



## **What Gives You the Right to Tell Me How to Live My Life?**

### Outline

*Christianity is stifling and leads people away from being their authentic selves. It is confining, restrictive, and frankly – it's no fun at all!*

*"I can't wait to graduate and get out from under the control of my parents. I look forward to going to college, drinking, doing whatever I feel like doing and just having fun clubbing and being myself."*  
–The Sentiment of the Average Church Teenager

*"This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup> 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.'" Exodus 19:3b-5*

The Order of Salvation (Pattern)

*"I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— <sup>10</sup> not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ....<sup>12</sup> What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? <sup>13</sup> God will judge those outside." I Corinthians 5: 9-10, 12-13*

*"We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. <sup>15</sup> I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.... <sup>24</sup> What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" Romans 7:14-15, 24-25*

*"Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. It is for freedom Christ has set you free." Galatians 5:1*

### My Train Wreck Conversion

*"I wrestled with the question: Did I really want to understand homosexuality from God's point of view, or did I just want to argue with him? I prayed that night that God would give me the willingness to obey before I understood. I prayed long into the unfolding of day. When I looked in the mirror, I looked the same. But when I looked into my heart through the lens of the Bible, I wondered, Am I a lesbian, or has this all been a case of mistaken identity? If Jesus could split the world asunder, divide marrow from soul, could he make my true identity prevail? Who am I? Who will God have me to be?*

*Then, one ordinary day, I came to Jesus, openhanded and naked. Jesus triumphed. And I was a broken mess. Conversion was a train wreck. I did not want to lose everything that I loved. But the voice of God sang a sanguine love song in the rubble of my world. I weakly believed that if Jesus could conquer death, he could make right my world. I drank, tentatively at first, then passionately, of the solace of the Holy Spirit. I rested in private peace, then community, and today in the shelter of a covenant family, where one calls me "wife" and many call me "mother." ~Rosaria Butterfield*

*"In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.'" Exodus 16:2-3*

*"If the Church aims at loving service to one's neighbor while clearly speaking the truth in love, it will grow again and may have cultural influence. But if it aims at influence rather than humble service, it will have neither." ~Tim Keller, Pastor, Redeemer Church, New York*