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Prejudices Affecting Each of Us 0 views

ObedientFemme Jun 26, 2002, 10:14:43 AM

to

Recently, one of our members unsubscribed from TG Woman, an unmoderated forum for discussions pertaining to a variety of gender-specific issues. As is the case when any member unsubscribes, I forward a letter that asks why the member unsubscribed, a request to explain how the group could better serve the member's needs, and an invitation to rejoin at some more suitable time.

Most unsubscribe and never explain why. However, this particular member took the time to respond.

Ignoring his female screen name, he wrote essentially that he had welcomed Jesus into his life; and, as a result, he no longer had any gender issues. The inference being that he had been 'saved' from cross dressing and being transgendered. He then signed his letter with his masculine first name.

I responded by thanking him for taking the time to write. I wished him well and expressed my hope that he would find whatever happiness he sought in this life.

However, the letter disturbed me for days afterwards; and, I couldn't understand why. It became clear when I stumbled across an article by the self-proclaimed evangelist Jerry Farwell. In the article, Farwell claimed to have saved a number of people from being gay, from cross dressing, and from being either transgendered or transsexual.

Mr. Farwell has been making such claims for a number of years. However, he never acknowledges that the vast majority of his "saved" followers leave to resume the lives they had lived prior to joining his ministry.

You see, Mr. Farwell likes to suggest that being gay, cross dressing, and that being transsexual or transgendered are each choices we make. Unlike being heterosexual, Farwell asserts, each of these so-called "lifestyles" is a conscious decision to live a life of sin, guilt and shame.

Now, it was clear why the letter disturbed me so. The gentleman who wrote had inferred that those of us who do not ascribe to Farwell's prescription for a 'cure' are little more than sexual deviants void of any love for God, void of moral principle, and void of the God's love. Nothing could be further from the truth.

People do not choose a sexual preference any more than they choose a gender preference. At no time before birth are we invited to fill out an application to be heterosexual or homosexual. Sexual and gender preference is no more a choice or a lifestyle than our hair color, skin color, or whether we will be right- or left-handed. To think otherwise amounts to harboring the most profound ignorance and prejudices towards people for no other reason than they are different.

As for religion, I am a deeply religious and moral woman. There is not a thread of doubt that I love God, and that God loves me. God did not make me to despise me. He made me to know, love and serve Him, as He loves me.

What disturbed me is that so many people use the goodness of God to further promote their agenda of hate and prejudice.

Is it not possible that individuals who profess to be "saved" never had these issues to deal with in the first place? One does not become UN-gay, UN-transgendered, or UN-transsexual. One does not lose a desire to cross dress by accepting Christ into their lives. In most instance, they already have a deep religious belief. So, essentially, "A" has nothing to do with "B."

People like Farwell not only succeed in encouraging people to hate us, they also succeed in encouraging us to hate our various communities and ourselves. Suddenly, we feel guilt and shame; and there is no reason for it. If I am born with a predisposition to be a woman, then my biological sex is irrelevant. I will be a woman; and, hopefully, I will be proud 1) to be a woman and 2) proud of the kind of woman I become.

In four months, I'll be 53 years old. As an African American transgendered woman, I've endured and suffered over a half-century of hate, prejudice and bigotry. I'm too sick and tired of it to put into words. Enough is enough already. We preach tolerance, my only question is when will we learn to put it into practice?

On this note, I merely want to say that it doesn't matter to me if you are a cross dresser, gay, transgendered, transsexual, intersexed or androgynous, I love you. And, I believe God loves you too. The real sinners are those who use God's name to spread hate and prejudice.

With Love,

Roberta Angela Dee

Columnist for TG Forum & Founder of TG Woman
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tgwoman/

Colleen Jun 26, 2002, 11:30:35 PM

to

Religion is man made loving God is what is in ones self.

The basis of every religion is GOD no matter what for he or she takes it all points back to a greater being.

Colleen

"ObedientFemme" <obedie...@aol.com> wrote in message news:20020626101443...@mb-cf.aol.com...

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Pauline Jun 27, 2002, 1:10:54 AM

to

I keep trying to tell people that, they dont listen, keep saying there is no God. I tell them that to disbelieve they must first believe.

"Colleen" <col...@in-aus.net> wrote in message news:HtvS8.18$eA6....@vicpull1.telstra.net...

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