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Mon, Jan 23, 2023 2:05PM 42:21

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, gay, fundamentalist, transgender, homosexuality, homosexuals, sexual orientation, bible, called, queer, bisexual, transgendered, houston, talking, god, group, pride, years, cure, listening

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00:01

I'm up this hour. I've been in rehearsals since noon. And I'm gonna go back in rehearsals at noon tomorrow. And we're gonna work this out. My new director does this with a whip and a chair. I mean, She's tough. She's little. And she's mean, and she's done. Sarah Lawrence College. And Lisa Marie Singerman is a wonderful director. And there's just all these people, there's a there's even a lesbian on my staff doing show. I just love beans, they're so efficient. And Elizabeth is handling the lights and the stage management and all of that. And there's some wonderful straight people in my show that are doing the lighting design and, and the set design and there have been people from other theaters have pitched him. This is a wonderful, this is my first time on the stand. Wow. And if you want to read the preview, then you go to Houston dot that's H O USD o n dot city. Search CIT y su AR ch one word.com. That's the website. And when you get to Houston dot city search.com. Then you click on the arts. And when you get the the choices from Arts, it's like locations, groups and events, click on Groups. And that's the way you get to I'm number two on the group's list right after Edward Albee, who is a large fan of mine.



01:24

He is read all Yes, I was there that and.



01:28

And so read all that. And I'm getting rave reviews. I have this in my fourth show, Jamie? Yes. And I have not had a bad review yet. I mean, the Chronicle and the press What's not to like? I mean, I mean, I mean, it's it's wonderful stuff. And you know what it's about? It is about the listeners of this radio program. This show deals with gay and lesbian activist mad to change the ending because of young Mitchell contains fine work as a law. Yeah, the 2106 case. So that change if that changes everything so miserable, change my show. But what this is about is the activism from the earliest days until the first and Anita March, in 1977 years. Were you around in 7777?



02:19

I was I just moved to Texas and 77



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to 70, Texas and 77. But that was a proud night Phyllis was in that March. I mean, and let me tell you something about who Ray Hill is everybody else in this movement, certainly the leadership and the movement they've been around as long as I have had to deal with, with conflicts about bisexual inclusion and gender inclusion and lesbian inclusion. I have been mother inclusion.



02:51

Do you have I have learned from you,



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I have been the nun of inclusion. Let me tell you, we are so small. There is nobody that we don't need. Absolutely. Whereas very, very small percentage of the community and, and how would you like actually, we're not how you know, like for your train to get into freedom, you know, we're laying the caboose being transgendered people on. Let me tell you where our numbers really come from. Do you know who the largest group of supporters of gay and lesbian rights on their strip do it got to be? They're our friends, they've got to be the people that have learned from the experience of Eric coming out. And every time you do something out and open, and that's really the message of the first need to Brian March. Because people walked back from that demonstration with their arms about one another's shoulders and waist holding hands that would never have touched one another in public before. And whenever they saw camera lights, they walk straight to them. Rather than turn around. Look at the smiles on their face. Yes. Right. And that Harvey Milk did not say organize, organize, organize? No. Harvey Milk said Come out, come out, come out. And you are listening to after hours on radio station KPFT in Houston, the basis for more coming out experiences than anything short of Pride week itself. And I want to thank Sarah and I want to thank Jimmy and I want to thank the rest of the staff of his radio program for carrying on the work that I learned of the importance from Harvey Milk. Thank you. Thank you.



04:46

It's what we do.



04:48

Let's take a short musical break and come back and then go at it again.



04:53

SoundCloud - Click...

Soundas good to me. Okay.

04:54

New artists for after hours. Angela matar and That's from her album. Pleasure and pain. It's played it before but it's a really good song for tonight because it's called Is it a boy? Is it a girl? You're listening to it on after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. The subject of today's lecture is gender did

05:30

a great song, Angela matar mo T T. E. R. Alpha, her album, pleasure and pain and give her a email or check her out at www dot Angela mater.com. Very easy, really neat song. Yes, yes. A lot of other neat songs on here too. And while we're talking about music, I forgot to mention the titles of the music we played at the very opening, which is like an hour after the opening. Yes. The the first song was by my good friends and I love this group rainbow flavor. It's gay hip hop group. It was proud to be queer, from a hip hop perspective. And so I had to follow that by John Gilbert leave its pride. In

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case you couldn't tell folks, this is Pride Month. Yes, it is Pride Month.

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And while we're talking about music, because I've got folks lined up at the phones right now I am going to give away two pairs of tickets for next week's performance by the Gay Men's Chorus. Gay Men's Chorus is performing at the Kaplan theater at the Jewish Community Center on South Breezewood. And they're going to get the performance at eight o'clock Saturday night and 3pm. three in the afternoon on Sunday. I'm going to be in the Sunday one. So I'm going to be giving away tickets. Right now. The number is 713526573871352 6k P F T. I will take callers number one and number two, I'm serious about this, folks. We are going to give away tickets tonight. Yes, indeedy. Now, listen, isn't this is this the transgender show tonight?

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Well, you get a chance to have regular on the air. You take it?

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Oh, you bet.

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I don't have any problem with that. Especially during pride month. Yeah. And nobody's been more transgender inclusive in his lifetime than regular roster.

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And I certainly you know, want to make that point again, on sodomy law have some people may be out there saying, Well, what, what good is the sodomy Welcome to repealing the sodomy law going to do for transgenders? Well, a good portion of transgenders are in same sex relationships. They

07:56

are either many training transgenders could be in any any sexual orientation, gay or lesbian. They can be gay, bisexual, none of the above heterosexual. And in so, you know, historically, gays and lesbian, transgender has always had a huge stake in what happened in the gay community. And let's face it, this there are a hell of a lot of gay trans transgender people out there. And this ruling is important to them. It was interesting to me as I was listening to rea talk last time that we were in what Texas legislature we lobbied the the my political organization called the Texas gender advocacy Information Network to gain we lobbied on behalf of transgendered issues, obviously, for you also lobbied for the repeal of the sodomy law. And legislator after legislator told us that they thought their sodomy law was stupid, that it should be repealed. However, if it came to a vote on the floor, they would not vote for repeal, because it was what they called a cut throat issue. Meaning if they voted in favor of the repeal of the sodomy law, there, you'd have the throat cut by their political opponent in the next election Sherwood so when I hear that really, attorneys or assistants just assistant district attorney saying that this really belongs in the hands of the legislature. I have a completely different viewpoint of what the man just said. And you're right. I think you really need to read comments like that with a jaundiced eye.

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We have a lot, a lot, a lot of laws on the books, and many

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which are utterly beyond stupidity. Yes,

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yes. And how many are enforced? Only the biggies. Yeah. And so there's a lot of strange laws out there. And it all depends on the judges.

09:55

Well, we're running into an interesting situation in the transgender community right now. Austin I've been getting so I've had several complaints in the last month. Oh involving some minor run ins with Trent with the transgenders in HPD. Oh, and we're finding that the treatment that transgenders receive very much differs according to where you are, oh, yes. Not had a complaint at all about transgenders in Montrose. However, if you are a transgender on a Bear Creek, or if you are a transgender in Pasadena and and how long Pasadena border, the treatment that you are receiving from HPD is very different. Yeah, it's rude. It's unprofessional. And we have we are planning to, to take some of these issues to the HPD. For exactly it's, again, it's a case of, I think, mostly, it's probably a case of not of portraying. But obviously, we have a problem. We've had a couple of problems involving the ambulance corps here, in transgenders and stupid comments that were made. So it looks like we're going to have to do some retraining, again, again, city workers and city employees and city staff. And in you know, what the kinds of things they should not be saying. We had a I had a report from a you or someone who's being transported by the by the ambulance course. Why do you keep saying her when she has a penis? Well, first of all, I don't see where that's any of his business. But beyond that, it's a really stupid question. Yeah, it is, especially for somebody that's injured and just wants to go to the hospital. You



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know, like D, McKellar always said, if a person is in a dress, you call her ma'am.



11:46

Yeah. And I want to be careful that we don't end up with a tire Hunter incident. That's right, where the person ends up dying big due to a lack of medical care from an EMT. So that's, that's on the agenda of things to do in the coming months. So that's something



12:01

that that's kind of the de McKellar mantle actually, because she was doing sensitivity training for HPD was, well, I'm



12:08

doing the sensitivity training that you're doing. Yeah. Is that they haven't actually had an incoming class now, for quite some time. Oh, and from where this is happening, Jimmy, it sounds like these are not rookie police who have had the training anyway. These are people who have been on the force a while and just I guess they they either don't, don't think transgenders can do anything about it. Or then they will. And they're wrong and both count.



12:38

Hitting that when you got Sarah on your butt well, and I



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try not to be a big troublemaker about things because I understand HPD has a different job. But there's a limit to what all because I'll absorb.



12:49

You're listening to after hours KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station on Jimmy Carper, Sarah to pomos. Here, we're talking about transgendered issues and and just because they're trans than gender issues, that doesn't mean that they don't apply to you.



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Well, in fact, the next few minutes, we're going to start talking about the ex gay Joe. Yes. And it was very interesting. I when I got when I was at a get together today, I was telling some people that tonight we're going to be talking about the so called ex gay movement. You know, like there are ex gays. And I had several transgender people who said, Well, what is this got to do with being transgender. It's interesting how the shoe suddenly was on the other end, I find myself explaining to them why we will be doing a so called gay issue in transgender segment. And I had explained to well, just because you may be straight doesn't mean all transgenders are straight. And besides, this is an issue that applies to everybody. If you think the right wing can tell the difference between transgendered queers and regular queers, you are nuts.



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That's right. You're absolutely right. Yeah. So



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I think that got it. It just took them a while to absorb the issue. Because usually we come in and we talk about, you know, things that are unique to the transgender community. But tonight, this is a topic that applies across the board. And the reason I wanted to do it tonight is because this is Pride Month. Yes. In every pride parade for as long as I can remember, we've always seen these right wing people out there with religious signs would say, you know, God hates



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back. Oh, yeah. They get ruder each year.



14:32

Helps continue. Yeah, like, and I thought it might be interesting. We all we all have this knee jerk reaction to all of it. But I thought it would be interesting to talk about what it is these

people really believe, how they got to their belief, and what if anything that we in the queer community can do about it. Okay. So let's start with that. I got to start off by telling you that I don't come to this with an unprejudiced view. I was raised, I was raised Pentecostals, I like to tell people I was raised Pentecostal until I was 14. And then I got smart. So I'm not going to pretend to you that I that I am coming to this with an unbiased viewpoint. Having said that, I also should should also point out that not all Christian denominations, not all Christians are right wing bigots.

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Oh, that's, that's incredibly important, though, yes. To

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realize there are many, many denominations within the category that falls that comes under the label of Christian that do not agree with these right wing people. So let me start out with that, who are these people? Who are these people that we see at the parades? Who are these people who are funding the so called ex gay movement? And what are they? Yeah, what do they believe? Well, their first thing is, let me start right off the bat. Generally speaking, these people get the term fundamentalist, because their belief is that the Bible is in errant. Yes. Meaning that the Bible is totally without error, in without contradiction from cover to cover. Well, that's a hard one for me to swallow. Because I can think of about 20 or 30. Traditions pretty

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easily. Oh, yeah. You bet. What is their

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fundamental belief, and that's how they get the name fundamentalist. It is their fundamental belief that the Bible is totally without error. Now, what does that mean? It means nothing is open to interpretation. So if there is a verse in the Bible, that has been scientifically disproven, they still believe it's true. That's that's that's a real scary mindset right from the start, because it leaves no room for negotiation. And that's the first thing I would point out to any anybody that's out there listening today, if you think that you're going to ever negotiate your way through these issues with the fundamentalist groups,

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you're wrong. No, you're wrong. Yeah. Nobody's going to change anybody's mind you're never going to change but you know that it to me that is the the shopping cart syndrome, because they will pick up things about homosexuality, but then not even consider things like stoning their wife who may have had an affair or



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mixed club next fabrics. Yeah, you know, we're not gonna need certain kinds of seafood



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and yeah, and do they follow the instructions when they want to sacrifice a bowl to God? And you know, all this kind of stuff that I mean, it's, I don't get it. I don't get it seems hypocritical to



17:56

me. Well, but it's important when you understand where they're coming. Okay.



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Yeah, I want to interrupt it. Because, because I know that it just,



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it's important. We understand where they're coming from, because we have this knee jerk reaction to the many cases without ever knowing who they are. Yeah, you're right. Okay, because they believe that the Bible is without error. They also believe that all home anti homosexual verses in the English translation of the Bible should be interpreted, literally.



18:26

But you said the magic word translation?



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Well, that's exactly right. A religious there are the moderates to liberals in the Christian faith, don't believe that you can read the Bible, literally. For example, the Catholic faith teaches the story of Jonah and the whale, not as a fact. But as the story that was taught around the campfires, to make your particular point. You will never ever get a fundamentalist to say that say believe the story of Jonah in the whale happen exactly as it's in the in the Bible. And Jonah, Jonah really was swallowed by a whale. Yeah, there are lots of mainstream faiths that don't accept that. There are some Christian faiths, for example, do not accept book revelations at all. Most fundamentalist preach it is if it's the absolute will not as if they believe it is the absolute truth. And that's the way the way the world is going to end. So even within the term Christian, there's lots of disagreement. Oh, yeah. Fundamentalist. They think that everything the Bible says about homosexuals should be taken literally, there's not going to be any discussion about it may have been actually aimed at Temple slaves. That may not mean they're not going to listen to anything that we have to say that there was no such thing as a homosexual

orientation, because it was not even thought of as an actual fact, until the 19th century. None of that. They believe that it says X and Y and therefore they should believe it. Okay? Makes it makes it real hard. They believe that God is omnipotent course meaning all powerful. In God answers prayer that becomes important in a second Oh, from these fundamentals, they then they then come up with the following conclusions. God hates homosexual behavior. Now, fundamentalists will say to you, God did not the God doesn't hate homosexuals. He hates homosexual behavior. That's like saying, I don't hate rapists. I just hate the fact they rape. Yes. It's it's it's very strange logic. And I, you know, I'm not gonna say I understand it. But from that, they then say, well, homosexuality is unnatural. And it's a sin. And here comes the important part. Therefore, God will help a repentant homosexual convert to a heterosexual orientation, because to believe otherwise would put limits on God's abilities, and the powers of prayer.



21:07

Gotcha. Oh, yeah. Okay, now I get it. You see where that I get it?



21:12

Okay. So they start with, they start with one small little seed, and the next thing you know what, they've got a forest. Yeah, they've got a forest of beliefs, and it's all based on God can change you. They're not they don't see God is some distant. You know, it's not some distant thing. It's not the Great Spirit. You know, it's not Buddha's not any of that. They talk, if you're listening to the fundamentalist churches on Sundays, they talk about how God walks with them. And they mean, they literally folks, they're not joking. Wow, they truly believe that God walks within God speaks to them. And you'll hear them say that all the time God spoke to my heart. Well, that may actually be possible on occasion, I suppose. But to dictate an entire belief system on that is kind of scary thought. Yes, I think so. I think that kind of carries it far. So because they do believe that the next step is, therefore homosexuality is a matter of choice. Okay, the big leap. But now they've reached a conclusion, homosexuality is a matter of choice. And that's



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why you don't confuse me with logic. This is a matter of faith.



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That's why Jimmy though, do you hear them talk about sexual preference? Yes. And not sexual orientation. Yes. And that's an important distinction to make. Because we deal with that on a legislative level all the time. If you go to the Texas Legislature today, and you talk about sexual orientation, a fundamentalist group that will be funded with 100 times more money than we will ever have, that will be better organized, and better prepared than we will ever have the ability to do is going to walk in and say, it is not an orientation, it is a preference. And they can change anytime they want. All they need to do is believe in the healing power of the Lord. Okay.



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So if we can change anytime we want, doesn't that I mean, if you're going to use that logic, means that they can change to



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Yes, he that's the that's the stupidity of the argument. You know, who was born? Who got up to everyone out there now raise your hands if you get out of bed this morning. So that I think I'll be clear from now on. Yeah, exactly. If you woke up this morning and said, Gee, I'm tired of being queer. I want to be home, I want to be heterosexual. And I'm going to be able to change this way. You know, raise your hand because we want to see you. We don't see any hands. Because it's not like that. No, no, no one I know, get up this morning said, Gee, I think I'm going to be transgendered and start aiming into sex change. And it's just not the way things are. So the fallacy is, you know, the fallacy is that when you apply logic in education, and rationality to these arguments, they fall apart. But they will tell you that none of that matters, because they have this firm belief that they are right. And I say this all the time. It's true. There is no difference between that argument and the argument of Ayatollah Khomeini. Yes, there is no difference whatsoever. fundamentalism in, in the Muslim faith is not a whole lot different than fundamentalism in the Christian faith,



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except they're they actively want to kill us over in the Muslim faith. Well, in the



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Yang, well, yeah, over there. They actually do want to take the heads off. Yeah. They then they then decide. They believe they believe that the authors of the Bible that everyone is basically heterosexual, and that some people engage in homosexual acts and become addicted to them. So homosexuality is an addict. chin. Oh, okay, which means it can be treated, see where they're going, where they're going. They believe that poor parenting skills by their parents greatly increased the past probability that a person will experiment with homosexuality



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right now throw guilt on layer,



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blame the parent rather, oh yeah, let's weigh in the parents. And they view the sexual orientation in simplistic terms, frequently ignoring the idea that bisexuality exists. They believe that a person is either totally gay, totally straight, and there's nothing in



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between. Or they are naive. Interesting. Today,



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I was at a there's a the there's a clinic in Galveston. And for Dr. Cole has this get together every year of the train of calming home of the of his children, so to speak. Well, one of the speakers there today, his name was Dr. Embry, very well known one of the very first psychiatrists to start treating people with AIDS. Many, many years ago, Dr. Emery was telling us today about a new concept that's being discussed in the psychological circles right now. Call San sexuality. I'd never heard of this before. But he explained since turns out, it's something that we've talked about the show for years, we just didn't have a term for it. It's the idea that sexuality and gender change over time and exist in a continuum. We started talking about that years ago. Guess what, now the psychologist. He said, Where were you five years ago?



26:46

I know it is incredible.



26:49

Well, okay, that's good. I'm glad the psychological community has finally come around to cert to realizing what we said years ago, but you'll never get a fundamentalist to accept this idea. And they will tell you, the psychologists are heathens because they deny the healing power of the Lord. Oh, yes. Okay. So here we are.



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And that's, that's where we get into a term that I've been hearing lately that I don't quite understand, would be a Christian. So psychiatrist, what, to me,



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that's an oxymoron. It's like being a black Ku Klux Klan member. Yeah, you know, or a Jewish Nazi. But they, I had a friend and



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we mean this for the fundamentalist folks out there. Because we, there's many queers most squares out there. Their religion is very, very important to them, and many are Christian.



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And there are lots of Christian faiths, which as we stated at the beginning, they don't believe any of this. That's true, you know,



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you know, you look into in the back of the twit, where they have a listing of all of the organizations and bars and religious organizations in Houston, there are more religious organizations than there are bars. Well, so that was just a sideline. Let's get back to.



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I was gonna say, So who are these groups? Yeah. What made me get started all this actually is I saw, I think, in 2020. And they had a group in there called love loving, loving inaction, love and action was the name of the group. And they were claiming successes with curing homosexuals. So I got curious to find out who are these groups? Well, we're the largest group, or at least probably the most well known as group called Exit. Oh, yeah. Now, I gotta take kind of a cute story about this. When I was in queer nation many years ago,



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I would not know the story of itself. It was fabulous. They this



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Exodus International chapter here, and they were running an ad in the twit. And they were doing homosexual healings. Well, that was just too much to take in Brian Bradley in myself and a three or four other people. We decided we were gonna go get healed. And so we went to this meeting. And they anointed our heads with oil and they do with a cold laying on a hand. They put your their hands upon you, so they can channel the power Lord through to you okay, and they did their damnedest to cure us. And when we got through, we did a wonderful kissing right there in front of them, because not a single one of us was cured of a damn thing. We had a good time. Well as coordination. That's what we did. Yes. The sad part is these people think then the Lord and the failure was clearly not in the Lord. The failure was in us sure could not reach us, or we willfully chose to ignore it. So you see how they have you coming and going. There's no way in and you wonder how you conduct a dialogue with these people. The answer is you don't. I mean, that's the bottom line. Don't. You have to out organize them. You have to know understand exactly what they're doing. We need to say, and you have to know that they're going to be able to outspend you at every turn. Sure. So in essence, you boil all that down in, in the queer community in the queer political circles, you know that we have to be sharper, smarter, brighter and tougher than they are. Because we're never going to be richer, or more well organized, and they will make



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my gut instinct tells me about about these ex gay folks is that primarily, most of these people

are bisexual, and they're they haven't changed their orientation. They've just repressed part of it. Actually, there



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was see if I can find it. There was an investigation done by a man named chin, I'll find it a little bit, okay. But he actually went undercover in the ex gay movement for the period of a year. And he can't he found exactly that Jimmy, then, in fact, what we were talking about were bisexuals there who had decided that they were simply going to focus on one particular group. And that, in fact, the actual success rate of these groups, I just think this is wonderful, was 0.04%. And you only got that 00 4%. If you made the assumption that these were bisexuals who chose to focus on the heterosexual side, that in fact, the success rate for real actual gays and lesbians was 0.0 versus exactly there is. And it's not next, not success. It's repression. And that's very dangerous. Now, just looking at this can't fill pot, the leader of the ministry, love and action, wrote a book called The third sex. It describes individuals, he said, we're able to change the sexual orientation. The people mentioned in his book later denied that they had been able to change sued the publisher in one, whoa. So, you know, this, I love this act, this this whole idea of being ex gays. Now, one of the problems that we've got here is that the words homosexual and homosexuality don't exist in Hebrew. They don't exist in Aramaic. And they don't exist in the Greek languages. It turns out that the word wait from the 19th century, that's right. That's it. I mean, the authors of the Bible did not understand sexual orientation, and never wrote about it. There isn't one word in the Bible about sexual orientation. They never knew it existed. Right? So for these fundamentalists to say, hey, you know, God didn't. God says this guy didn't say any such thing. God didn't. There was no no concept for it. So but the problem is that these that the fundamentalists say, well, he may not have known about sexual orientation, and he need not have known because it's not an orientation. It's a choice.



33:03

Brother. Okay, the old choice.



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You've got you coming to get in there got you going. The thing about the thing about all of this is that if you ask most Christians, that say most least the ones that are using the King James Version, if you ask them, Where did your Bible come from? They'll look at you kind of cross eyed and they'll say, what? And I have used this argument in a&m for years, and I've used it many times since. And it's true. Ask them. How did the King James Bible come about? It wasn't the first version of the Bible. No, no, most accurate version. The reason it isn't boys and girls, is because when King James told them to create a Bible, he told them to make one that was not Catholic, exact words, not Catholics, and would be pretty to read. But notice, he did not say that he wanted it to be the most accurate. Oh, he wanted it to be anti Catholic, and easy to read. When you compare the King James Bible to earlier versions, entire chapters are missing. Stories had been there, the entire meanings had been changed. Wow. But to fundamentalist they will say Oh, no, the Bible is absolutely in errant. Well, that's not possible. No, it's not possible.



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Even if the original was it's been changed over the



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years. It's been Oh, sure. Yes. Now I have to say I think Metropolitan Community Church has the absolute best solution to them. When when the young man out in Wyoming was killed. Shepherd Yes, Matthew, Matthew Shepard, the The Phelps brigade, say, decided to show up rather than have a confrontation with them. MCC brought them food, brought them water I brought them and brought them in, just basically kill them with kindness really. And even though the Phelps congregation was out there screaming horrible invectives at them, then the response for the people from MCC was to sing Onward Christian Soldiers to them, and walk away. They just kill them with kindness. And I thought that was the most brilliant strategy, whether it was done from Christian point of view, or just your politics was brilliant. Absolutely brilliant. And as we come up to the prayed this year, I would suggest maybe we ought to try something different. Instead of sitting near like we do every year and wagging our fingers at them, and shout Shame, shame, shame. Me, we ought to be saying God loves you, no matter how sinful you are, you bastard. So the last part will be thinking. I'm sorry, I just couldn't help. But maybe that's the answer is to kill them with that kind of kindness. The end. Another interesting thing, I think, is that the actually the people who actually began Exodus ended up being gay lovers and left. That's right.



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That's right. In fact, that was a brilliant, brilliant story. Two men who one was like the president, and then the other was like, I don't know what on the board or something. At a conference, met each other fell in love. And left Exodus. I just loved it. I loved it.



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Which, you know, it shows you the whole like, the whole concept of ex gays. Yeah. Here's some of the differences in terminology. I mean,



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just think of it can you be an ex straight? Think about that OUT out there folks. Who are straight, can you you know, is



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it Dr. Cole's on get together today, there was a transgendered person there. She's from she's from Houston, so I'm not gonna give her name. But she said that she just knew she had to stop being transsexual. So what did she do? She enlisted in the Air Force, and she became a fighter

pilot. She served 14 years, including two tours of duty in Vietnam. And that didn't cure her. And I'm not joking that no, no there today, and I just saw, she joined the Houston police force. Wow. And she was on the Houston Police Force for 11 years. And that didn't cure her. And finally, she became a born again, Christian. And she tried to heal it through prayer. And she was there today because her surgery date is scheduled for next month. The point being to this is that you can you can no more change what you are, then you could change the color of your skin. It's just not possible. Part of the problem is the way that it's viewed. conservative Christians see homosexuality, and they see it as a behavior. Psychologists see homosexuality is an orientation. That's a huge gap, a huge gap. Conservatives see homosexuality is what one does. Gays See, homosexuality is what one is. Another another huge difference. I grew up conservative Christians believe that, that homosexuals can be cured and can become ex gays. Gays believe that the people who are supposedly been cured are either sexually celibate homosexuals, or, or bisexuals who have chosen to focus on their heterosexual side. That's



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right. That's what I believe.



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conservatives believe that a person can truly change their homosexuality. Gays believe I either was in remain bisexual, or I've had a same sex relationship in the past and plan to have one in the future. And you see the problem. The problem with all that is that they're not even speaking the same language. I remember when Jimmy Carter was was president. He was I remember him explaining once about the difficulty he had negotiating with the Iranians. And he was explaining that the Americans would say peace and the Iranians interpreted peace as weakness. We would say negotiate the Iranians interpreted as they have, they are not serious. We were using same words, but with thoroughly different meaning. Sure. And that's the problem that we have with these groups. Now the problem that I have with them working in this from a political point of view for a second is that they have unlimited money on limited Let me repeat that. They can raise a million dollars a day and they have when you go to the tent when you go to the Texas Legislature, you kit legislature, you know who the right wing groups are? Because they're the groups with all the computerized data the They know where every hearing is being held, they know who's going to be presented, and they know what's going to be said. And they know it all well in advance. They have fun, they have staffs that work overnight. So while everybody else is in bed, their staffs are organizing their lobbyists next day business to bed. They have unlimited amounts of money, is we go into Pride Week, you need to think stop and think about this for a second. If we had unlimited amounts of money, how different would our movement be? Cool. You know, I'm not talking about just a few rich donors. But if everybody out there said, Look, um, you know, for the gay Taskforce, or for the Political Caucus, or for pick your organization here, if you if everybody in the community decided to donate 25 bucks a year, and gave them unlimited on virtually unlimited funds, how much different would our movement Bay and as we come into pride, I've had people say, Well, you know, it's hard to feel pride when you've got these right wing groups. I think they kind of backwards, you should have pride that you're not a member of putting these right wingers. They're gonna they're gonna backwards, what you should be proud of is that you have not succumb to the guilt and the shame they tried to lay on you that you have not succumb to the nonsense that they have told you about what it is that God believes. Like God sits on the right

hand and their right shoulder. Yes, it I mean, the whole concept is silly. Abraham Lincoln told the story once. He said that the right wing in his day the religious groups would come to him and say to him, I God came to me to dream. And God says that you should do this for the country. To which Abraham Lincoln replied, you would think if God had something of such importance, he would have communicated directly to me.



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Apps Yeah. So



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years later, it hasn't changed. These groups are still the same things the same way. That in their put, there are some groups that are much worse than others. One of the worst that I know of is group called Coral Ridge ministries. Oh, out of Florida. Yes. This this group, their entire ministry is based on being anti gay.