

### **Some resources I have found that can be helpful..**

My general philosophy here is to typically pick resources for your parents that are from other folks who are straight and who have a similar theological background. I am assuming a conservative mindset here for your parents. Your parents are most likely ill-prepared to receive your news and are looking for answers. So they are going to feel most comfortable getting their information from a source or person who has some similar basic core beliefs. I also like to find resources that give both views (Side A and Side B) or leave them pondering what view to take. This helps them to see that people with opposing views can get along and helps them not to feel trapped or coerced. Also, if you already give them a resource that has the other view it might save them the trouble of challenging you on your view. At least they will see that you have explored the various opinions on the topic. You ultimately know your parents best. I also strongly recommend that you check out PFLAG of Philadelphia's brochure titled "*Read this Before You Come Out*". I have it available here in the workshop room. This gives some realistic expectations and time frames for your parent's reaction as well as some good pre-coming out things to consider.

### **Things that IMHO can be effective....**

**Through My Eyes** DVD (by GCN).. by far the best resource out there for a variety of reasons .. it has no agenda ... it does not take people to a conclusion but causes them to reflect on the humanity and journey of people that could easily be their own sons and daughters. And... as one of my straight friends said who are going through this right now ... it helped them to better understand their loved one.

#### **When Christians Get it Wrong (in Responding to Homosexuals) (Video)**

<http://adamhamilton.cor.org/2009/02/03/in-dealing-with-homosexuals/>

This is a sermon by Adam Hamilton (Methodist Pastor) that challenges the church to respond with the love of Christ to gay and lesbian people (about 40 minute length). He bumps the theological discussion lightly but does not go into it at length.

#### **The Campolo's various talks and lectures ..**

The Campolos (Tony and Peggy) are an excellent example of people with divergent viewpoints who are fully able to get along ... this gives your parents a role model to follow. (Tony is Side B but Peggy is Side A.) Here is one of their talks in text form.. <http://www.bridges-across.org/ba/campolo.htm> And here is a different speaking engagement shared here in audio form:

<http://www.gaychristian.net/campolos.php>

#### **Misty Irons web page ..**

Musings on found at <http://www.musingson.com/> She is a straight conservative mother of three with some very nuanced views. Be aware that some of her views are on political topics

Every parent is unique. When you are looking at resources to share with them it is important that you consider certain things about the resource such as...

1. Is this person straight? As the PFLAG brochure also indicates .. parents are most likely going to look for someone (initially) from their own (straight) camp for answers. One exception here would be the film: *Through My Eyes* which seeks to put a face on gay and lesbian people w/o an agenda.
2. Does the basic theology of this person / resource line up with what my parents believe?
3. Does this person or resource attack anything / anyone that my parents hold dear?
4. Is the resource more focused on helping my parents understand me or is it obviously trying to win them over to an affirming viewpoint? Conservative parents *may* often automatically reject anything that is contrary to their basic belief system. In time your parents may be open to resources that are outside their initial comfort zone. But in the beginning stages when they are trying to gain their footing in this area .. it is best in my opinion to keep the focus on them understanding you and your journey.