

A gay dad writes to the religious parents who disowned their gay son on camera

Rob Watson speaks directly to the homophobic hyper-religious parents who disowned and hit their gay son

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Another young person has been thrown out of his home for coming out as gay. But unlike some of the thousands of children left to fend for themselves on the streets, this was recorded.

Trying to imagine the evil some people can tell their children is no longer necessary. Now we can hear them in their own self righteous voices.

It started when the family called 20-year-old Daniel Ashley-Pierce to an 'intervention'. He left his phone recorder going during the confrontation and was later posted online as '[How not to react when your child tells you he is gay](#)'. It has gone viral.



In the video, Daniel, explains to what sounds like his mother, grandmother and father that he is gay. The choices this set of parents makes as a reaction are almost as bad as they possibly could be.

His mother makes a statement at the outset that becomes increasingly shocking as the video proceeds and the parenting adults collectively verbally attack and physically abuse the young man.

This is my open letter to Daniel's parents.

To Daniel's family:

Now you know.

You have handled this badly. I don't know you, and I don't know of what you are capable, good or bad. I hope that there are better people within each one of you than those displayed on that video.

I am a parent as you are. For me, contributing to my sons' welfare, personal joy and life success is my

purpose and mission in this world. I hope that somehow in your own warped way, you want that for Daniel.

To Daniel's dad: I hear great frustration of not being thanked for having provided the food and 'roof over the head of a child for 20 years. Accomplishing that is no small feat- I have two sons, 11 and 12, and I provide for them. I have to. I will not get thanked for it. It's cool, it is the gig I signed up for. Part of being a parent is being your child's oxygen. They need us to survive, but they do not thank us as they take each breath. We just have to provide for them - because being a parent means you do that.

We seek to inspire our children to be the best they can be, and to do that, we have to know who they are. You all now know Daniel.

Choice is relevant here, but not for Daniel. It is for you. You are choosing only to accept him if he is as you want him to be, rather than who he really is. Instead of embracing this child that you nurtured through life, you cling to a bastardized concept of 'the word of God' that has turned a religious practice into an exercise of superstition.

Where exactly you get this religious mandate is itself a mystery. The Bible does not define itself as being 'the word of God'. It defines Jesus, and Jesus alone as being 'The Word'. Jesus never once claimed that gay people choose to be gay. The Bible directs us to the covenant of God, under Jesus, as written on one's own HEART and HIS MIND (Hebrews 8). I believe that Daniel DID ask God, and God wrote back on Daniel's heart and mind, 'I made you gay'. God generally does not cc others so you getting a copy of that directive is unlikely. That is what the Bible says and you can choose to believe it if you want.

To Daniel's mom: At the beginning of the recording you tell him you love him. He says he believes you. I don't believe you.

For me, my sons come first—before my dogma, before my standing in the local community, before anything. If I was Abraham in the desert and my sons Jason and Jesse were strapped to a stone slab, and a big voice in the sky was telling me to make a sacrifice of them to Him, I would turn to the heavens and say 'Screw you'.

That's how monumental my kids are to me—they are beyond biblical proportions of importance. All the real parents I know feel the same about their kids.

Daniel has very little choice here. He is who he is, and now thanks to your rejection, he will do what he has to in order to survive. Our community will come around him, love him support him. He will be our son now and we will give him healthy alternatives. Many in his situation do not get that chance. They end up on the street and within weeks are surviving through less than savory means. We will watch Daniel, and encourage him to grow. We will give him hope for his life, and a vision for an inspiring purpose. That purpose for him may or may not include a family of his own. We will show him how to find joy and fulfillment, and he will do it without you. Unlike you, we will let him know he can be his authentic true self.

Your choices are important ones that will affect the rest of your lives. Rejecting is a choice. Not caring for Daniel is a choice. Saving your face in the community over the well being of your son is a choice. What is your best possible choice? That would be a sincere re-evaluation of your priorities, bringing him home, and working towards a level of acceptance.

Whatever you choose, it will define you forever. You will either be defined as the people who worked to grow as parents, or the people who should never have been parents in the first place.

If you do have any love in you at all, it will fester and one day you will find yourself sitting upright in bed, having a better educated sense about the nature of the true God, and realize that you have made a

horrific and terrible mistake. One that, at that point, you may not be able to fix.

You may truly be cold loveless shells. Certainly, it appears that one or more of you deserves to be in jail right now for assault. Instead of looking for healing, you may launch into a further tirade of homophobia and tell us about the vengeful God that you emulate.

You will not need to preach to us about hell, however. We will see it in your eyes.