

How Gay People are Destroying Society

Andrew McFarland Campbell

Note to the reader: this is filed under fiction. It is up to you to decide how much, if any, is true.

Sometimes it seems like every time you turn the TV on there is someone, usually a conservative Christian, complaining that same-sex marriage, civil partnerships, or even just the existence of gay people is going to destroy society.

At least I'm told that's what it's like. I rarely watch TV these days, preferring the Internet as a source of news and entertainment. On the Internet there is a *huge* number of people complaining that same-sex marriage, civil partnerships, or even just the existence of gay people is going to destroy society. Yay for the Internet.

Up until last Sunday morning, It was hard for me, an openly gay man who is living in a relationship that has been formalised with both a civil partnership and a church-celebrated religious commitment ceremony, to understand this. I don't particularly do anything that might destroy society, and I suspect that the extra VAT that the government collects due to my aromatherapy oils actually helps to prop society up a bit. After all, as Tesco says, every little helps.

On Sunday morning I had a moment of epiphany, a mere 37 days after Epiphany itself. I witnessed with my own eyes exactly how I, an openly gay man who is living in a relationship that has been formalised with both a civil partnership and a church-celebrated religious commitment ceremony, am destroying society. And I felt ashamed.

I was walking to church – because I like to think of myself as a low-carbon-footprint Christian – and was crossing the road at a particularly complex junction. I was standing on a traffic island, quietly minding my own business, waiting for the lights to change.

All of a sudden I was startled by a car horn. I looked to my right, and saw a grey car that had evidently been trying to change from the lane that would have taken him in front of me into the lane that would have taken him behind me. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough room for him to do that, and so the car that he nearly smashed into tooted his horn, and the grey car reverted to his original lane.

As the grey car passed me, I recognised the driver, even though he was staring straight ahead and not looking towards me at all. The grey car was being driven by a friend from the church I used to belong to. The church that would no longer have me as a member once they realised that I was an openly gay man (although I was not, at that stage, in any sort of relationship at all, with or without any formalisation). The friend was one of the people who 'encouraged' me to leave that church.

This experience made me realise how dangerous I am – and by extension all gay men are – to society. It is clearly dangerous to be seen by an openly gay man who is living in a relationship that has been formalised with both a civil partnership and a church-celebrated religious commitment ceremony. So dangerous in fact that sometimes unorthodox driving is required to avoid our gaze. If gay men are allowed to freely roam the streets of Belfast, even in order to go to church, then we risk causing massive car

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accidents, maybe even bringing the whole road network grinding to a halt. Societal collapse would follow shortly thereafter.

It turns out the conservatives were right all along.

