



FAITH in AMERICA

Instructions: *This sample letter is meant to be a guide to help you share these books this Holiday as a gift to create understanding, love and healing. Please edit the letter to reflect your personal touch and who you are.*

Dear ***(Your loved one)***,

As the holidays are approaching, if the past repeats itself you'll soon be asking me what I want for a gift! I've been thinking about it a great deal and have come up with something that will be incredibly cost effective for you and perhaps the most meaningful gift you have ever given me or could ever give me.

My gift to you....is a copy of Rev. David Gushee's book "Changing Our Mind". Rev. Gushee is a well-known evangelical ethicist who is a professor at a Christian school in Atlanta, Mercer College. During the past month he has spoken out and launched his book where he proclaims he has "changed his position" on homosexuality. He no longer believes it is a sin and now believes that it is perfectly appropriate for same sex couples to marry.

The other gift to you is a copy of "Youth in Crisis.....what everyone should know about growing up gay." This book has 40 stories of gay people and talks about the moment they realized they were gay....the crisis that created in their lives, and the very difficult journey they went through to finally get to a state of better mental health. This book is about me. I need you to understand what I've gone through, the harm that has been caused to me in the name of people wanting to be a good Christian.

And your gift to me? Read these books. Times are changing. As the world progresses and more and more is learned about human beings, more clergy and lay people are changing their views. I am asking you to read these books with an open mind and heart. I can't begin to tell you how important it is that you fully accept me for the way God created me. And that you not only accept me, but that you embrace it. Interpretations of the Bible that have caused me harm. Rev. Gushee makes a strong case for not just a shift, but a leap of how the Scripture should be properly interpreted. I think you will really enjoy reading his words.

I love you so much and I know you love me. Let's make 2015 the year that we are freed from the burdens of outdated, ill-informed and misguided Scripture interpretations. Let's make it the year when unconditional love has a much deeper meaning.

Yours always,

(Your name)