again until it is heard.

Meanwhile, we need to act on behalf of today's so-called lost generation. We can do it. And I want to share with you a starting point I am convinced will help.

A PRESCRIPTION FOR HOPE

This generation of kids is all over the internet every day. There are 27 million "Tweens," kids between the ages of 8 and 14. These kids claim the internet has more influence in their daily lives than their fathers! (5) See a pattern?

Kids in high school are also at risk, oftentimes seeing homosexuality as something that is "cool" and adopting it even though they are not gay at all. On college campuses the term "gay until graduation" is used to describe those who experiment with gay sex! (6)

We can use the internet for God's redemptive purposes! This can be a powerful tool for outreach to hurting kids. The old Exodus web site has already had more than 100,000 hits!

(over)