



# Messy Grace: How a Pastor with Gay Parents Learned to Love Others Without Sacrificing Conviction

*Caleb Kaltenbach*

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**Sometimes, grace gets messy.**

Caleb Kaltenbach was raised by LGBT parents, marched in gay pride parades as a youngster, and experienced firsthand the hatred and bitterness of some Christians toward his family.

But then Caleb surprised everyone, including himself, by becoming a Christian...and a pastor.

Very few issues in Christianity are as divisive as the acceptance of the LGBT community in the church. As a pastor and as a person with beloved family members living a gay lifestyle, Caleb had to face this issue with courage and grace.

*Messy Grace* shows us that Jesus's command to "love your neighbor as yourself" doesn't have an exception clause for a gay "neighbor"—or for that matter, any other "neighbor" we might find it hard to relate to. Jesus was able to love these people and yet still hold on to his beliefs. So can you. Even when it's messy.

"Messy Grace is an important contribution to the conversation about sexual identity for churches and leaders. Caleb's story is surprising and unique, and he weaves it together compellingly. He states his views clearly, leaves room for disagreement, and champions love no matter where you are in this conversation."

—Jud Wilhite, Sr. Pastor, Central Christian Church

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