

Soc Gender Article Review #4 (Stephen Terry)

Congruent with the theme of my last article reviewed, this one similarly addresses the resistance of the gay (Christian) community to the heteronormative pressures put upon them. Unlike the more implicit approach addressed in the previous article, however, this one addresses four specific methodologies by which homosexual Christian males are actively engaging in a dialectic with church leaders. According to this article, homosexual Christians are beginning to argue that (1) the Bible deserve an exegesis that does not disapprove of homosexuality (thereby attacking the stigma that comes from which); they argue that (2) the church leaders should not be given the high esteem as moral law-givers which they now enjoy (thereby attacking the *stigmatizer*); they offer positive experiences in which gay couples still follow the Biblical teachings of romantic relationships; and (4), they use the ontogeneric argument, effectively using church ideology in their favor.

Though I am quite please to find that (what I understand to be) the two primary sources of Christian “law” are being challenged (the Bible and the church leaders themselves), I personally find the last two approaches to be the most interesting of the four. In both of these instances, the logic of Christianity is, in a way, used *against* Christian heteronormativity itself. With regard to the third approach mentioned, gay couples are proving to the church that homosexuality need not deviate in any way other than in actual sexual *preference*; sexual behavior, romantic choices, and the level of respect in homosexual relationships is not necessarily any different than that found in heterosexual relationships, and the church is beginning to be offered examples of such.

Perhaps my favorite of the four approaches, however, is the last one. The argument is that homosexual orientation is created by God, and as such, is nothing to be ashamed of or changed, and that rather, by fighting homosexual tendencies, one would actually be going *against* God’s design of that individual. I would be very interested to hear the church’s response to this; I would imagine that the first argument would involve the “choice” of homosexuality (which is also evidenced against in a previous article I reviewed on the neuroscience of homosexuality), but beyond that, the internal logic (I imagine) would make it difficult to argue.

Sources:

Yip, Andrew (2011). “Attacking the Attacker: Gay Christians Talk Back.” *The British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 48, No. 1, pp. 113-127.