

Book Review:

**An Ounce of Prevention:  
Preventing the Homosexual Condition in Today's Youth,**

By Don Schmierer

(1998; paperback, Word Publishing)

*Reviewed by Linda Nicolosi*

This readable, engaging book is written by a counselor with forty years of experience in youth ministry. Throughout the text, the author has introjected narratives from people he has known and counseled, which brings the book alive and vividly illustrates its concepts. While the author is not a professional psychologist, nevertheless his book reflects much practical wisdom, life experience, and spiritual maturity which is combined with an impressive array of useful data and clinical observations from the literature.

The book is written from a Christian perspective. Any Christian family looking for guidance and understanding on homosexuality will find it very helpful. The book's primary purpose is to discuss possibilities for prevention—particularly, through healthy family and peer relationships, and early recognition of warning signs, particularly same-sex feelings of inferiority and isolation. However, a broad array of other topics are also covered. Mr. Schmierer

reflects on ways to respond to homosexually oriented people in the church in a compassionate, biblically orthodox way; on the difficulties and medical problems inherent in a gay lifestyle; on confronting school sex-education programs that encourage early sexual activity; on the "born that way" question; on the likely causes of homosexuality; and on the possibility of change in adulthood. Throughout, he conveys the wisdom of long life experience--much of it revealed through the lessons he has learned on his own spiritual and psychological journey.

This book lists for \$12.99. It can be ordered by calling 1-800-933-9673, ex. 92039, or order through amazon.com. We recommend it as a thoughtful, compassionate, and very well-written resource for pastoral counselors and families. ■

