

A letter from grandparent to grandchild, who plans to enter into a civil union with the same sex partner.

Dear (granddghtr's name),

As I hear of plans being made between you and (partner's name) for a "wedding" I find it necessary to write this letter to you now, rather than at a later time. I need you to understand my thoughts and reasoning in making my decision not to participate in any such ceremony.

Marriage is a sacred bond, a sacrament, between a man and a woman. I know you are aware of my beliefs – those ordained by God. I love you very much and want your life to be full of joy. I also know this is not God's plan for true joy in your life, nor in (partner's name).

You have told me that you are not attracted to men, but women. I also know that God has a special plan for your life, in spite of those attractions.

I don't deny that same sex attractions exist given the influences in this fallen world, but your identity is that of a Child of God, not as gay or any other name for it. God makes no mistakes. Your same sex attraction is not your identity. Living a chaste life, giving your life to God in whatever way He calls you, is a gift.

Just like you, I don't know that plans God has for my life. I only know that I trust Him. I know that God's "rules" are for my good and safety and I have faith that He will guide me on the right path forward, taking one day at a time. My ultimate goal is heaven. I only get this if I follow Him.

I see in you, a beautiful woman with a loving and kind heart. I also see some hurt. You have shared with me that you have struggled with acceptance, anxiety, doubt and depression. You have so much goodness to give others. Don't give in to despair, confusion and doubt. Jesus accepts you right where you are – right now. He isn't mad at you. He's madly in love with you.

Freedom is that power to do what is right and good. You are not alone. Jesus wants you to return to Him. His forgiveness is a free gift to all who ask for it. You are good enough.

Change is scary. You may think it is hopeless and impossible to do anything differently. You need Jesus' help – we all do! None of us can do life alone. You are a beloved child of God. He has a plan for your life that is better than anything you can imagine. Even now, He is at work in your life. He is continually holding you, sustaining you and loving you. His love is deeper than your sins. United to Jesus, He will take your suffering and use it to bare much fruit in this world and the next. God is the foundation of our family. I know He will take care of us if we surrender our lives to His care.

We have free will. If we choose "God", we get God. If we choose "not God", we get not God. I know that I have said a lot here, but I felt I needed to say it – because maybe you've never heard it before.

I say the prayer on this card everyday for you and for all my children and grandchildren – and your partner, too. My task is to love, to forgive and to pray for you and to trust Jesus to do the rest. I love you, forgive you and pray for you as I strive to grow closer to God.

I am here – ready and willing to walk with you on this journey. Just reach out and I will be there.

Love always and forever, Nani (The grandmother enclosed the Trust Me prayer)