

### **Advice to those whose child has come out to them....**

What is shared below is from my notes in conversing with some straight folks whose loved one has come out to them. They (though they are Side B) have told their loved one they still love them and they are maintaining a relationship with them and their partner. So the advice below is really from the heart as they have gone through this just as you are....

1. Close your mouth and listen to what your son or daughter (or sibling) is telling you.
2. Let them say everything they need to say.
3. Realize that the situation is long past a right or wrong argument (realize that your son or daughter has likely processed this for a long time)
4. Avoid ultimatums and absolutes.
5. Don't try to tackle every (future) gay situation you can think of ... or think about everything down the road (take one day at a time).
6. Focus on your relationship with your son or daughter.
7. Don't throw out questions like .. *What will your pastor think?* .. *What will your church friends think?* .. *What will you grandparents think?* (They have most likely already thought about this and are risking sharing an important fact about themselves with you.)
8. Honesty is important.
9. Ask your child /sibling for patience .. to give you time to process this news.
10. Make absolutely sure you tell your son or daughter (or sibling) that you still love them.