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00:02

The I'm trying to understand that anger and why it is that people have refused, and tend to go with a prejudice feeling rather than to, to hear what's really true here. And it's part of the pain of my life that about which I will do everything I can to change that my own church, The United Methodist Church, which has always refused to get caught up in the religious problem of doctrines that separate people, you're not quite as good as I am. Because you don't believe right or something like that. We've always refused to do that. And the only people that I know, we've ever marked out and said, You're not good as I am, are homosexuals. And that was done in a heated debate. And the anger of homophobia took over in the delegation of about 1000 People from all over the world. And in the year, that the psychiatrist had figured it out. Same year 1972, and said, This is not an illness, we've had it down as an illness. And it's not so they took it out of their book of list of things to diagnose and to deal with as an illness. And at that same year, the, the my own group, The United Methodist Church decided that it was, it was incompatible. But it's not really incompatible. I have seen some of the finest people, some of the finest Christian some of the finest church people that I know, are homosexual people, and I am out to do whatever I can to make that difference in my world.



02:00

It's one of the things that has always bothered me, is it the suicide rate in the gay and lesbian and transgendered community is extremely high. And I, I think I've sort of come to understand why I had a friend, I won't say what denomination he was now. But he was very proud of the fact that he taught in Sunday school. And I asked him, I said, Well, are you out at church? He said, Oh, no, if I was at a church, they wouldn't let me teach there. And I had to stop and ask him, I said, why would you want to stay someplace where they would hate you for what you really are? And that was basically the answer. I said, Well, where else would I go. And I think maybe it's given me a little clue as to why suicide is the way it is in our communities.



02:50

It's easy for me to understand. If you are told by your church, or your Sunday school teacher, or your minister preaching, if you are told that God hates this thing, and you cannot get rid of this. Most any of the people who love the church and want to be involved in the church will try anything, to get rid of it, and have done so. And it's it's it's it's a strange thing to be a 1990s.

And to have this, this kind of ignorance that makes us continue. And thinking first place that God dislikes homosexual people, God creates homosexual people. And as one young kid said, in the ghetto, God, don't make mistakes.



03:52

And my grandma used to say, God, don't make no junk. When did you want to say



03:55

something? Yes, I did. Because that's something in my life to all my life. I've I've been transgendered. And my parents have been very strict, religious people. And I was told that God would not accept me the way I am. And that I couldn't go to heaven. And all this time, I'm going well, you know, this, this is a problem because from a small child, I've always been very interested in the Bible and the teachings of Christ and God and Adam and how the world came to be and, and I couldn't get away from that. But I said, Well, I can't I can't be translated. I can't be a transsexual, and be a Christian. There's that I've got stopped being a transsexual. Well, that problem never went away that transsexualism is still there. I finally come to grips with that. And I would tell any young person that you don't have to live a life void of your Creator. God loves you. Okay. God created you. He did not make mistakes. People make mistakes in Not accepting one another as who we are, that we're each different than reach individuals. And I want to be I want to go on record saying that the churches that we did visit, were the ministers that we talked with were very friendly, they were not judgmental at all. And they were very accepting that we were allowed to go to their church. And they would not preach at us. Okay, as transgendered, and even even as gay and lesbian, they would not preach at us, that we would be allowed to worship there. So, so don't allow people to a small group of people to cause you to just ignore that part of your being that looks for your Creator, and go to church and worship that God



05:50

Yes, I was just gonna say having grown up Jewish, I might not have been subjected to the weekly teachings of burning in hell for eternity and, and all that however, we weren't really accepted. In the long run it as gay and lesbian people, I don't know. That's how it was for me. I don't know about you, Leslie. But just to repeat what you said, the worst thing would be to lose yourself respect and Antilles, your love of going to temple, I revel in the traditions and in the services, and I still go whenever possible. That's, I think that would be the worst thing is just to turn your back on it and walk away.



06:29

One of the things that the mission mission was named attempts to do in the Jewish community in Houston, as we do go to the rabbis of the different congregations, and we tell them that we are a gay Jewish organization. And this is what we do. We tried to get them to recognize this from their services on Friday, some of the temples we've been successful, they've recognized that we come into their service, they say that we are there, and what group we are. Some

we've not been so successful, but we keep we keep coming back. And we're there. We also have our own services, once a month, where we can get together and and be who we are and not have to worry



07:05

about it. It's kind of funny. We do meet in people's homes. So when you mentioned beginning in people's homes that kind of struck at home



07:13

where it was very interesting when I was trying to call to locate your group I happen to call the Jewish Center, I guess, I guess it was on bracelet. And the poor woman I kind of felt sorry for because I called and I said, Well, I'm trying to locate the Jewish gay and lesbian group. And there was a real long pause. And I said to her, you do know they exist, right? Yeah. And she said, Yeah, I think so. So she was not real positive. She was not she was she just, I guess it was an unusual concept for her. And as she recovering, she gave me six phone numbers to call. So she was very good. It just took her a little while to do for her collect your thoughts? What what is taught in the Jewish in the Jewish religion, about homosexuals? If anything? I mean, are you railed against the way that the foul wills of the world railed against,



08:08

you know, I just, personally from my own upbringing, there really was no teaching against homosexuals, it was more taking it one step further, and, and going the traditions in a family and, you know, just the expectations of everything and knowing that I would never fulfill that with with my family and getting married and having children and continuing on the tradition. But I don't recollect anything from my rabbi, where I grew up saying anything negative about homosexuals. In fact, now they, they recognize the group in Phoenix, and and I hear reports from my parents that that the Jewish, gay and lesbian group in Phoenix does go to the synagogue I grew up in. I don't know,



08:51

I didn't have that experience, either. Like you said, I grew up with the expectation that I would marry and I would have children. And that was a constant expectation. So when I realized that wasn't what I was going to do that that was going to be a disappointment to my parents, right.



09:02

It's more like, not not fulfilling the expectations and letting your parents down. And that's the worst



09:07

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09:07

thing. I think it would be true of any religion. That's a human sort of thing. Right, right. Yeah, I know. I'm sure there are a lot of people out there who identify with that. Now, in the Catholic faith, that's a little different. I know it can differ even from parish to parish as to the kind of answer that you get



09:28

exactly. However, unfortunately, the official position and the one that would pop up in something like a catechism would always have a negative ring to it. Catholics have traditionally following a lot of other religions insisted on following a homophobic interpretation of Old Testament passages relating to homosexuality, which is the basis in this country and in many countries for the prejudice that is shown toward lesbians, gay people, transgendered etc. It's the same kind of an argument, for instance, that existed until the last 50 years, certainly in, in Catholic religion, anti semitism. During the whole Good Friday ceremonies, they used to rail about the perfidious Jews. And to back up another step further, but only 150 years before that. Slavery was justified and condoned and, and allowed, because of passages in the New and Old Testament. These three things well, that I want, I want to add one more that is of the special concern in the Roman Catholic Church currently, and that is the whole question of feminism. And no question of the role of women in the Roman Catholic Church at all, has rarely been discussed outside of kind of, we'll throw some incense over here to Mary, and that will take care of all that women. The idea that there's a feminist view of God, that God is, in some sense, inherently feminine, is absolutely anathema to patriarchs, and those who hold a patriarchal view that holds that man is the standard for religion, for government, for society. And women, homosexuals, blacks, or any minority status, and servants, which is a worldwide or has been a worldwide phenomenon. We're all justified, all that was justified coming from old and sometimes even New Testament. Quotations



11:54

will now correct me if I'm wrong, but weren't the most of the Old Testament things? Weren't they more or less contradicted in the New Testament anyway? I mean, we've got someone shaking their heads saying no that, what did I say that was wrong?



12:09

Well, at least from my understanding, and by no means I'm a Bible scholar, that the Old Testament is not refuted by the New Testament, but fulfilled by the New Testament, Jesus said, I don't come to replace the law, but to, to fulfill it and complete it. And in another part of the New Testament, it says that all scripture is useful and, and right for teaching. So we, in our church, teach all of the scriptures as being equally important that there is no that we do not just teach the New Testament, but we teach what the Bible says, and what the Bible also says, and what the Bible also says about, about an issue that it's where we get into trouble. Even on homosexuality, Reverend Sinclair mentioned that it's probably the least mentioned, topic in the Bible. And in some ways, that's probably very true. I'm one of six places where it's mentioned

that, that we get in trouble when we when we pull out any portion of the Bible and use it to base our faith and to use it to base our argument, that we have to look at the entire Bible and what the Bible says in context with itself. In order to take a stand on an issue,



13:24

when one comment I'm going to make on that is that we we forget that Jesus Himself said, that I come out into the world to condemn the world, but that the world may be saved. Okay. I think that's the message that the Bible has, that God has, okay? Whether you're Jewish, whether you're a Christian, the Bible says that if you if you live a good clean life, if you love people, and you love your God, above all things, that God will accept you. Now, to those people that would condemn people because they're homosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered people, I would say, are you placing yourself above God, above Jesus, who did not come into the world to condemn the world, I will be very careful that you may be the one judged for your actions against this community.



14:25

One thing I see our time is just about up here. So before we go, I want to ask this question. In this society, especially since the election, it's getting more and more difficult to run away from some of the negative messages. If you pick up the newspaper, if you listen to the radio, it's it's getting more and more difficult to run away from this message that says, Well, if you don't believe as I do, you're not an American. Or if you don't believe as I do, you're not a true Christian. Or if you're not a Christian, and you don't believe in any religion at all. What I would like to know, I guess before we leave here is I would like to see if there is some advice, something that we can say to the listeners out there some tools that we can give them to help counteract those messages. And what makes me say that is this I grew up in. I'm old enough to remember when we said prayers and schools. And I always remember my, my, my Jewish friends, because we always had to do Lord's prayer in school and my Jewish friends kind of looked at the ceiling, like, what are we doing here? And I always felt really sorry for them. And our mother asked me one time what is what what do you what are you thinking when we're doing this? And one person, I'm thinking, How do I get the hell out of here? And I guess that was one way to counteract the messes that really didn't didn't make any sense to them. What can we do? What what advice? Can we give people some tools? What can we give to them to counteract the negative things they're hearing?



15:59

Well, that's a whole other show it is. It seems that we've had local control of schools, up through the day, whole time of public food. And people living in a community, we're all somewhat alike. I did not see a Roman Catholic until I got into the Air Force. Jewish person I didn't know, at all, until the first one I tried to buy something from was Jewish, that I knew he got mad at me about something and it's one of the guys who tested you. So that's a Jew. Whether he Jewish or not. But to say that prayer belongs in the school because we want it in there or to blame what's happened in society on the absence of prayer from the school is a

strangely ludicrous kind of thing to refer to. I'm a man of prayer. i Hi, I think that says value but to put it into a school, and to try to force this on anyone is the is the very thing that the Constitution was dedicated not to have happen.



17:25

What are we go any further, I am told I better say this. This is KPFT 90.1 FM in Houston. We don't need the FCC to come shooting shooting us down. Well, Mike, my concern is not so much prayer in school, but it's a little I guess, maybe I phrased the question, Ron.



17:44

Did you know you did okay. pfk.



17:46

Houston. Yes, thank you. Okay, I'm being corrected here is my concern is that there are a lot of walking wounded in our community that begin with and if these negative messages are coming at them and daily, about how they're evil, or whatever. And I guess my concern is, how can we communicate to these people? What tools can we give them to counteract the negative messages that they're getting?



18:18

This is, I wanted to say this to your imaginary 14 year old, but this is a message to everyone. My, my first approach is to say rejoice, and and as Paul said, again, I say rejoice in who you were created to be that God has created you to be somebody very special. One, the one thing that I've always enjoyed about being a gay man is that I, that ability to be childlike. And that ability to look at the look at the world through through children's eyes, much of the time, even into my somewhat old age now that our community has, especially our community has especially been been blessed, I think with the ability to shed off some of the cares and the worries of the world and to and to look at, look at the world through a more joyous stance, and that's been a that's been a joy that we that, that we've enjoyed about ourselves for a long time. And not to lose that joy and not to lose that joy through through a message of hate or through through a disease or through any process that this world throws at you. And that's not to say that then we have permission to be childish, that we then take on a responsibility to ourselves and we take on a responsibility to our community, to treat God's creation with respect, and that we would look for why we are created and look for that special ability that we have been created with and to use that ability, that God given ability then to serve one another Whether and to love one another that as Christ commanded



20:05

anybody else.



20:08

I just think a great tool would just be self acceptance, taking everything and but never forget who you are, and stop loving yourself. That's the best tool you can have.



20:20

It's real hard to love yourself. Sometimes when you're being told how rotten you are



20:24

true. No, I it's not an easy thing to do. But when she looks at a lot more as lost, just besides that,



20:35

I certainly would affirm that. And I would say you need to be suspicious of people who seem to be coming from a position of fear or anxiety, or worse hatred with regard to homosexual people. And listen very carefully to the way people talk and act. And keep your eyes open. There are lots of materials in libraries, bookstores, different approaches of things that are available. Unfortunately, in this day and age, if you're going to grow up, gay, lesbian, transgendered, bisexual, you're going to need to read, you're going to have to expose yourself to fundamental background differences and other people that think like you, and you need to get into groups or are begin to read and expand your mind. And it's not something that is like falling off a log, if you happen to be straight, for instance. But it's, it's a project you're going to have to start working on in your adolescence, and it's going to continue well into adulthood. I don't know anybody that isn't still on some level, dealing with this into their 50s and 60s, right.



21:55

Just briefly, I think a tool would be to use the book that your church your synagogue, stands up and and quotes from every time they have a service. Read it, get to know it, get to know your God. Practice the attributes of your God, if you can live your life, as close to what he says she says, Thank you. I think I think guys well in touch with her feminine side i i think that we would, it would be a better world if we really paid more attention to who God is. And try to reflect that in our daily lives. And I think that would be one of the best tools we could use.



22:42

It's probably a terrible thing to say. The best tool is your rights as a citizen of this land. The Bible is helpful to you, but I'd rather not hurt around this table. What I understand is the message of the Bible, and it's God loves you exactly as you are. Not based on any conditions. But the announcement is there. And it's it's not even new with Jesus. It's there. And that's the that's the basic thing. And that'll be true tomorrow, as well as it has been today. Whoever you

are, and whatever it is you're looking at, but the main tool you have is not the interpretation of the Bible you hear what usually is atrocious, unbelievable heresy. Which one day we'll figure that out, I guess but all my what a dark time it is for some people. The Bible is helpful, but not the way it's presented to people.



23:58

Before we leave, I want to give everyone here a chance to give the name of your group again and tell folks how they how you can be reached if they would like to get in contact with you. And when they feel like you want to use my peel box for folks get in touch with you. To talk to you, that'd



24:15

be fun. Sure. Okay.



24:19

Okay, Wendy, if you would like to talk to Wendy about transgendered issues and religion RPL use the PIO box. It's time taxes. It's PO Box 74 Dash 1193 Houston, Texas 77074 and just put that Wendy on the outside I make sure she gets it.



24:40

Okay. Nancy, one more thing before please. Also, I am employed by two wonderful ladies out of Dallas. That are Wendy Trudy Hello. And this is they are the owners of alternative visions which is Texas first video introduction relationship service that caters to the Gay, Lesbian and transgendered community. Call it some time.



25:05

Okay, next.



25:08

Thank you. Thank you very much for the opportunity to talk on this issue. If you're interested in Maranatha fellowship, MCC. We can be reached through our church office number which is 5286756. Our pastors Reverend Janet Parker, and we meet at the Holiday Inn west loop, which is across from Transco tower, with 3131 West Loop, south, I believe is the address. And we meet at 10am 10am on Sundays.



25:40

I'm Don Sinclair again. And I for nine years have been pastor of one of the finest congregations that I've seen at bearing Memorial United Methodist Church. The address is 1440 Harold St. The telephone number is 5261017. And the worship service we have is that 10 minutes to 11. Each Sunday morning, you will be welcomed there.



26:11

And dignity Houston meets on Saturday nights for liturgy at 730 In the Heights, and then on Sunday afternoons at 530. For also liturgical services. You can reach dignity Houston at 8802872. And you're welcome. And okay,



26:39

and Miss Picard. Al Azim is the Jewish organization for our community. We meet the first Friday of every month for services and the third Friday of every month for a potluck dinner at members homes. And the hotline to reach information for these meetings is 7487079.



27:00

I want to thank each and every one of you for coming. I realize from 12 to one o'clock in the morning, he's pardoned upon an ungodly hour. But and I realize most of you have to be in church or temple or soon. But I want to thank you all for coming. I hope I hope that this that especially for the young folks who are sitting out there and they're listening to our show with the transistor radio tucked under the pillow that you might have some different perspective and know that you're really not alone. We are forever trying to talk about that on the show that you're not alone. And I hope that you'll hear that. And we're going to go to some music that is that my co hosts Jimmy Carter has picked out and it's one of my favorite songs. It seems real appropriate from a group called a flirtations, but the song is called something inside so strong.



27:52

I saw the obituary in the twit it's it's kind of that's that's what gay men do nowadays. Every Friday, you pick up the twit and you immediately look in the back and and see who's died and hope that you don't see anybody you know. And every once in a while you do. JR Jenkins passed away on Saturday, February 25. He was born May 31 1943 in Augusta, Georgia, Jr. will always be remembered for his special talent as an accomplished pianist. He had a special sense of humor and God yes, and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Jr's is survived by his loving parents, Earl and Jane Addams of blessing Texas and by his life mate of 22 years 22 years Tommy Windsor, yes. 22 years, who says we don't have lasting relationships? Now in the gay community, people come and go in and out of your life. And Jr was in my life. When I first came to Houston in the mid late 60s That yes, that that's been a while. He was the roommate of a friend of my then present my then lover. And he I was 18 at the time and he Jr. just impressed me because he at that time in the late 60s He was what you would call an outrageous queen. He was wonderful. And I always looked up to him. He always had fun. Everything was a good time. And I love the story that I just happened to remember it because it struck me as an 18 year old Jr had had an overnight visitor. And in the morning as the

gentleman to leave, and I was harvest rock, I thought, Well, what a rude thing to do. And JR just looked over at me and said, Well, honey, he didn't know anything about making babies. Well, it's a line that I've always remembered. And after my lover and I broke up, I lost contact with Jr as, as these things happen. But through the years, I'd see him here and there and he always had a nice big smile for me, Hi, how you doing? And might even share a little gossip about what was going on in his life. And like I said, Then you open up the twit. And you see the picture. Lauria Anderson, on her brand new CD, has a wonderful song called love among sailors, and I'd like to play it with another one after that. But right now, Laurie Anderson. Love among the sailors Laurie Anderson love among the sailors. And that was for Jr. Jenkins, however not to leave people slitting their wrists. I know that's not a real Pepe song. There is something there is another song I want to play that. That kind of reminds me of Jr. and that era. I mean, you know, that was kind of like, almost 30 years ago. So on a lighter note for Jr.



31:56

We're back. This is Jimmy. And this is Sarah. And you're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude? Or if you prefer a continuing tradition?



32:07

Fastest three hours and radio?



32:09

It is it is. And Sarah came running in here. And when she she heard that I was doing a memorial because I sounded all kinds of down or something.



32:19

Yeah, I could hear your voice cracking. Well,



32:22

you know, it does happen. And especially to me because it's no secret. I mean, since 1987, I have been HIV positive. And I've said it on the radio, as long as I've been involved in this program and on other programs on KPFT. But here recently, things have started to happen. And I've changed I'm no longer HIV positive. I am now a PWA. A person with AIDS. Of course, I'd like to change that and make it p I wa person living with AIDS because I intend to live until until I can't anymore.



33:07

Now tell the tell the audience what that means Oh, okay,



33:10

officially now, when your T cell count drops below 200. Or you get and or you get some sort of list of diseases. You know, like PCP pneumonia, or a cat see sarcoma, that cancer or something like that. But efficiently when your T cell count drops below 200. Because at that point, your body is starting to get weak. And a lot of these diseases can can take over.



33:43

So it essentially means your immune system is dropping, right?



33:47

Someone like you or someone who was who was HIV negative has a T cell count of around 1000. Right.



33:58

And yours is now below 200. Mine is now 150. Okay, now there are going to be people out in the audience right now who's going to save themselves? This means Jimmy is going to be dead



34:06

tomorrow. No, no, no, no, I'm going to be around for quite a few more years. And that's what I wanted them to know. Yes, yes. Now, I may be slowing down a bit. I may get tired. And other things may affect me. But I'm still going to be here.



34:23

I want to point something out to people in the audience right now. Jimmy and I talked about this about this last month. Yes. And we're talking about how to how to do this year. And I want to say I think what you're doing is very courageous, and it's in something else. There are people out there who still don't get it. Yes, I know. They still don't get it. They think that if you're diagnosed with AIDS or with HIV, it means you're going to be dead in a week. Or you're going to be dead in a month. And they still don't get it that the HIV does not mean you're dead it means you are living with something. That's right.



35:06

I think many people will look at me and not even know that I have there's anything wrong with if you hadn't told me I never would have known. Okay, I have I've lost about 20 pounds. So I love my body right now and very smelt and for this cute too, and for the first time in 47 years, I

don't have to die it I have lived my life on a diet. And now I can eat anything I want. And as often as I like all the Bluebell you can see You bet. You bet