CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITIES

IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH

PART III
SIX CLASSES

- Hospitality & Hurricane Katrina Responses
- Rock of Ages Cleft for Me: Southern Traditions Revisited
- Brand New Start: Southern Religious Innovations
- Southern Christianities in Harmony and Conflict
BRAND NEW START: FOUR TOPICS

- Megachurches and the Reinvention of Southern Church Life
- The Changing Face of the Catholic South
- Christian Homeschoolers
- Southern, Christian, and Gay
CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOLERS

• “Our oldest was 12, and though he initially attended a good Christian school, the Lord began to impress on us that we needed to start homeschooling. As we prayed about this option, it became clear that this was what the Lord wanted. But the decision to homeschool was not made because of superior education in our case but for the purpose of discipleship.” David and Leslie Nunnery

• Large Families-Be Fruitful and Multiply
• Biblical Complementarity-Mom stays home
• Distrust of “Government Schools”
• Teaching Young Earth Creationism
• A differentially white movement, featuring parents whose own parents had them in “Christian” academies
NOT JOHN HOLT’S UNSCHOOLING, BUT JUST THE OPPOSITE-PROVIDING CHILDREN WITH THEIR GOD-GIVEN TEACHERS.
Above Rubies is the Magazine for You!

You will wonder how you ever did without it!

• Celebrating over 35 years of strengthening wives and mothers!
• Articles, testimonies and teaching to transform your life!
• Full of godly wisdom for you as a mother and wife!
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“Who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far above rubies.” Proverbs 31:10
DINOSAURS FOR KIDS

BY KEN HAM
## Gay-Affirming Congregations in Southern States

### SOUTHERN, CHRISTIAN, AND GAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total Number of Congregations</th>
<th>Gay-affirming Congregations</th>
<th>Percentage of Gay-Affirming Congregations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>15,737</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>1.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>15,611</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
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<td>168</td>
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<td>Louisiana</td>
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<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>4,413</td>
<td>25</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**for comparison:**

| Vermont         | 854                           | 63                          | 7.38                                     |
Rev. George Augustine Hyde
American Holy Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Eastern Church, 1957

Rev. Troy Perry
Metropolitan Community Church, 1968
REV. ED SANDERS AND THE WHOSOEVER CHURCH

INCLUSIVE

Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting

We practice radical inclusion by offering everyone the experience of unconditional love.

Embracing: We openly embrace relationships with all people.

Welcoming: We gladly welcome WHOSOEVER: Come one, Come all.

Accepting: We lovingly accept all people.

• And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples.  
  When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”  
  But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.  
  Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”  
  Matthew 9:10-13
Faith doesn’t make everything okay; faith makes it possible to get through anything.

You are not the sin you committed.

Speaking the truth in love matters.

God is about making you a better person. If it’s just about getting saved, you might as well get shot so you can go to heaven—but God is about making you a better person through sanctification in this world. Be changed by the renewing of your mind.
MATTHEW VINES ON RELIGIOUS REACTIONS

“We feel the loss, hurt and sorrow of those whose loved ones have been injured and killed in Orlando, Florida. We extend our sympathy and our prayers and ask God to comfort them in their sorrow, fill the void in their lives, and give them the peace of God. We also lift our prayers for those who have been injured, believing that God will heal and restore them, physically, emotionally and spiritually.”

But not all LGBT Christians heard good news in some of those well-meaning messages.

Matthew Vines, author of “God and the Gay Christian,” noted in an op-ed for TIME Magazine that nearly 50 percent of LGBT Americans are Christians, like himself. For them, Sunday mornings are a reminder that they are not accepted in many pews - that many traditional churches view homosexuality as incompatible with Christian beliefs.

“The core problem is that so many Christians still talk about the LGBT community like they’re not a part of the church and like they’re not part of the same family. That’s the core problem: They use ‘othering’ language that presupposes that Christians and LGBT people are separate, mutually exclusive groups,”