

## Trading Lies

Have you ever known anyone who has *come out of the closet*?

The expression, *coming out of the closet*, usually describes a person who has been hiding their homosexuality. At some point something compelled them to bring their homosexuality out into the open. From that point they boldly live their life in openness; no more hiding.

Our society has shifted its tolerant attitude to embrace the sin of homosexuality. So, in reality those who have been hiding their homosexuality are not really being bold, they are the new *heroes*. (They often claim that they were hiding from 'homophobic' prejudices. Perhaps that is true; perhaps not.) Now, with the seeming overall acceptance of homosexuality those who stand in opposition are the truly bold ones.

Imagine the politician who takes a stand against homosexuality...political suicide. Imagine the Hollywood star who does not condone homosexuality...falling star. What will become of Christians who stand on biblical teaching?

Now, let's take a step back and think about *coming out of the closet*. People have hidden all kinds of sins, not just homosexuality. Consider King David and his adultery with Bathsheba. He finally 'came out of the closet' when he was confronted with his sin by the prophet Nathan.

Have you ever known anyone who has 'come out of hiding' from any kind of sin?

The simple point that hiding sin in one's life is a lie and it is a burden. You see, saints and sinners alike know that hiding the truth is really a lie, and lies cause people to feel guilt. So, coming out of the closet with *any* lie at least deals with the conscience and the feeling of guilt.

However, where is *truth* when a person comes out of hiding, but continues to live a sinful life?

Christians have sometimes been mixed up about the idea of confession. It is true that when a person openly admits something that we call that confession. Is that really what God desires?

Consider the homosexual: He *comes out of the closet* yet maintains a homosexual lifestyle. Yet, the Apostle Paul has taught:

**The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. (Romans 1:18)**

Although they have brought something hidden into the open (confession), they are pursuing a lifestyle that can only be described as ungodly. They are suppressing the truth in their unrighteous behavior. Even though they are no longer hiding, they are living as if their sin is morally neutral or even good. That is a lie.

They have traded one lie for another.

Whenever a person admits sin, yet does not stop sinning, they have traded one lie for another. The first lie was the hiding of their sin. In their open sin, they continue to *suppress the truth in unrighteousness*...another lie.

The confession that God desires for his people admits sin, but is coupled with true repentance in which the perception of the mind is changed. The sinner must not merely acknowledge their sin as sin, the mind of the sinner must adopt the attitude of God toward their sin. Their entire perspective toward their sin must change so that they recognize their sin as utterly evil. They are then motivated to stop sinning. Otherwise, they are simply trading lies.

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