

Client: Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International  
Publication: Southern Adventist University's Southern Accent

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Thursday, January 31, 2013

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to the December 6 article, "Letter to the editor: Response to 'Seventh-Gay Adventists' opinion" by Edward Pino, Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International would like to express our concern that Pino's comments may lead to a lot of heartache and pain for families dealing with a loved one who happens to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ).

As Christians, we appreciate and acknowledge that Pino attempted to approach the topic with a loving, biblical mindset, but we feel that his message lacked recognition of the complexity and reality of the situation. His arguments are founded on his belief that homosexuality is a choice and therefore separable from the individual, hence "hate the sin and love the sinner."

However, many studies, as well as members of the LGBTQ community, have clearly demonstrated that it is not a choice for many and that there are biological and genetic components of sexuality that are still not understood.

His belief that "a good father would have issues with such a [homosexual] lifestyle, as would a loving church family" sounds reasonable, but in actual practice, those issues promote family and church rejection of LGBTQ individuals. How can rejection of an individual demonstrate Christ-like love? Can it not potentially lead to the abandonment and disownment of many of God's children?

This can have more far-reaching and dangerous consequences than perhaps Pino recognizes. *Pediatrics* published a study in January 2009 that reported that lesbian, gay, or bisexual young adults were eight times more likely to report having attempted suicide if they had experienced high rates of family rejection than their peers who reported low rates of rejection.

At SDA Kinship International, we believe that sexuality is an issue between the individual and God, and that LGBTQ individuals desperately need family and church members to support them, without judging or demanding conformity, while they earnestly seek the will and leading of God in all areas of their lives.

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