

Blessed Are the Queer in Heart for They Shall See God

Okay, so that isn't exactly what Jesus said!
But is being "queer in heart" incompatible with being pure in heart?

Dr. Dobson, Reverend Falwell and others would insist that it is. To them, embracing one's gayness is tantamount to laying down cold cash for a one way ticket to hell. Their solution is to consign gay people to an ex-gay chapter with the goal of changing us into "normal" heterosexuals. Their minds are so frozen by theology that they can't conceive of the possibility our sexuality is God-given rather than the product of sin. One is reminded of the Pharisees and scribes who were so stuck in their inherited, traditional views of scripture that they couldn't fathom Jesus' teachings. Referring to their zealous applications of The Law, he accused them of loading others with unbearable burdens. Like the Pharisees, today's culture bound religious traditionalists have it wrong!

Our curse is not our sexual orientation;

It is homophobia.

Our task in life is not to futilely attempt to change into someone

God never intended us to be;

It is to integrate our spirituality and our sexuality to become whole and authentic human beings.

Our goal is not to marry someone of the opposite sex to fit a traditional mold;

It is to discover the fullness and richness of lives well lived in response to our authentic calling from the God who created us.

Wounded by the homophobia we faced when growing up, many of us haven't figured out how to express our sexuality in a healthy, life-giving fashion. Living so long in fear that others would discover our true identity, we find it hard to trust and form intimate relationships and too easily mistake sexual contact for emotional intimacy. Some of us find ourselves behaving sexually in ways that conflict with our deepest values, yet we cannot seem to break the pattern.

Our healing begins when we finally accept that being gay is a gift and have the courage to see ourselves as we really are. Only then can we truly begin to open our hearts to God and others. By living lives based on our deepest truths, we begin the pilgrimage that leads to being both queer in heart and pure in heart.

A Message from the Anawim Community

Gay men seeking to follow Jesus through lives of prayer and service to others.
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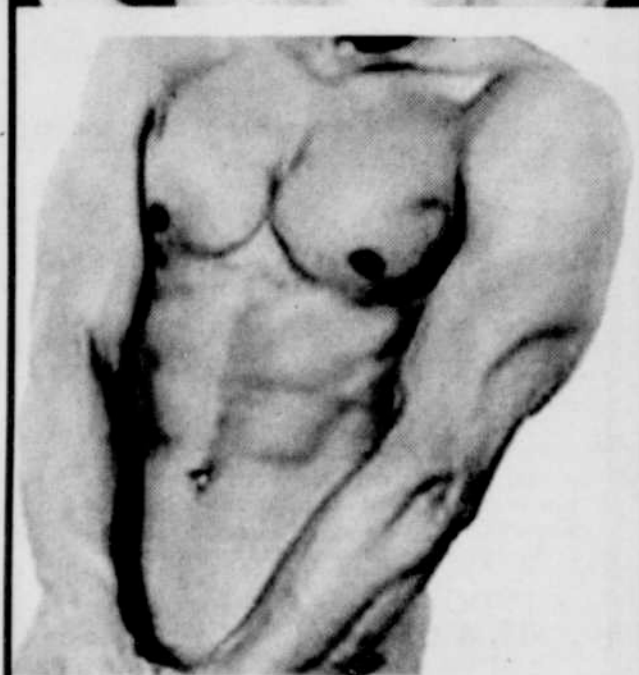
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