

A Thank You letter to Anti-gay Politicians, homophobic Ministers, Priests, Religious Leaders, and all other anti-gay supporters...

When I was a little kid I remember hearing, "love your enemies". That sounded insane to me, as it still does to many people. I just didn't understand it. If "they" were "enemies" then why should I bother? If they are doing unkind, intentionally divisive things to me then why should I love them? Quite the contrary – I thought God should PUNISH them. Oh, my naïve, young little mind could not begin to comprehend the deep, spiritual freedom that lives in those 3 words. But today, because of you, I do.

I am Mark Anthony Lord, a proud, gay man. And I want to take this moment to sincerely thank you for keeping your necessary role in being the "enemy" of LGBT people. Thank you for making your voice heard, loud and clear, against greater freedom and equality for LGBT people.

WITHOUT YOU we would not have the tension we need to drum up the courage to take a stand for ourselves.

WITHOUT YOU we would not be forced to find our own inner validation, respect and self-acceptance. This deep, real, unshakeable acceptance of self is often hard to create without an opposing force.

WITHOUT YOU so many LGBT people, and their countless ALLIES would not be coming together in solidarity, love, and support.

WITHOUT YOU we would most likely not look religions in the eyes and challenge their demeaning, outdated dogma.

WITHOUT YOU we would not be looking deeper for a REAL, LOVING, EXPANDING, PERSONAL GOD – as opposed to the patriarchal, old-white-man-in-the-sky God most of us were force-fed as children.

WITHOUT YOU we would be less able to really see how painful and unkind rejection and blatant hatred is for both the hated and the hater.

Finally, without you there would not be enough pressure and contraction for love to rise up and explode from within us, for us ... for all ... and especially for you ... yes, you, my "enemy".

I am one with you, my anti-LGBT brothers and sisters. You are not separate from me, for we are all one in this game of ever-expanding love. We are ONE big, sloppy, sometimes happy, mostly confused and fear-ridden human family. And today I see behind the game of us versus them, right/wrong, good/bad ... and I see how you are a blessing to me. I see how you are causing me to grow inside myself like nobody or nothing else can. So, I thank you and pray for you. I know that it doesn't feel good to be trapped in fear, and it doesn't feel good to play the antagonist in any story ... but you are necessary – at least for today.

I pray that LGBT people really do fall deeply and dearly in love with themselves as soon as possible, so that you no longer have to play this role, and use your precious, creative energy to attempt to hold us down or diminish us. I pray that LGBT people awaken to the deep, undeniable love and acceptance that is within them – so that you too may be free.

Until then ...



Mark Anthony Lord

Global Pride Summit Creator/Host

Reverend. Husband. Proud, Self-loving, Gay Man.