

Prominent Gay Public Figure Gives Up Homosexual Lifestyle

By Roy Waller

David Bianco, a 32-year-old gay media mogul, recently announced that he has discontinued his homosexual lifestyle for religious reasons.

The founder of the Q Syndicate, which supplies gay-oriented material to a variety of international media outlets, says that homosexual lifestyle was inconsistent with his Jewish religious beliefs.

He Believes Gay Sex is "Not Natural"

Asked in a recent interview with gaycitynews.com why he decided to change his sexual identity, Bianco replied, "I have believed for at least 15 years that the Jews are in a special relationship with God... About 13 months ago, I asked myself, where am I falling short? ... Where am I not living up to the demands that I believe God has made of Jews through His Torah and through Jewish law?"

One of the three major ways he was falling short in Jewish life, he said, was in having sex with men.

Also, the gay community has "overly glorified sex to the point that it's expected to be the most important piece of our lives... I don't accept that it's natural for us, or that it's what God wants for us."

"The Liberal Approach to Homosexuality," Bianco Believes, "is Bankrupt"

"All along," Bianco said, "I had a belief that God had given the Torah to the Jewish people ...I took my situation to a rabbi, who I trusted and admired, and asked for advice—and the rabbi propositioned me."

The rabbi's homosexual overtures to him represented a key moment for Bianco, in which he came to the conclusion that "the liberal... approach to homosexuality and Judaism was completely bankrupt."

Although Bianco has sold most of his Q Syndicate to a New Jersey marketing firm, he continues to write his somewhat politically conservative "Over the Rainbow" column. In one recent column, he came out strongly against gays and lesbians having families. This decision deprives their children of an opposite-sex parent, he said, and is ultimately, he believes, "selfish."

Bianco's decision to leave gay life was also facilitated by the fact that he also feels some attraction to women. But

when he was told by gay friends that his new, religiously motivated lifestyle will not work, he responded, "Was what I was doing before...did *that* work?"

Bianco said he wants to "let those who may be facing a similar conundrum understand that it is a reasonable way to go. And I get letters all the time from people like that." He said the gay community's "narrow definitions are as constricting and as oppressive as the norms that the gay community was rebelling against in the first place."

"Judaism Can't be Reconciled with Gay Theology"

Bianco views heterosexuality as an integral part of the teachings of Judaism. "I rejected all the unsuccessful attempts to reconcile traditional Judaism with gay sex and gay relationships. And I decided to take more seriously the demands that I believe God has made on the Jewish people in terms of how we live out our sexual feelings."

He also says that, although he doesn't "give speeches urging all Jews to follow my lead," he does believe that "the Torah is for all Jews—Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, secular."

"Trying to Rise Above Base Impulses"

Bianco acknowledges that there are married Jewish men who are involved in homosexual activity, and he has a word of advice for them. "Actually, I would advocate that someone in that situation should talk to his rabbi and figure out how to handle it. It's tricky...I acknowledge that it's very difficult but also very important. I'm trying, and I think it's working." He added that he is "trying to be better than my base impulses, to rise above them."

Asked point blank if he intends to become "an ex-gay activist" who would "embarrass the gay community," Bianco stressed that he still remains sympathetic to the homosexual community, and said he hopes to help bridge the gap between the two groups, with his main thrust being an outreach towards the Jewish community.

He acknowledged that his work might be seen as threatening to gays, and he noted that "I don't relish that." But if they keep listening, he said, he believes they'll come to a "general respect" for what he's doing.

"I might even win you someday," he added.

To read the complete interview with David Bianco, from which the above quotes were taken, please refer to: gaycitynews.com/takingthegayout.html ■