The Church does not have the power to change Christ's conditions for the Kingdom of God. Gays would violate the living witness of the Holy Spirit in our lives were we to negotiate our salvation with laity, priests, or bishops. No more properly can we follow the false religion Respectability, for we follow the Cross.

For too long our church has defaulted the Great Commission to take the Gospel to the more than 20 million Gay Americans for whom Christ died. For centuries her only audible whimper to gays has been, "Repent and become heterosexual," a doctrine with highly suspect scriptural authority and with no clear and convincing evidence of efficacy.

Many persons have known that there have always been plenty of gays in the Episcopal Church, where sensitivity and talent have always been welcome. Were all gays not to show up to give sermons or perform in the choir or contribute to the collection plate, hundreds of churches would have a formidable struggle, even if for only one Sunday. Why then raise a fuss, in view of the obvious rewards for keeping silent?

The word "Integrity" does not mean "conventional virtue," but "wholeness." Sexuality is so much a part of wholeness that integrity is surely impossible without an integration of sexuality into all other aspects of personhood. Requiring gays to remain covert in ways not required of non-gays effects de facto excommunication.

Imagine a gay person introducing as such his/her gay date or spouse at your next service.

Try stating the intention "for my gay cousin(s)" at your next Communion.

Very tellingly promiscuity does not similarly upset the church, if contained in all the allowable places; Church persons clearly want such evidence to "prove" our special, second-class "depravity."

The experiences of the early Christians are very real to contemporary gay Christians. Paradoxically the Church herself has become our Colosseum.

Brian talks about his need for a revised understanding of theological terms. The more catholic I realize gays to be, the more I hesitate to try to state for all gays our theological aspirations. Personally I would be very happy to see all church persons take seriously the familiar bidding to Communion—to be "in love and charity" with us gays.

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