

Straight Spouse Awareness

Radio Show: WAVS 1170 AM

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THE INTEGRITY OF SOME GAY HUSBANDS

Tonight is our regular night to present Straight Spouse Awareness with South Florida Connects.

For anyone just listening to this program for the first time and is wondering who a straight spouse is. **You are a straight spouse if you are a heterosexual person in a relationship with a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender person.** Straight spouses come from every socio economic background, race, religion, cultural identity, ethnicity, educational background, sex, and age group. You are a straight spouse even if you are already separated or divorced.

You may not even know it yet, or some of you already know it, and have begun to seek answers to the many questions that this confusing situation brings to your life. **Remember** that if you identify as a straight spouse: **You are not alone!**

South Florida Connects, Inc. provides peer support to straight spouses via our website at www.southfloridaconnects.com. Visit the site and check out the information provided to help educate, validate, affirm and empower you.

Many straight spouses would love it if their under cover gay husbands would be open and honest with them about their real sexual orientation. Many more would just like their closeted gay husbands to avoid blaming them for the break down and dysfunctions in their marriage. A little honesty and a little integrity would help to heal so many hurts and bring so much clarity to so many marriages. But most under cover, closeted husbands refuse to step up and be honest.

Sometime ago I received a newsletter from Bonnie Kaye, my straight spouse mentor. I want to share parts of it because I have received some similar emails, and some straight wives want to know why their secretly gay spouses won't talk to them even though now they know that their wives are aware of their deception.

Bonnie receives several letters each week from men who are struggling to come clean to their wives. At South Florida Connects we received a few also. We don't provide support to gay husbands but we normally respond quickly to these men in hopes that our support and encouragement will give them the courage to be honest with their wives. I also receive emails from gay men who found our website and commend us for the work we are doing to help people understand the dynamics and difficulties of mixed orientation marriages.

Some months ago, Bonnie received a letter from a man, Jay who is an attorney. He wrote in a manner that clarified some of my own thoughts and feelings about the problems of mixed orientation marriages that I will share with you. Jay's sensitivity and honesty reflects what most straight spouses would like their gay husbands or ex-husbands to tell them.

Too few straight spouses ever get to hear these words. Jay was asked if we could share some of his thoughts because we believe it validates so much of what all straight wives feel and need to hear. After hearing his words, I hope you will appreciate not only what he says, but also how he says it. **Here goes.**

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"I am a gay man who was married for 23 years. My ex-wife and I have two children. I am writing to encourage you to continue the important work you are doing. I only wish that in 1996 when I finally began to come out that there had been resources such as yours to support our family through our transition.

I think that both men and women in these circumstances must recognize that there are no winners but there are survivors who create new ways to relate, maintain, support and redefine their family. In the process of ending my marriage, I lost my best friend and the dream we had of growing old together. Slowly, we have worked to continue to parent our children in accordance with the many values that we continue to share.

There are many things I would, in retrospect have done and handled differently, but my single largest regret is that I did not deal with the secret of my homosexuality while still in my marriage and in the years of counseling before divorce.

So to those men out there, I urge them to give the woman they chose to love and bear children with, the earliest chance to deal with the truth. They probably will not have a marriage together afterwards, but they will at least have a chance of

preserving the love that once brought them together with hopes and plans for a lifetime.

I keep reminding myself of the shame that fueled my own 'denial' and kept me closeted for most of my life, however I also know the damage that secrets do to those who keep them, and would like to teach that lesson to my kids as well.

...my kids have always been a priority. I can recall vividly, my own frustration at seeking advice on how to come out to my kids and finding little support from the gay or straight communities. Of course, I was looking for the right way to do it and assure that the kids would not go off the deep end or reject me. No one could have given me the surefire approach. However, I think there is a real void. God knows there are self help books out there on everything else.

No woman deserves to be in this situation. In the past, I spent a lot of time searching my own soul, trying to figure out how much of the failure of my marriage was attributable to my homosexuality and how much was the struggle for control, neediness and other dynamics extant in any relationship. My ex-wife and I hurt each other a lot. There are still things about her that I dislike, but I have concluded that the presence of my secret, my deception in that relationship was the primary poison.

Much of the rest of our conflicts flowed from it....the absence of trust, the neediness, possessiveness, the anger and ultimately the conflict that I both created (even if it was not by premeditated design) and used to find the impetus despair and courage to leave. Accordingly, as painful as it is to admit, I know that the secret and immutability of my homosexuality is inextricably bound up in all that was wrong in our marriage.

Yes, I had difficult issues to confront. As with any person facing difficult times, some of them I handled quite poorly. I share your belief that bisexuality is often a transitional label and crutch used by homosexuals who are unable, or unwilling to come to terms with their natural sexual orientation. I lived that myself. After my separation from my wife, I woke one morning after a date with a woman and was appalled by the self discovery that I might do this to another woman because I hated who and how I was.

I was much more demanding about the order around me when I was married to my ex-wife. While I still like a nice home, I find I am less compulsive about cleaning

and demanding that those around me keep things tidy and neat. I believe that my need for external order in my marriage was a way of coping with my own internal chaos (and tension created by my attempts to compartmentalize my being.)

Of course, my discomfort with disorder at home also served to legitimize my disappointment in my ex-wife as a homemaker. "If only she were a better wife.....we would be happy" was my mantra. Indeed, she was disorganized but as it turned out, I have realized that **IF ONLY SHE HAD BEEN A MAN, I WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE TOLERANT.** Ouch.”

What Jay has done is say what many straight wives are still waiting for their gay husbands or ex-husbands to say after many years. Occasionally, a word of wisdom will float out from some gay ex-husbands expressing how “screwed up” they were through the years. Does it change anything? Not really. But knowing the truth does help validate who you are, what you became because of your gay husbands, and how you can change and now move forward. It’s the first step towards healing the scars, bridging the understanding, and bringing closure to a chapter in your lives.

Thank you, Jay, for sharing your thoughtful insights with all of us. Jay has also graciously volunteered to help men who are going through the struggle of coming out. He has been very valuable in this role. If you know of anyone who may need guidance, direction, and a supportive voice, let us know and we will forward your information to Jay. If you have any personal questions you would like to ask him, he is happy to respond. Just let me know at sfconnects@hmail.com or go to our website at www.southfloridaconnects.com and send us a message.

All of Jay’s words allowed me come to a great realization. For those of you who have or had gay husbands who complained actively or passively about your inadequacies and faults as wives, I have another thought: **These questions are for straight wives out there listening.**

Who would you be today if you had a heterosexual husband? How would your destiny have changed if you were loved, nurtured, sexually desired with passion and tenderness, given emotional support and encouragement, and made to feel like you were part of a real couple in tune with each other’s needs, wants, and aspirations?

What if you didn’t have to spend countless hours each day wondering why you were failures as wives, women, and lovers—ripping away your self-esteem layer

by layer until you became strangers unto yourselves and others? What if your husbands' dishonesty and same sex infidelity didn't change you so you become untrusting, suspicious, and doubting wives, forcing you to question your own ability to make rational decisions?

How many of you were sidetracked through those "detours of deceit" that diverted you from the direction that life might have taken you otherwise?

Bottom line—no matter how much a gay man loves a straight woman, it is not the kind of love that fulfills the basic human need that all of us have. **It can never be the kind of love that inspires the music that becomes classics or the poetry that makes the heart flutter.** It is not the kind of love that can ever be returned to the degree that you are giving it.

Even the best of mixed orientation relationships are barely more than great friendships—not the passion and excitement that make us thrive and look forward to waking up each day. And even these relationships are woven with dishonesty, distrust, infidelity, resentment, and frustration. **Life was not meant to be this complicated... Period!**

I am a Christian woman and I do not condone homosexuality in any form. However, I don't believe in condemning anyone. God is the only one qualified to judge such actions. I believe gay men should not marry women, and those who are married should come clean and tell their wives the truth so they can at least become proactive in protecting their health. Straight wives should be given a choice. When you practice same sex infidelity in secret you do not give your spouse a choice. You endanger her health in the worst possible way.

It is so deceitful to be having homosexual encounters especially when you are not even protecting yourselves, then going home to your unsuspecting wives and having sexual relations with her without protection, just to make yourselves feel better about the sex you just had with another man. It is time to come clean and let the chips fall where they may. All actions have consequences. Your deception is actually doing more harm than good to you and to your family. Too many wives are getting infected by husbands who don't even know they were infected themselves. How about your integrity Mr. undercover gay husband?

We are encouraging both straight wives and their husbands to reach out for assistance. Everything will be kept strictly confidential. You don't have to use your real name if you don't want to. Remember, we don't have to know who you

are for you to get help. South Florida Connects can connect you with counselors who understand your unique situations. Reach out in confidence.

You may find other information on our website very helpful. Check out **southfloridaconnects.com** and go to the pages that provide the information you need.

Disclaimer: South Florida Connects, Inc. does not give advice. SFC only provides straight spouse awareness peer support. Subject matters discussed on this radio program are for informational purposes ONLY.

We believe in education and empowerment, so we will share information we deem important with you. If you have a situation that matches anything we discuss, please seek the appropriate professional. We do not make on air recommendations but if you send an email at sfconnects@gmail.com or leave a detailed message with contact info on our Straight Spouse **Support Hotline 954-983-9751**, we will provide a means for you to connect with an appropriate straight spouse awareness professional.

Visit the South Florida Connects website at www.southfloridaconnects.com for more information and insights. We invite you to send us your questions and request for straight spouse awareness topics you would like to hear us discuss each month.

Psalms 101:7 (ESV) No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes.

Jeremiah 9:5 (ESV) Everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves committing iniquity.

1 John 2:4 (ESV) Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (This one is especially for my brothers who preach hell and damnation from the pulpit but continue to have same sex hook ups with the church sisters’ husbands.) **I am not judging you. I am just reminding you, that God is watching.**

Thank you for joining us for Straight Spouse Awareness on the Donneth Show with Community Solutions. Join us on the first Wednesday of each month right here on WAVS1170 am at 8pm. (www.wavs1170.com) Remember to send us your emails with your feedback. Thank you for listening. Over to you Donneth.