

Line of Fire  
Revolutionary Radio with Dr. Michael Brown.  
June, 12, 2009

[Hour One: Building a Bridge of Dialog with the Homosexual Community](#)

Full transcript:

**Announcer:** It's time for the Line of Fire, with your host, activist, author, international speaker and theologian, Dr. Michael Brown.

Tackling the controversies, engaging the culture, challenging the status quo, and taking your calls. Dr. Brown is the director Coalition of Conscience, and president of Fire School of Ministry. Call now, at 866-34-truth, and get into the line of fire.

**Michaela Brown:** ...lions den last night, in the midst of extreme intolerance and bigotry, pointed straight towards us, straight towards me. Someone represented a position that homosexuals can indeed change, especially through the power of the Gospel. I'm going to tell you exactly what happened last night at Grand Valley State University. Right here on the Line of Fire today, Michael Brown, glad to spend this time with you. The number to call, 866-34truth, that is 866-348-7884. To contact me online, askdrbrown.org, click on contact us, and I do have an important practical question, that I want to put out to all of you, my dear listeners, so that we can have a constructive dialogue about how to overcome some of the wrong attitudes, how to overcome the demonizing of our position, how to overcome the hatred that people feel towards us, and of course they assume we hate them. We're going to talk about that, we're going to have a practical discussion, but boy, it got pretty intense last night. I've been in these kinds of situations many different times in many different settings, but last night was one of the more interesting ones. Let me tell you what happened...

Okay, so here is what happened last night. My reason for being in Michigan is because I have the privilege of speaking at the Love Won Out event, this is the longest running conference, sponsored by Focus on the Family, eleven years running now, and these conferences are devoted to helping families, individuals, struggling with same-sex attractions, same-sex issues. Individuals that are looking for hope and transformation, people that recognize that there's sexual brokenness in their lives. Families that say, what do we do, ministries with questions, as well as helping people understand what's happening in our culture. That's the part that I get involved with, but the bulk of the conference, probably eighty plus percent/ninety percent is devoted to focusing on the issues of same-sex attraction, homosexuality, what does the Bible say, and in particular, can people change, how is change possible, in the most compassionate, gracious way you can imagine.

When I was first asked to be part of these conferences, I had high expectations, knowing the people at Focus I'd interacted with were very, very gracious classy people. When I went to first event, they'd asked me to be a speaker, and they said, why don't you come, see an event first, get a feel for how we present things, I was blown away. I was blown away by the grace, by the love.

Well, whenever the conferences come to an area, there's generally a protest against them. So, one of the leading activists who fights against what's called the ex-gay movement -- that homosexuals can come out of homosexuality -- is a man named Wayne Besen, also a Jewish man. In fact, Wayne and I have gotten to interact a couple of times in Charlotte in February, and then last night through the panel discussion and then face to face.

So, here's what happened, Grand Valley State University, this is a public university, so they receive state funding, Grand Valley State University, decided to have a counter event, to quote "balance out" the perspectives, because Love Won Out was going to have it's event on Saturday, they wanted to balance the perspective. Well hang on, since when does a university decide to have a public event to balance a private church sponsored conference? So, they were going to have a presentation by Wayne Besen, Wayne's presentation -- I'm sure he's sincere about it [**5 min. mark**] and passionate about it -- is extremely inflammatory. I've got some quotes I will get to in the next few minutes that will---well here, here's one from Wayne in his book Anything But Straight "Reparative therapists" -- so these are people who help---psychologists, psychiatrists, or ministries who help people dealing with unwanted same-sex attractions:

*"Reparative therapists are detestable, money hungry con-artists who lure and bamboozle susceptible people with misleading promises and false hope. One reason these quacks practice this chicanery to cash in on this lucrative industry, but one cannot dismiss raw hatred as the primary motive that drives these charlatans to extreme lengths to denigrate lesbians and gay men."*

Delightful. That was the kind of inflammatory rhetoric that was put forward by Wayne last night. Then there was going to be a panel discussion with five individuals, joining the discussion, hosted by the "Inclusion and Equity" department. Did you get that, the inclusion and equity department at Grand Valley State University. And sponsored as well by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender resource department, on and on.

So, a request was made, a campaign was started, to appeal to the university, many of you wrote in, thank you so much for doing it. The university received, get this, more than 10,200 emails. Did you hear me, they received more than ten thousand two hundred emails, requesting that Dr. Michael Brown be added to the panel, so that there could be true inclusion and diversity. They said, "Well, who is Focus on the Family having at Love Won Out to bring a balance?" Whe--- this is a private event. There's a gay pride event come to Grand Rapids, like ten days from today, is the university going to be offering a balanced perspective to that? Of course not, this is not about balance and fairness, this is about presenting one side only, in that university setting.

So, here's what happened, people wrote in to the university, this is the official reply, from the president:

*"We are offering this to our program to create a balance, by providing an opportunity for another part of the conversation that will be the focus of an all day conference, Love Won Out, Saturday, June 13 in Grand Rapids. Our program is free and open to the public, it will include the opportunity for comments and questions from those attending."*

So, I was asked by the folks at Focus on the Family if I'd be able to get there a day early for the event. We were able to swap our schedule, my teaching schedule at Fire School of Ministry, and I got there when it was time for Q&A, I got on line to ask the first question. I introduced myself as a speaker at Love Won Out, and oh, people put their head---no not, that's an evil, terrible organization that hurts people... Now look, it was good for me to be in that environment to see how our position is---I was aware of it, I've interacted with folks like this, but again, to see it again, last night, in maybe exaggerated form, because they had just been provoked by that inflammatory presentation, by Wayne. That was useful, that was helpful, to do my best to see things through their eyes even better, but people were not happy. I said, "full disclosure, I'm Dr. Michael Brown, speaker at Love Won Out," I said, "I'm here as a voice of inclusion and tolerance." I said, "It's so important that these issues are heard, and that the terrible struggles that many gays and lesbians have had that want to be Christian, they feel they're condemned by God because they can't change, or they try to change, and they can't." I said, "I share these very things with Christians to sensitize them." And then I said, "You know, in point of fact, the presentation tonight was as misleading as the presentation that some conservative Christians say that make you think that every homosexual man is a predator for your children, and have at least a thousand sexual partners, etc." I said, "It's just as misleading as that," I said, "But here's my question, I've known many people who've come out of homosexuality through the years and they're just living quiet lives, they don't talk much about their past, why can't you accept that? Why can't you be tolerant of that? I quoted gay activist, gay author, columnist, Camille Paglia, and she's a lesbian and she said "is gay identity so fragile that you can't accept that some people don't want to be gay?"

So, that's how it started. Well things heated up after that, I'm going to tell you more about it on the other side of the break, but here's my question for you---with all the animosity, with all the misunderstanding, with all the hostility, going both ways, with all the demonizing going both ways, how can we actually build bridges? How can we actually overcome the wrong attitudes? How can we actually get the message to people in an effective way? Do we have to listen first? Do we have to do things differently? 866-34truth, 866-348-7884, we'll be back with more.

[Break @ 10 min. mark]

We're live from Grand Rapids Michigan [NR], the question I've been asking today, after the event I attended at Grand Valley State University, the university refused more than ten thousand email requests that came in, again, thanks to all of you who wrote in requesting that I be added to their panel discussion. Odd, this was the subject, religion, homophobia, and spiritual violence in our community. Yes, you and I who believe the Word of God, and who believe that Jesus can change anyone, in any situation, inborn, ingrown, outgrown, whatever---that Jesus can change anyone, we are committing spiritual violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people.

If you've not heard the news, Chastity Bono, who, what was it, 20 years ago, came out as homosexual, has now said that she will become a man, and become Chaz. And of course the media picking this up using the proper word, she is "transitioning," from female to male. Boy,

these people need our love, our prayer, they need our compassion, they need our understanding, but with all the hostility, the demonizing on both sides, sometimes, how do we reach out to one another without compromising our views.

I'm going to give you more of an update about last night, it did get pretty interesting, the university refused to have me on the panel, and remember, this was done in the name of inclusion and diversity. This was done in the name of inclusion and diversity. If it was just some event that the lesbian gay center, whatever they want to do, let 'em do, we're having our event Saturday, tomorrow, Love Won Out, whatever, but if you're going to have a publicly funded event at a university campus, in the name of inclusion and diversity, and you're going to exclude all contrary views from a panel and from a presentation, what is that? What made you [unint.]? I'll tell you more of what happened when things heated up, first we'll get to the phones.

Robert in Raleigh, thank you for calling the Line of Fire.

**Robert in Raleigh:** Hey Mike, how you doing today?

**Brown:** I'm blessed, thank you sir.

**Robert:** You [unint.] my answer with truth and love and prayers, but I'll tell you that it's not surprising that you were excluded from an inclusive, quote unquote "inclusive venue," and I say that only because I know you're aware that the Scripture tells us that what you proclaim the truth, is seen as---the scales are not removed from their eyes, they see it as jibber-jabbis (sic). And so it's not hard to imagine that they're excluding things that they don't understand. So, I think you're right, it's through prayers, it's through love, and only then, I think, will they recognize that we're all fallen, and that the truth is the only way, not the power...

**Brown:** So Robert, let me ask you a question, we hold to certain things firmly and dearly that are many different areas of conviction, we don't want to compromise on as believers. Do think some people are afraid that if they get to know people they oppose, if they sit down and have a meal with someone they differ with, that that may lead to compromise, or that they may get swayed, do think people are actually afraid to sit down sometimes, face to face, with those that they really differ with?

**Robert:** I do, I think that's true of believers and unbelievers, I know--my own personal walk, that often times it takes a lot of prayer and accountability for--to get you in a right relationship with the lord. In the same way I think that unbelievers have a pride, I mean, they have followed a lie, demonic or Satanic, and it's going to be a heavy heavy load for them to sit down and truly listen with their heart to understand that maybe their way is the wrong way, it's their own way, not the Lord's way. And I agree, it's pride [**15 min. mark**], and we all have it, just some of us have received the grace of God that enabled us to overcome it.

**Brown:** Robert, your approach, your tone, spirit, is exactly what we need, and by God's grace, truth and love will prevail. You have a blessed day and a blessed weekend, thank you.

**Robert:** Hope you do...

**Michael Brown:** Ok, so last night, I'm at Grand Valley State University, I'm not giving a presentation, I'm not speaking publicly, like I'm used to doing, I'm not even sitting on the panel of, five. One of the panel members was a local pastor, very liberal pastor, seemed like a decent guy, as human beings go, but said [that] we pick a few verses in the Bible against homosexuality and ignore all the other verses about love, etc., and he said there's an eighty plus year old woman in his congregation, prudish type, and he said she finally got it, you know, how can you tell us some young man, you can never have sex again the rest of your life, which of course, theoretically you'd be telling a homosexual, if you can't change, you have to be celibate your entire life, that's rough. Picture telling that to a heterosexual, that's a tough pill to swallow. Eighteen-nineteen year old person---you're going to follow Jesus, going to have to be celibate the rest of your life, unless you change. That's not easy, that's the very kind of thing we need to be sensitive to. No we don't change our position, but it should adjust our heart-attitude, shouldn't it?

Well, I was there on line (sic), they said if you had more than one question, go to the back of the line, so I asked my first question and went to the back of the line. Well as I stood on the back of the line, more people got on line behind me, so the moderator looked up and he said to me firmly, Dr. Brown, you'll have to go to the back of the line. I said, well I'm happy two people got on behind me, but I said I just think it should be pointed out that the university ignored more than 10,000 email requests that came in, asking to allow me to sit on that panel, in the name of inclusion, and equity and diversity. And people got mad and started--shouting out and things like that, and I said, look, this is exclusion, this is intolerance. And you know, well who is going to speak at your event [LWO]? I said, look, there's a gay pride event taking place in ten days, is the university having a balancing discussion with that, or are they trying to create a balanced forum to discuss that? Of course not.

I talked to one of the panel members afterwards, I had a one on one with one of the panel members afterwards, it was a young guy, that said he's gay and Christian and he's now at home with his identity, he tried to change--realized, no, this is who he is, he's a Christian and he's gay. And I said to him, let me ask you something, Wayne Besen, the gentleman who gave the presentation, very inflammatory hour-plus presentation earlier in the evening. I said, If Wayne was coming to town to have his event -- forget Focus on the Family having their event -- Wayne was coming to town to have his event, I said, would the university have provided a balancing voice for that? And he said, "No, I don't think so. I don't think we would have done that. Well that's not harming people." Of course it is, I said, it's all a matter of your perspective, that's why the voices need to get together and talk. Now, I did have some very good dialogue with a number of people, one on one, some of whom genuinely seemed to be seeking. The Focus on the Family event is very inexpensive for an entire day event with speakers coming in from around the country. Like fifty dollars for registration, but I told folks, if you can't afford to be there, you show up and I'll pay your way in. And four of them actually took me up on it and I'm looking forward to them being impacted by the truth and love, tomorrow. My question, again, How can we effectively build bridges for dialogue without compromise. We'll take your calls, right here on the other side of the break. [Break]

Thanks again for joining us today, on The Line of Fire, Michael Brown, coming your way from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Boy, what a night it was last night at Grand Valley State University, as I was not allowed to be on the panel discussion, of course, give a presentation, wasn't, that wasn't something anyone was asking. But they, the university ignored over ten thousand emails that came in, requesting I be added to a panel that was being sponsored by the "inclusion and equity" department of the university, which might be better called, after last night, the exclusion and inequity department. I actually thanked the people with a smile [20 min. mark] sarcastically for the tolerance. I'm going to of course--my demeanor is always going to be civil and Christ-like.

My question though for you friends is a constructive important one. Are you willing to sit down with a transgender person---a man who dresses as a woman, and really understand what makes them tick? And try to get into their world more in terms of their way of thinking, so as to reach them with the Gospel, and so as to protect them from the hatred in society? Are you to confront homophobia in the church, in order to get the true message of Jesus out? Yes, homosexual practice is a sin. Absolutely contrary to the will and design of God. Homosexual activism is the principle threat to religious freedom in America today, absolutely, I'll be teaching on that very subject tomorrow, God willing. But, are we willing to sit down and build bridges? Or are we being lured into the world if we sit down with a gay neighbor, or have a lesbian couple over to our home, especially if you don't have kids around that are going to be influenced by negative example? Or if you're kids are old enough to understand and be part of the dialogue? Are we willing to do what Jesus did and sit with sinners in order to change them through the Gospel?  
866-34truth,

We'll go to Miguel in Salt Lake City, thanks for calling The Line of Fire, Miguel.

**Miguel:** Hey, how ya doin'?

**Brown:** I'm doing very well, thanks.

**Miguel:** Great. I just wanted to say, I wish you would have been able to be on the panel, that would have been great. I think the problem that we have is that we look at sin and, all sin is sin of course, any kind of disobedience or rebellion toward God is sin. And so, we're willing to sit down with someone who smokes crack or we're willing to sit down with a liar or a thief, so why not sit down with a homosexual. Their sin is, in the eyes of God, no different than any other sin. We need to get past that, and the thing is that, they're looking at themselves as being persecuted by the Christians, and there's some Christians out there that are going out with both barrels loaded, and they're yelling at them and saying God hates gays, and God hates homosexuals, and well, the thing is, God hates all sin. He hates the liar, He hates the thief, He hates the person who cheats on their taxes. So we need to look at this as, they're just lost people, and we've got to go with them in love, and without compromising the truth. I think that's what we need to do.

**Brown:** Now, Miguel, I know the word homophobia is a word that's normally used by folks on the other side of the discussion here, and many just associate it with being a gay activist word, but do you think that there is such a thing as homophobia in the church?

**Miguel:** I don't. Here's the thing, the word homophobia, from what I remember--have been told, is that it means you're afraid that you're gay yourself.

**Brown:** No no no, no no. It's actually an extreme fear, a reaction to things having to do with homosexuality. So it's not fear that you're gay yourself. So as defined like that, in other words, an extreme fear of homosexuality, or an exaggerated reaction to homosexuality, do you think we have that in the Church?

**Miguel:** I don't think so, I mean maybe certain people in the Church might have that, but, here's the way I look at it, I wouldn't want someone, I fear the same thing with someone who does drugs, or something else. Of course I think that we have a fear of that infiltrating the Church or the community. People being able to have the right to raise children being homosexual, being able to run a day care being homosexual, and infiltrating the minds of young people, yes, I think in that sense, we have to fight against that, and they're going to look at that as being persecuted, they're going to look at that as us hating them. I don't hate homosexuals, no more than I would hate anybody else. I think that they just need to be, they need to have the truth told, and of course in that sense, maybe we do have homophobic problems. I wouldn't want to see kids being brought up in that kind of environment.

**Brown:** Oh yeah, listen, saying that we have strong differences, saying that we oppose same-sex adoption, that we oppose same-sex marriage, that we oppose same-sex practice, etc., is one thing. Saying that we're afraid to sit down with a homosexual because we might get AIDS, that would be homophobic, that would be homophobic. But, Miguel, I appreciate your perspective, and I agree with you. God bless you.

**Miguel:** Ok, Go (sic)

**Dr. Michael Brown:** 866-34truth, 866-348-7884. Online [askdrbrown.org](http://askdrbrown.org) [**25 min. mark**], click on contact us to get a message to me.

Many of you know that on July 25th, by God's grace, we'll be gathering at least 1000 believers in Charlotte. People coming from different parts of the country to be part of "God has a better way." This is something that God laid on our hearts after much prayer and reflection, to bring at least 1000 people together, that will surround a gay pride event with prayer, intercession, worship, compassionate outreach. It'll be an extraordinary history making event. I invite you to be part of it. You can tell us you're coming, just go to our website [askdrbrown.org](http://askdrbrown.org), click on the home page, you'll see "God has a better way," and you click on that, you can respond on that website directly, [godhasabetterway.com](http://godhasabetterway.com), and say that you'll be coming, you can go to our facebook site. It's all there, click on [askdrbrown.org](http://askdrbrown.org), right there on the homepage, god has a better way, and when you click on that it'll get you right to the--you can read about the rally, and

then by all means, sign up to say you're coming and get word out to your friends. We've got other pastors rallying the troops, other leaders coming together.

Someone posted on our facebook site for godhasabetterway, something I think you need to hear. We--the word about godhasabetterway rally got out to some major gay and lesbian blogs, some of their websites, so they told everyone go to our website and tell people you're not coming, you're not attending, and then post your feelings. So the first hundred responses were people saying they're not attending, and then negative comments about the event. Someone wrote this though -- now more normal comments are coming in, in terms of reflecting the people we're inviting -- A man named Houston Robert, San Antonio, Texas, or Robert Houston, but it's posted as Houston Robert,

I have a lesbian daughter and a female to male transgender son, I love them tremendously. They are talented, intelligent wonderful people, I can't imagine feeling any kind of hate toward them, or wanting to harm them in any way. I also believe that God has a better plan for their lives, not out of hate, but out of love. I won't love them any more or less if they move out of their current lifestyles. Is it up to me to change them? No, last time I checked the Holy Spirit position was filled, however, I pray for them to truly commit themselves to Christ, trust God's power, and see what happens in their lives. I believe Dr. Brown has nothing but love and compassion for those in the GLBT community, the thing is each and every one of us is lost the same, without the grace of Jesus Christ. That's what I believe, you don't have to believe the same, but I certainly hope and pray you do, or will, because I want the best for others, and I believe that Jesus gives you the best life possible."

And I posted to say, "Dear brother, I agree with you exactly. The example you're setting to your kids is just what needs to be said"

My question, have you ever sat down with a gay or lesbian, transgender, bisexual, however they identify themselves, and said hey, tell me your story, tell me how you grew up, tell me how you were treated in school, tell me how you've been treated--have you ever sat down to hear their side? Are you willing to? Back with more.

[Break]

Michael Brown here in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Today we're doing our show---up for an event at Grand Valley State University last night---discussion on religion, homophobia, spiritual violence in our community. Yes, we are the spiritually violent homophobes. I was excluded from the panel, despite more than 10,200 emails to the university, asking to allow me on. I did get to ask a couple of questions, and graciously, they did invite me up to ask the last question, I'll tell you about that in a moment.

My question for you, dear listeners, is, have we built sufficient bridges to the homosexual community. They know that we're against their activism, we're against their lifestyle, I remind you of course, the great majority of homosexual men and women are not activists, but, have we sat down and dialogued, have we tried to understand their struggles, have we asked them what



it's like growing up in church, and thinking that you're condemned by God, or hated by God? Or are we afraid to have these discussions for fear that they will blunt or blur our passion, or cause us to compromise our convictions? Are we willing to sit down and get our lives involved with others that do not know the Lord. 866-34truth.

I'll tell you what a woman said to me last night, came up next to me -- we'll go to the phones in a moment -- she came up next to me, stood next to me towards the end of the event, and just stood there, with this strange smile. And I said, do you want to talk? I whispered to her, she goes, "No, I feel like you're threatening my child." I said oh, we actually get to help a lot of people [30 min. mark], she said, "Well I think you're responsible for a few suicides tonight, you'll have to take that up with your maker." Then she walked away from me. And that's what we're dealing with, spiritual blindness, yes. Prayer has to break down those barriers, yes, but is there something else we can do?

Annette, thank you for calling The Line of Fire today.

**Annette:** Hi. Just a comment about what you made earlier and you're previous caller made, I have a homosexual uncle, and a homosexual brother in law, and a comment was -- and I'm a Christian -- and a comment was made earlier by you and the other caller that, you would do what Jesus would do, by sitting down with sinners, and I know in the New Testament there's emphasis of Jesus talking to and converting murderers, thieves, adulterers, and so forth, but I don't think there's a single instance in the New Testament where it's Jesus actually sat and talked and converted a homosexual. What's your feelings on that? I think my phone's getting ready to go dead, so if I lose you, I didn't hang up.

**Brown:** Ok, got it. Yeah, hopefully you'll be able to keep listening on the radio [cross talk]. Ok, a few things. The Bible does not list lots of different people that [dial tone], alright, there goes the phone, but in that, hopefully you're just listening on your radio now. Ok, the next question, the Bible speaks of [peace?] of sitting with all kinds of different sinners, but, in point of fact, does not speak of sitting with homosexuals. Well, it generally speaks of him with tax collectors and prostitutes. That's the--those are the general categories, of quote "sinners," that he sits with. And remember, he did not sit with them to help them be better tax collectors, and learn more ways to extort money, or to be more effective prostitutes. Ok, we understand that. His whole purpose in sitting with them, was to transform them.

So, when people talk about being inclusive, I say, Oh yes, we are totally inclusive, we practice transformational inclusion. We include all people to change them and transform them. So, it doesn't mention Jesus sitting with a wife-beater, doesn't mention Jesus sitting with a rapist, doesn't mention Jesus sitting with a drug abuser, doesn't--no, I mean we'd go on and on. It doesn't mention Him sitting with various categories, but this much we know, He died for every human being. His blood was shed, just the same for every human being. One of my friends, a former homosexual, often points out, Jesus did not hang on the cross longer for homosexual and for heterosexual to be saved.

And more importantly, that, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, list various categories of sinners in the Corinthian Church. Remember the passage “Don’t be deceived, the wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of God.” He lists various sinners, adulterers and fornicators and drunkards, and homosexuals. Clearly referring to homosexual practice in his list. And says, “such were some of you, but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the spirit of our god. So, the Bible explicitly speaks of former homosexuals, by the power of God, by the grace of God, by the blood of Jesus. And, it’s one thing to compromise a value, to say as a parent, “oh yeah, you want to bring your gay partner over and sleep at our house?” No, I wouldn’t do that with two people out of wedlock, regardless of their sexual orientation. I wouldn’t compromise certain principles, but do we show the same unconditional love, or do we seek to have understanding, absolutely.

Alright, when we come back, I will tell you what ultimately happened at the event last night.  
[Break]

As always, a joy to be with you here on The Line of Fire. Michael Brown, from my heart, telling you again, I really love this opportunity that we have to share time together. Even though the vast majority of you, I won’t get to talk to on the phone, or see face to face, I do feel like we are part of the same family. And I was blessed a couple months ago when a caller, called in, said he felt he was a personal friend, ‘cause, that’s how I feel towards many of you, and glad we’re in this together. I mean that from my heart, coming, we live from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Ok, if you missed it earlier, Grand Valley State University, had an event last night on religion and homophobia [35 min. mark]; spiritual violence in our community. A lovely title, but that’s the perception of those in the gay and lesbian, bisexual, transgender, etc., community towards many of us who follow the scriptures, and believe what the Bible says about homosexual practice, and feel that same-sex marriage etc., homosexual activist’s agenda, is not in the best interests of society. We are, in their minds, spiritually violent, bigoted, homophobic people. So, the university had a request, over ten thousand emails went into the university asking to have me on the panel discussion, since this was in the name of inclusion and diversity, but they declined. I was however asked--allowed to ask a couple of questions. One woman directly said, if the Dobson thing, focus--Love Won Out conference, where I’m speaking on Saturday, if that is truly a conference. Conference from the Webster’s dictionary is where people exchange different ideas and it says there on the website that security could remove you for any reason, and why is that? I said, well, first there are many differences of a conference, it does not mean that opposing viewpoints would be offered. I said, the reason that they say that they may have to remove people is because they get threats sometimes. I said, you’ve got crazies on all sides, that’s all it is, but then people were so stoked against us. Like they were looking at us as if, you know, we were...it’s hard to describe, the hostility, the anger, the misunderstanding towards us. I got up at the end, and look, I’ve gone on record, I’ve said publicly, we’ve had dialogue, I’ve invited gay and lesbian clergy in the Charlotte area, gay affirming clergy, September 20th of 2007, to come, Power Church, The Fire Church, right outside of Charlotte, and, to have a public dialogue with me in a non-threatening, non-hostile environment, on Can You Be Gay and Christian. They boycotted the event, instead, I hosted a public dialogue with Harry Knox, who’s a gay activist, claims to be born again Christian, who is president of President Obama’s Faith and Advisory

Council. I hosted a debate with him, at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center last year, public debate. I think you can watch that on the website. Listen, I hold to my views, I'll die for what I believe is right on the one hand, on the other hand, I sit down and interact with folks constant-- look, there's an orthodox rabbi who's written over a 50 page paper attacking my writings, we talk every week. We're best friends, as close as we can be with our different viewpoints. We honor each other as friends.

So, I got up at the end, last night, they allowed me to ask the last question, I had to sit down and get in the back at a certain point, just get out of the way, because people were directing questions to me, instead of the panel, and people were getting a little heated towards me. So, I got up at the end and I said, in the interest of dialogue and from my heart, I've publicly apologized in Charlotte, to the gay and lesbian community, for insensitivity to the church and misunderstanding from other Christians, and the lack of sensitivity in reaching out, and I've invited Wayne Besen, who gave a very inflammatory presentation at the beginning of the night, I've invited him to have a public dialogue with me. I said, but Wayne, you have written that most ex-gays are suffering unbelievably dark lonely lives, that they're chronically depressed, that a significant number appear to have mental illnesses and oh, I think even one more, where was it, oh yeah, and that most ex-gays are desperate depressed people. I said, in the interest of public dialogue, will you repudiate those comments publicly, will you do it. And of course he said no. He said that those were reflective of testimonies on the website he read, and therefore he's not repudiating, however, we will continue to confront, lies, errors, misinformation, with truth and with love, and the truth will triumph. Join us for our next hour. Those that won't be with us, you have an awesome weekend, and we'll look forward to seeing you Monday night at the School of Cultural Engagement.

[End]

Transcribed by author