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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, church, houston, gay, transgendered, lesbian, churches, religion, called, community, mcneil, mcc, metropolitan community church, position, folks, wendy, covered, dignity, congregation, tonight



00:08

The following program contains language or images of a frank or a sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Hear it after hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of a job or frame of mind. That's okay. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after our.



02:03

Hello, Houston. Well, howdy Houston. Aren't you glad the Roadeo is alert?



02:09

You are listening to KPFT Houston. This is Jimmy and with me tonight.



02:15

And as Sarah dipalma. Welcome to the fastest three hour show in Houston. That's what I hear. We've got a co a full show tonight. You



02:25

always seem to have a full show Sara,



02:28

you know, three hours. It's a good thing. This isn't a two and a half hour show and we couldn't

get it all in. We really do we have a full show tonight. First of all, we are going to have a we have a very distinguished panel sitting in the lobby. And tonight we're going to be talking about a subject that it seems like a lot of programs have run away from we're going to talk about religion, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community.



02:53

Well, you know, a lot of people poopoo religion because they've been hurt by it. But I have noticed I've been noticing lately that a lot of people derive a lot of a lot of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people derive a lot of strength from their religious convictions.



03:12

Well, it's a funny thing. I think if you asked most gay or lesbian people, if you went to them and said the word just the word, religion. The response that you get back from them is Jerry Falwell. Yeah, or, or the Pope or if you're in that's not necessarily what religion is about? Yeah, it doesn't have to be destructive. You know? And that's kind of where I'd like to go with it on the show tonight. We're not if if you're tuning in, and you heard the word religion, you just instantly tuned out there with us, it isn't gonna be



03:44

that we're here. Yes. It's not gonna be



03:47

like that. We do. We have very distinguished panel, and we'll get them on in a little bit. I also have a tape with John J. McNeil. Okay, and I guess I need to tell a little bit about who he is. First of all, he's the best selling author of three books. Oh, you may have may have seen his book called The Church in the homosexual. Oh, yeah. This is the man. Now here's a man that's now 70 years old. And when you hear this tape, you're not going to believe this man. 70 This man has the energy. He has more energy than I do.



04:14

Wow. That's a lot of energy. Folks. I'm worse woman gets around.



04:19

I'm a redhead. More than that, though, here's a man who's a Jesuit Father for 40 years. And came to the conclusion that the the theology being taught by the Catholic Church when it came to homosexuals was wrong. He was ordered to silence and he kept his silence for nine years, and decided one day, he just couldn't do it anymore. He called him and said, I've got a book

written. I'm going to publish it whether you like it or not. They said you're out of the church. He said goodbye. And he is continuing his ministry to gays, lesbians and trans and transgender people. In when you hear this interview, you're going to be amazed. This is a man with real



04:57

courage. That's amazing. You know, it wasn't been a lot easier just to sit back and say, you know, in my old age, I'd like to retire and have an easy life and you know, security and that type of thing.



05:08

He tells a story in the book, and I think you'll hear him say this on the tape too, but I'm gonna repeat it because it said something to me. When he left the church, it meant that he no longer had a place where he knew for sure he was going to be buried. Yeah, that's not how much are you giving up when you even give up your own burial plot? You know. And yet, he said, I'm going to do this anyway. And he says in the book that he finally did find a place where he's going to be allowed to be buried, and he's going to have his ashes scattered to the wind. And the gravestone will read here lies a gay priest who took a chance on God. Now, you know, that's pretty. That's pretty. That's pretty cool. Then we have really got an exclusive. Now for you folks, if you've been reading the Houston voice or in the gay lesbian media, you've may have heard about Mel White.



05:56

Oh, yeah. There was an interview with him on this way out a couple of months ago.



06:01

Well, no, white is his position is Minister of Justice with the Metropolitan Community Church, which is kind of an outreach position. But it's an interesting story. Here's a man who goes down to Virginia Beach, Virginia, home of the Christian Broadcast Network, you know, pat robertson's group, oh, goes down there for a perfectly innocent reason, he goes down for pride convention. Now, I should explain here that at one time, Mel White was a ghost writer for Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Oliver North. And came to conclusion these people were wrong. Okay, so anyway, he's in Virginia Beach. He's there for perfectly in his perfectly innocent reason. And he decides that he's going to stop over and say hello to pat. Hey, Pat. They decided they didn't want to talk to this. He ended up he sat down the lobby of the Christian Broadcasting Network. And after sitting there for hours, they picked him up and throughout the next day, he went back, and they had him arrested. And it started it started a he started a fast, which lasted for 22 days. On water and tank and Tang. Yeah, right. And as far as I know, we're the only folks in the city Houston that have gotten an interview with millwright. You have done it again. I got lucky, I was on the internet, and I got lucky. I'll be the first to admit it. But it gets lucky every month. I sure try. If I can only hit the lottery that I'd really be lucky. would fix up the station for sure. Yeah. But I'm really looking forward to that. So for the folks who were who say, Well, I can't stay up till three o'clock. Stick around. This is an interesting show tonight. You bet



07:39

you bet. And if if you can't stay up, hook your VCR up to your stereo and tape it. Yeah, other folks do that. Anyway. That's right.



07:49

And I want to say hello to the taxi drivers out there. No, hey, we were told by a friend of ours who um, that they she came out of a bar and sort of freaked her out when she got in the taxi cab and heard my voice and suddenly realized that I was on the radio with his taxi cab, and we discovered that there are folks out there who drive taxis who are listening to our show. So if you're one of those folks, welcome.



08:11

Did you happen to say which taxi company it was?



08:14

No, I don't know. I suspect there might be more than one or two of them.



08:17

Well, you know, United cab. At the game lesbian switchboard, we recommend United cab and they have been in had an entry in the Pride Parade. A several years in a row. Yeah. So hey, well, before



08:32

we go to our panel, let's talk about a couple of things. It's good. We'll catch up on some news here before we get a panel. Okay. I was lucky enough to go to San Antonio and speak with some folks at the tea party. The Tea Party is the largest convention to transgender people in the United States. And absolutely had a marvelous time. Got to do interviews with Martine Rothblatt and Gordon McKenzie, hey, I'm selling authors, and we'll have them on the show. NATO one of the things that came out of this that is that we have decided that we are definitely going to lead a protest in Austin at the Lesbian Gay rights lobby March. Okay, now, let me back up. The Lesbian Gay rights lobby is going to have a march in in Austin on April 2. Yes. And it's in support of their hate crimes bill, which Oh, which I think is a hate crimes legislation is a great idea.



09:23

That's the controversy where they're not including everybody. Well, their lawyers have now

That's the controversy, where they're not including everybody. Well, their lawyers have now admitted that we're not included. What's to admit?



09:32

Well, you know, I there's the word transgendered there. No, it's not. But I want to point this out. This puts me in a real awkward position. There are people who are going to be participating in that March. I really love. I respect these people. I admire them. And very honestly, if I had my choice, we wouldn't be doing this protest. But we're not in it. We're not in we're not in language. And that means you're covered me wearing cover as it turns out, neither a drag queens in the end and it turns out that Butch dykes aren't going to be covered either. I don't get it. Well, the language of law is so vague. What will happen is any criminal attorney will say, my client didn't intend to bash a queer. He didn't know their query baster for cross dressing.



10:20

Oh, brother. That's not covered



10:23

yet. Or if you have an androgynous appearance, you're not going to be covered now. Yeah. So it's just flat out important for Portland.



10:30

If you think that it's going to just be a blanket thing to cover everybody, as I've heard being put forth, then you are so wrong. Absolutely. So wrong.



10:42

I just wanted to make it clear if there's anyone out there who would like to participate in our, our protest in Austin, please give us a call here at the station or at the end of the show. I'll give you our Pio box. On fact, I'll give you our Pio box now while you're still awake, okay. Our Pio box is called It's time, Texas. And it's P O Box 74 Dash 1193. That's in Houston 77074. But I want to make something real clear. If you're going to participate in this March and you think this is an excuse to show your homophobia don't come? That's right. The people who were who are in that will be in the march. They're friends of mine. They're people I respect and we're not going to embarrass them. Neither are we going to go out there and try and seek a lot of publicity to take away from the LG URL. We are simply going to go out there and say to them, we're not included. Please don't forget, it's the next time. That's it.



11:37

And that that's very dangerous, because you definitely will if you are not mentioned, you won't be covered. We're at right now we're going through big problems with the police department.

Because whenever there is a hate crime on gays and lesbians if, if in but you know, while you were being bashed, the perpetrators went ahead and stole your wallet, then it's not a hate crime. It's considered a robbery. Well, the in the new no matter that, you know, you're lying there bleeding and they're calling you faggot and all that kind of good stuff. In the show law as rod with doing that got to be specific here in what it covers and who it covers. And I mean, you know, we got to have everybody covered.



12:30

The new law, as it's written would solve some of what you just talked about. But the new law still has huge loopholes in it. And as a Phyllis fries is a criminal attorney. And she was the first one to point out to me that it left an awful lot of people uncovered. And her first comment was, every butch dyke that we know is going to be left out of this bill will be left out of protection. Since then I've run this bill passed to attorneys at the American Civil Liberties Union. And they verified what she said. So I don't I guess what I'm trying to say here is I don't want anybody to misunderstand the point of our March. And the reason for our protest. We are not against the gay or lesbian community. We're not taking on the gay or lesbian community. No, in fact, in the future, we'd like to work with them. Now, the whole point no,



13:13

we can agree to disagree. That's right. That's right. And we can still love each other even though we don't agree in certain areas. There are a lot of



13:22

people who are my who are my friends, the day before the marching. They're going to be my friends the day after. There you go. So there we go. Ready? Goes to music. Yes, I've



13:30

got a couple of pieces of music one is is a request from a longtime listener named Omar. He's out there listening right now. And he loves Lena Horn. Oh, me too. So I picked out a piece that that I kind of like and along with the panel, I wanted to do a piece from switched on back 2000 by our favorite Wendy Carlos. That's



14:01

right. The transaction Wendy Carla,



14:02

there you go. And she's doing chasing joy of man's desiring and I thought, you know, gee, these pieces don't go together. But hey, we're talking about what religion means to you. And we've

got two songs One is in my life, and the other is Jay Z, joy of man's desiring, so maybe they do kind of fit. I can see that. Yeah. Okay. So, for Omar and for everybody, Lena and Wendy.



14:34

It has become something of a tradition on our show to boldly go where no one has been willing to go before. So tonight, we are boldly going to look at the subject of religion and the gay lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or as I call it on the show, the queer community. We will discuss the topic with guests from various denominations and organizations who are now in our studio. And we will have taped interviews speech During John J McNeil, and Mel White. Now immediately some people are going to say, oh, religion, I would ask those people not to tune us off, give us a chance, we won't lecture you and even better, we're not going to ask you for money. And the tone of this discussion may really surprise you. It's also true the subject of religion is an issue for a significant portion of our audience. I know of one family who after finding out their son was transsexual, had their church held the funeral and declare their son dead in their particular religion. There are many such stories of the walking wounded in our community. But I for 1am, not willing to let the homophobes of the religious world define us, or deny us what is rightfully ours. If you are one of those walking wounded, stick around this show is for you. For many of us, the word religion conjures up right wing propaganda, say religion to the average person in our community, and chances are they'll answer with Jerry Falwell. It is true that many religions define us, as used as Cardinal Ratzinger of the Catholic Church did when he called homosexuality a more or less strong tendency toward an intrinsic moral evil. But progress is being made. Bishop Spong of the Episcopal Church declared that sexual orientation is morally neutral, and that both heterosexuals and homosexuals can live their lives with beauty, honor, holiness, and integrity that the Metropolitan Community Church and the Unitarian Church have long performed holy unions for gay and lesbian people, and many other denominations are rethinking their views about all of us, who consider ourselves queer, as indifferent. Yes, from the heterosexual majority. There are people in our panel tonight who are not gay, but they simply believe passing judgment on others is wrong. Years ago, I was given a button which said no one can make you feel inferior without your consent. Well, no one can make you feel bad about you, and your relationship with whatever you consider your higher power unless you give your consent. Tonight, I hope to provide a basis on which you can give your informed consent or not. And with that, I'd like to go around the table and if everyone would please introduce themselves and tell us who what group you're with.



17:35

Good evening, my name is Joe Segal from this past Friday I was in. My



17:39

name is Leslie Brooks from his pocket LLC.



17:42

My name is George Wetzal from dignity Houston.



17:46

My name is Dawn Sinclair from the United Methodist Church.



17:51

My name is Scott L. Rachel. I'm from Maranatha fellowship, NCC.



17:55

My name is Wendy Allen. I'm a former Baptist minister representing the transgender community.



18:01

Okay, now you have heard our panel and you've heard, as you may or may not have figured out we have various denominations here we have members of the Jewish community. We have members of the Catholic community members of Protestant communities. And I'd like to start off by asking you about something that Archbishop Spong said in the first place, he said in his one of his statements, he argued that homosexuality is morally neutral. Now, that's the view of his church in the Episcopal. What I would like to know is from each of you, where does homosexuality stand with your faith or with your religion? Somebody wants don't all speak at once now.



18:47

Don Sinclair, The United Methodist Church decided in 1972, during a heated debate, had its General Conference, which is the lawmaking and policymaking body. The leadership of the church wanted a statement put in that would be conciliatory. But the heat of the debate and the kind of information people were using, as the truth caused a negative statement to be put into the United Methodist statement about homosexuality and the word they use that carries that negative tone is that it's incompatible with the Christian faith.



19:49

This last light my understanding from the Jewish faith is that it's divided into different sects and the Reform Movement does recognize that I'm getting relationships. But from my experience with the community here in Houston, that is not necessarily true. As you get more conservative, there's little to no acceptance.



20:15

This is George Whetstone with dignity Houston. But unfortunately, the official position of the

This is George Whitham with dignity Houston. But unfortunately, the official position of the Roman Catholic Church is still the one that Sarah mentioned earlier that of Cardinal Ratzinger that gay and lesbian Catholics are, in turn, well, not just Catholics, but anybody who's lesbian or gay or transgendered is, quote, intrinsically disordered, unquote. They are unable to prove that and any kind of rational defense based on philosophy or in a study of human beings are human behavior, but they stick with that official position. That's one of the reasons why we have a dignity chapter because dignity acknowledges that there, there are gay Roman Catholics, and that they have a right to a spiritual life and a spiritual dimension, which by and large is denied by the official position of the church.



21:18

And this is Scott Alright, from Marietta fellowship, we are a member of the Metropolitan the universal fellowship of Metropolitan Community churches. Our mission since 1972, I believe, has been primarily an outreach to the gay lesbian, bisexual, transgendered community, clinging to those, those scriptures and those direct references from Jesus, I'd say come to you all, who are weary and heavy laden, and I'll give you rest. So we see no problem. And in fact, I agree with the statement, probably at least, I personally agree with the statement that it is a morally neutral condition, that our morality is based on something more than then than our creation.



22:04

And my name is Wendy Allen, I'm not here representing any particular denomination this evening. But as a Christian, it took me many years to come to grips with my beliefs, and who I am as a transgendered individual, that I can still be loved by God and accepted by God. And I don't have to buy into the concepts laid down by the teachings of the straight world, the Baptist. And as I was raised now, in visiting several churches the past few weeks, for our community, to determine which churches would be accepting to gays, lesbians, and transgendered people, I found that the majority told me that, although we would be most welcome in their churches to to come and worship with them, they still consider what we're doing to be sinful, and that they would encourage us to get on the right track. And I don't I don't feel that, that that's the way God really intended that. Anyone, anyone can be a Christian, regardless of sexual orientation, or gender orientation. And we don't have to buy into that.



23:30

Now, I'm very concerned about our listening audiences. I think I mentioned earlier, a good portion of our audience is very young, we find out we have, we have found that many of our audience are teenagers. And many of these people are probably going to churches, and some of them may be gay or lesbian. And they're being told things in their churches, which are going to make them feel awful about themselves. And I think many of them don't realize that there are organizations for them. So we've had people from hatch on the show for gate for gay teenagers. But I'd like to talk about some of the individual groups now, for example, and the Jewish I think there are a lot of people who probably don't realize there are different forms each day, isn't it? If you would talk about that. I understand. I know that there are different groups in the Jewish community, and they have very differing views on your subject. Go ahead. Go ahead. And tell us about where that stands.



24:24

Well, there are three main sects within the Jewish group are three main divisions, the most lacks been the reform, being, like I said, the most most liberal and then it moves up into the conservative movement, and then the Orthodox being extremely strict.



24:43

So if you're a gay teenager, and you're Jewish, what kind of message would you be hearing in Reformed Church?



24:50

The reformed synagogues? They they are a little more accepting of the homosexual community. But as Leslie said, in Houston, it's not as as accepting it is As in other areas of the country, as you move up like the conservative and the Orthodox are not going to, they're not going to have anything positive to say about homosexual at all.



25:09

Well, now what what does accepting mean? Does that mean that they're seen as, for example, would they do? Would they be willing to perform like holy unions or gay marriages? Or is that out of the question?



25:19

There are some, there are some rabbis in Houston that will. And the mostly the reformed Conservative and Orthodox rabbis would not do that.



25:29

I don't think there's a blanket statement saying they will or they won't I think it's more or less up to the individual congregation.



25:36

So it's a matter of finding the right congregation basically, at this point. Yeah. Okay. That's interesting. Now, dignity, I know a lot more about from having, having done this interview with John McNeil that we're going to do in a little bit. I did I, I did have an opportunity to talk with with Mr. McNeil and he mentioned several points to me. And one of one of which was that Ratzinger his opinion, to say the least is not universally liked, or even universally agreed with? You, like talk about that a little bit?



26:05

I don't have any problem. That's I don't believe any Bishop, even in the entire Roman Catholic Church has stood up to defend and there may be one exception, that gays, lesbians and bisexual people are intrinsically disordered. I mean, it's a position that defies psychology, compassion, etc. But it is still the official position.



26:38

Okay, well now talk about dignity. First of all, I like the name dignity. And Mr. McNeil explain a little bit about where the name came from. But talk about about dignity, you're in kind of an odd position. Are you allowed to hold masses in churches, for example?



26:53

No, we are. There are some exceptions to that rule. But by and large, no dignity chapters, in major cities, at least, hold masses on church property that came shortly after the Ratzinger letter that branded us as intrinsically disordered. The bishops were told, get them off to church property. And in the course of about a year, they were removed from church property in virtually every diocese, from coast to coast. There are some exceptions. We even have one here in Texas that I won't mention.



27:30

No bearing bearing church does an incredible job with AIDS services. And I think I think bearing is probably one of the most active churches with AIDS services that I'm aware of. How did church get involved with that?



27:45

Well, bearing has a strange history for a mainline institutional church. It has always been inclusive. And it decided in official meetings over 20 years ago, when the hippies had their anger the world angry about long hair. And they had a meeting at the church that came out, they decided that they would not discriminate against either the hippie or the gay people of this community, which was rather unusual for a church to officially do this to publicly state this. So even though our church which is located in Montrose area, wasn't having difficult time, because of the flight to the suburbs and the economic crunch and 86 was when I came there, as the pastor and I asked them, why we were here. And the answer was aids. They wanted to do something about AIDS. And so I said, Well, let's, let's put a plan together. There's not much being done. Everyone was irritated. Social Security, one working medical doctor, we're having a time with diagnosis, which hadn't been defined for them. And many things, people were just really hurting. And we decided we'd put together this monstrous plan that included unbelievable things. And and we carried it to our leadership for the United Methodist Church and they they thought is the greatest thing they'd seen. And they said if you can do this, it

would be a tremendous gift by the city. And they have this gets a little money in the future which is helped us get started, but mostly it was the city of Houston. I got behind it. And Allah theater gave us the opening night proceeds. And we ordered dental supplies. And now we have, we see 1000 DENTAL PATIENT aides dental patients every month. The seven chairs in that dental clinic, it just keeps growing. And we keep having to take up more room. So it's been that kind of success that we are, we are really amazed at ourselves. But it was so needed that it was the city of Houston that really helped get it going.



30:44

Well, I've had many friends who who have gone and use the facilities of bearing and every comment I've ever heard has always been positive. And there are there are very few churches that I'm aware of that are more community involved than burying. So you're right, it isn't unusual history. Now the Metropolitan Community churches, another church has very interesting history, both both nationally, and in here in the city. Originally started out at the Pentecostal church, if I'm not mistaken,



31:15

Reverend Troy Perry was a Pentecostal minister in his in his beginnings, yes.



31:20

Now I've been to the Metropolitan Community Church, when I first moved to Houston, it was the only church I knew of, or I could go and not have trouble being an openly gay person. And I was amazed at the number of children that came to this church, the mother of the number of mothers who were there. I was amazed that there were so many straight families who came. So to talk about MCC because I think a lot of people want to hear this they think all will Metropolitan Community churches for gays and lesbians only, as my experience that's not true.



31:52

That's true. MCs. We're very careful to phrase it that our primary outreaches to the gay and lesbian transgendered bisexual community. But, but by no means is that the only ministry that MCC has, and you're right, it has reached out very actively to both the strike community who either have friends or family who are gay or and also to the gay community that has children that need a place for those children. To be raised in the faith to be taught about the faith to be given activities with other children from from like families. MCC in Houston is had a has a had a colorful background through MC CR, which was the first MCC church MCC the resurrection. There's been a dawn of faith, new freedom there's been several MCC congregations that started up spawned out of MTCR. And most recently Maranatha fellowship. Two years ago with under the leadership of Reverend Janet Parker started up and each time there's been a there's been a new, a new niche or a new ministry that that's been identified. Maranatha fellowship takes us this specific approach of a subgroup church where we have very active home meetings and the life of the church is conducted in a people's homes, and where it's an opportunity for people not only to go to a large service and, and know two or 300 of your

closest friends, but to get to know 10 or 15 people very intimately and have a support group of 10 people who you can count on to work you through problems and both your sexuality and your spirituality.



33:39

Well, I actually helped to start an MCC congregation in College Station. So I'm familiar with the idea of starting in the homes. And I can remember starting out our first meetings, we had four people, I think, and I understand now that they're drawn 200 per service up there. So they're doing pretty well.



33:57

Man of the fellowship is not drawing 200 We're drawing about half that about 75 to 100. MC CR, in fact, has a Sunday attendance of about 200 300 Probably a membership of closer to 400.



34:11

If you if you're looking for someplace to go on the Sunday of Pride Week, go to M go to the MC car service on Sunday morning. If you can leave that service not feel good about yourself. You went to the wrong church. So like I said, Now Wendy and I have had an interesting experience. First of all, we went out to Second Baptist church right. And we had a good old time out there with with Ed Young. We didn't our good buddy. Now since then you've been going to different churches, and talking to some of the folks what kind of reactions you're getting.



34:42

Basically, everyone's been really accepting. They'll sit down they'll talk with us. But when it comes down to the doctrine of the Church, that should they basically tell us that their their position is they will welcome gays, lesbians and transgender people bisexual people, but they will work with them and deal with them, helping them overcome their sin. And that's by and large, we found, I did visit a Catholic church in the northwest part of town. And I was quite surprised when I went to the priest, and I told him that I was transgendered. And I asked him if it was alright if I attended his services, and, and partook of the sacraments, that type of thing. I was raised Catholic. And he said, it doesn't matter to me, what you look like when you come to church, just come to church, he said, your sexuality is between you and God, your spirituality, is what we're going to deal with here. So I thought that was quite enlightening. And I did attend his church a couple of different times. So I think in the in the past couple of months, we have hit a good variety of churches, from Baptists Catholic. I don't believe I we attended a Methodist Church, we've been to a Pentecostal church and a non denominational church,



36:09

how has it been a constant? I grew up Pentecostal. So you caught my attention? How was How was that received?



36:16

Not not any more than what I expected. They still, they still pretty much teach the you've got to you've got to line up with what the Word of God says. And the Word of God says that if if you are anything other than straight, heterosexual, then you've got a problem, and we're going to deal with it. And you can't be the full Christian, spiritual Christian. If you're not,



36:48

okay, well, that brings us right into the point that I want it to go. I have been increasingly concerned, in talking to people off the air or this I'm in a funny position to do a radio show like this. People will not call the show while we're on the air for some reason. But they will call me two or three days later, while run into people. And then they'll tell me what they thought of the show. And one thing that I have been hearing from people over and over again, is they felt like this was the only show in the air where they were getting positive messages. And one of the things that I wanted to ask everybody here is if you had a gay teenager in the church right now, if you could counsel, a person coming to your to your congregation, what kind of what would you say to them? How would you help them deal with it in the context of your faith? I don't know somebody some good. And so we'll take a stab at that one. Because that's the one of the key issue, I think,



37:49

yes, it is a key issue. And it's it's one of the tragedies of my time that as I grew up, I knew nothing about anything, I didn't know that it existed at all.



38:06

And came to it late and and when I discovered that what I call the real homosexual community, I realized here are some extremely caring people. Just as proper as any people I've ever seen before, and I have always wondered about the hatred. The minute anyone in society says,



38:42

homosexual, people's next bristle, and they seem to think they're called by God to, to do damage to somebody about this, right. And I've always wondered about that. And now I see that as a as a result of what is being called homophobia. And all of the information that is available to people or has been available, has just been wrong about the Bible. Just totally wrong. And about the facts, or the science of the case, just mistaken, or they're blamed for having a choice and choosing to fool around rather than be straight. And then you go and say God is going to fix them and this kind of thing, which would be where most religious people would get hung. They would say, you are your senator because the Bible says so well. I have a

new game I play it's called. What is it? That's mentioned in the bible less than homosexual. And I thought of a few things like my television set and or frigerator and maybe transgender mentioned but they