

## AND GOD SAYS . . .

**Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church**

ONENEWSNOW.COM reported on January 29, 2009, “Fallen evangelical pastor Ted Haggard says he doesn’t consider himself gay, but rather ‘a heterosexual with issues.’”

“In an interview show on Wednesday’s *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, the former president of the National Association of Evangelicals said he used to think that same-sex attractions that led to his downfall were demonic, but now sees them as part of who he is.

“Haggard told Winfrey that while he believes Jesus accepts him and everybody as they are, he also believes that the Bible is God’s Word, and that God’s ideal is for ‘heterosexual monogamous marriage.’”

I just cannot let this go by without commenting on it. There are such subtle deceptions in Haggard’s statements:

Deception #1: “Now he sees them...” It is not Haggard’s experience, his feelings or how “he sees himself” that are authoritative. It is about how God sees him. God says that “All a man’s ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart” (Proverbs 21:2).

Deception #2: “Who he is.” Haggard is who God made him and God said, “Male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27). Haggard was not created with homosexual tendencies. Those tendencies came as a result of sin. Jesus came to set us free from sin and conform us to the image of Jesus Christ (see Romans 8:29).

Deception #3: “God’s ideal is for ‘heterosexual monogamous marriage.’” This is not merely God’s ideal. It is God’s order. It is His basic law, His dictate. God said a man “shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).

The Scriptures declare, “Let God be true, and every man a liar” (Romans 3:4). It is not what we think or feel, it is what God has set in order that is true. It is on the basis of His declared law and on His terms that we will be judged. Considering this, how do you think you fare in His judgment? It is only through Jesus Christ that we have hope. If you haven’t already, I hope you will turn to Him.