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LGBT Symposium Notes

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- Often the clergy who are making for equal rights for GLBT? come are looked at as liberators in Xmas, as on the angels. In their numbers that may be 50, but, ~~listen~~, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me" because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim ~~release~~ ^{release} for the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to ~~set free~~ ^{set free} the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Isaiah 61:1-2

You religious types involved here are the liberation.

Jesus did reach out to the oppressed, the ones looked down on, the ones considered unclean or unworthy, by the religious elites. His message was that ~~the~~ all were welcome in the Kingdom of God - God's love was for all. He condemned the narrow ~~and~~ ^{and} unyielding religious leaders who were more concerned with rigidly following ~~the~~ rules of purity than in loving God & neighbor.

(the outsiders & outcasts)

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~~This is the core~~
- Jesus love teaches us of the Kingdom of God - a new social order where love of God & neighbor would be the ruling force.
∴ This is not some fuzzy element of liberation of untruth Xmas; it is the heart of it.
This is what motivates me to be involved here.

How can I be spiritual?

- Also, from work with victims of clergy sexual abuse, I know they feel that it is impossible to be "spiritual" since their abuse came from a ~~representative of the~~ "spiritual" ~~power~~ leader.

- And you well know GLBT have been abused by them spiritual traditors as well.
- How can you still be spiritual? 2 responses:
1. Whenever you stand for justice and against inequality, ~~the~~ oppression; whenever you take risks or beliefs of those discriminated against; whenever you stand for the basic rights, freedoms, & dignity of all people you are being spiritual in the best sense (& I might add, follows the quote from above)
2. For those who want to reject all of their spiritual tradition because of those on the other side of this issue (and believe me, I am tempted too), I have 2 thoughts: a) we all have spiritual needs that the best of the traditions can address b) "the antidote to bad chemistry is not

chemistry, it's good chemistry"