

EXCLUSIVE: Dr. Robert Spitzer Apologizes to Gay Community for Infamous 'Ex-Gay' Study

Posted April 25th, 2012 by John M. Becker

Today, in a letter to Dr. Ken Zucker obtained exclusively by Truth Wins Out, Dr. Robert Spitzer made an unprecedented apology to the gay community — and victims of reparative therapy in particular — for his [infamous, now-repudiated](#) 2001 study that claimed some "highly motivated" homosexuals could go from gay to straight:

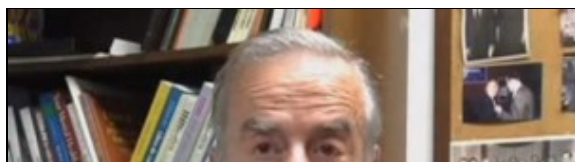
Several months ago I told you that because of my revised view of my 2001 study of reparative therapy changing sexual orientation, I was considering writing something that would acknowledge that I now judged the major critiques of the study as largely correct. After discussing my revised view of the study with Gabriel Arana, a reporter for *American Prospect*, and with Malcolm Ritter, an Associated Press science writer, I decided that I had to make public my current thinking about the study. Here it is.

Basic Research Question. From the beginning it was: "can some version of reparative therapy enable individuals to change their sexual orientation from homosexual to heterosexual?" Realizing that the study design made it impossible to answer this question, I suggested that the study could be viewed as answering the question, "how do individuals undergoing reparative therapy describe changes in sexual orientation?" — a not very interesting question.

The Fatal Flaw in the Study – There was no way to judge the credibility of subject reports of change in sexual orientation. I offered several (unconvincing) reasons why it was reasonable to assume that the subject's reports of change were credible and not self-deception or outright lying. But the simple fact is that there was no way to determine if the subject's accounts of change were valid.

I believe I owe the gay community an apology for my study making unproven claims of the efficacy of reparative therapy. I also apologize to any gay person who wasted time and energy undergoing some form of reparative therapy because they believed that I had proven that reparative therapy works with some "highly motivated" individuals.

Robert Spitzer. M.D.
Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry,
Columbia University



Zucker, to whom Spitzer's letter is addressed, is the editor of the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, the journal in which Spitzer's study was originally

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- [David W. Shelton](#): Looks like I need to be shopping at Homo Depot a little more often. Love those guys....
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study was originally published in 2001. At that time, the study was a surprise that created a [media firestorm](#) which captured the nation's attention. Dr. Spitzer was the last person in America one would have expected to produce a study

bolstering the claims of 'ex-gay' activists — after all, he had previously led the charge in 1972-73 to remove homosexuality from the list of mental disorders in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association. Earlier this month, Dr. Spitzer dealt "ex-gay" programs a fatal blow by officially renouncing his study in the *American Prospect* article he mentions in his letter above. That renunciation kicked out the final leg from the stool on which the proponents of 'ex-gay' therapy based their already shaky claims of success, or as Arana put it, removed from the ex-gay "fringe movement. . . its only shred of scientific support."

Dr. Spitzer's apology to the victims of "pray away the gay" therapy and the greater LGBT community marks a watershed moment in the fight against the "ex-gay" myth. We commend him for it, because not only will it solidify his legacy as a respected doctor and significant historical figure, but it will help to greatly hasten the day when the scourge that is reparative therapy is eradicated forever and LGBT people can live openly, honestly, and true to themselves.

Tags: [American Prospect](#), [APA](#), [Dr. Robert Spitzer](#), [DSM](#), [ex-gay therapy](#), [landmark apology](#), [Pray Away the Gay](#), [reparative therapy](#), [Spitzer study](#), [TWO Exclusive](#)

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96 Comments »

1. This is FANTASTIC. I'll be re-posting an excerpt of this later tonight. Awesome work, guys.

Comment by [David W. Shelton](#) — April 25, 2012 @ [3:55 pm](#)

2. To quote Basil Fawlty in the British television comedy, Fawlty Towers, "Well, that looks pretty bloody final to me."

It is a great pity that Dr Spitzer published this defective study during the final years of his brilliant career, but he isn't the first great man to go over the top and do something foolish, and I'm sure that he won't be the last. I'm reminded of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who published a book declaring his belief in fairies (the sort that live at the bottom of the garden) illustrated with obviously faked photographs which had been sent him of those creatures frolicking in the grass. Anyway, it is good that Dr Spitzer has now done the right thing both for himself and for the gay community. His honesty is to be commended. I'm sure that it will remove a burden from his mind in his years of retirement.

Comment by [William](#) — April 25, 2012 @ [4:28 pm](#)

3. Robert Spitzer~ Out of Focus – Video

First partial recant by Spitzer in 2006 – Interviewed and filmed @ Robert Spitzer's office @ Columbia University in NYC by Lisa Darden @ Hope Unlimited Productions for Truth Wins Out and the Documentary film project "For Such A Time As This" Very happy to hear that Spitzer is reiterating and making a very specific and direct

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recant at this time accompanied with an apology. Congratulations and may it be helpful to many struggling souls in the years to come.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwE6_dLweYo

Comment by LD — April 25, 2012 @ 4:52 pm

4. This is big news! My question: It seems that all the studies of “ex-gays” have the same “fatal flaw” than Spitzer admits he made:

“The Fatal Flaw in the Study – There was no way to judge the credibility of subject reports of change in sexual orientation. I offered several (unconvincing) reasons why it was reasonable to assume that the subject’s reports of change were credible and not self-deception or outright lying. But the simple fact is that there was no way to determine if the subject’s accounts of change were valid.”

Doesn’t the Jones and Yarhouse study of Exodus participants have that very same flaw?

Comment by Michael Bussee — April 25, 2012 @ 5:37 pm

5. Tumescence exams would go a long way to fixing that flaw, but “ex-gays” for some reason are terried of taking one.

Comment by RainbowPhoenix — April 25, 2012 @ 5:42 pm

6. Now that’s a proper public apology.

All of the frauds in the “ex-gay” industry: please take note of this one for when you finally get around to writing yours.

Or would you really rather go to your graves in eternal disgrace?

Comment by justme — April 25, 2012 @ 6:10 pm

7. It’s taken 11 years for this guy to admit what even a mediocre psychology undergraduate could see—that this “study” was nothing but propaganda serving the unscrupulous anti-gay mob of liars and fakes. How could anybody with a brain get taken in by those grifters? How did this clown ever acquire a reputation as a serious scholar? P T Barnum was right: there’s a sucker born every minute.

Comment by Jim — April 25, 2012 @ 6:22 pm

8. Michael Bussee, “Doesn’t the Jones and Yarhouse study of Exodus participants have that very same flaw?”

SGM- Yes I agree with you. BTW did you ever look at that website that Jones and Yarhouse set up for their study?

<http://www.exgaystudy.org/>

Comment by StraightGrandmother — April 25, 2012 @ 6:35 pm

9. Oh and Yarhouse comments on the Spitzer rebuttal on his website

<http://psychologyandchristianity.wordpress.com/>

Comment by StraightGrandmother — April 25, 2012 @ 6:37 pm

10. Thank you, Dr. Spitzer, for having the courage to tell the truth about your own misused research. This will help gay people and all pro-equality Americans. On the other hand, anti-gay proponents of the “ex-gay” myth will ignore it or explain it away. They will continue to push their quackery, because they love money and it’s an easy way to get lots of \$\$\$ without much effort.

Comment by Michael — April 25, 2012 @ 7:43 pm

11. REVISIONIST HISTORY!

For those of us who were active in the struggle to depathologize homosexuality in the late 60s and early 70s, Bob Spitzer was NOT our hero. Many articles have been written about the GAY and LESBIAN psychiatrists and psychologists who were the true heroes of the effort to eradicate all pathological references homosexuality from the DSM. The process of educating and re-educating Bob Spitzer took years, and it has been well documented (see, for example, Bayer's HOMOSEXUALITY AND AMERICAN PSYCHIATRY: THE POLITICS OF DIAGNOSIS, Basic Books, 1981; Rothblum's LESBIANS IN ACADEMIA, Routledge, 1997). PLEASE CHECK THE FACTS AND GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE!

Nanette Gartrell, MD

Comment by Nanette Gartrell, MD — April 25, 2012 @ [8:10 pm](#)

12. Nice, but how about also apologizing to the families and loved ones of all the gay people who have committed suicide because the so-called "reparative" therapy he once endorsed didn't "work"? Not to mention all the gay people who have been murdered, and their families and loved ones, because his past endorsement gave license to ignorant fools to engage in homicidal violence. His apology is a good start, but it doesn't seem like he realizes quite how much blood is still on his hands.

Comment by Ed — April 25, 2012 @ [9:02 pm](#)

13. With all due respect, an apology for Spitzer's bogus 2001 study does NOTHING to "solidify his legacy as a respected doctor." in my opinion.

1) You don't have to be a scientist, a Doctor, or a college grad to realize that his "study" was a sham from start to finish. No "respected doctor" would have carried out a study in the way he carried his 2001 study out (no control group, participants coming from a biased & questionable source, lack of willing participants & no way to objectively test the participants' claims that they changed their sexual orientation etc.)

2) In the "My So Called Ex-Gay Life" article where he talked to Gabriel Arana—it is mentioned that the reason Spitzer decided to come forward and retract his "study" was because 'he was afraid that the 2001 study would tarnish his legacy'— THAT IS APPALLING!!! This man is no more concerned with setting the record straight than any of the other charlatans he snuggled up to in the Ex-Gay Industry. He's 80 years old and probably at death's door and the only reason he's attempting to make this right is because 'HE'S AFRAID THE 2001 STUDY WOULD TARNISH HIS LEGACY'.

3) 11 Years have gone by since he conducted that study. ELEVEN years! You mean to tell me that it took this so-called accomplished and respected doctor 11 years to realize his "study" was a total crock of s**t?

4) Spitzer mentioned somewhere in an article that I read that from a research standpoint, he was always drawn to 'controversial subjects'. I think that alone speaks volumes. Because CONTROVERSY is how he made a name for himself in the medical field in the first place—And he used GAYS to do it. In my opinion, Spitzer probably did his 70's research because he knew it'd create a stir (which it did). Then...in the new millennium, after all the news about AIDS broke in the 80's and 90's—Spitzer probably figured he'd use Gays as pawns again to get himself back in the news. And what better way than to produce a "scientific study" that "proved" gay people don't have to live the gay lifestyle and can change if they are motivated enough to do so? Spitzer & his "ex-gay" croanies had scared parents all over the world begging their gay kids to "change" their sexual orientation. based on this bogus

when gay kids to change their sexual orientation, based on the Regier study. Once again...Spitzer found a way to get himself back in the spotlight.

5) Now it's 2012. After realizing what a crackpot he looks like. With the "Ex-gay" industry taking it's last dying breaths before it finally sputters out into extinction...NOW Spitzer wants to disassociate himself with his "study" and those on the fringe in an attempt to salvage his legacy.

Sorry Spitzer. This lesbian does NOT accept your self-serving apology made only to preserve your reputation. You've done too much damage. How many families did your study play a role in ruining after scared parents pleaded with their gay kids to "change" because they thought it was possible based on a "scientific study". What about the rash of gay teen suicides that have happened recently over the past decade while Spitzer sat quietly by? How many kids have been bullied at school because their classmates believe that sexual orientation is something that can be changed and is a choice? How many "ex-gay" dropouts have been hurt after going through sham reparative therapy? How many anti-gay, discriminatory laws have been passed in part due to people thinking sexual orientation is a "choice" (based on your study).

Sometimes "sorry" just doesn't cut it. Many homosexuals will forgive Spitzer. That's up to them. They have bigger hearts than I do. This man was never anything more than a publicity w***e who used gays as his pawns to make himself famous. As for his efforts to have homosexuality removed from the DSM...he said himself, eventually, it would have been removed even if he was not the one to spearhead the movement. I feel nothing for this man but contempt. Enjoy your afterlife

Spitzer. Wherever you end up, you'll be going there with gay blood on your hands.

Comment by Kim Smythe — April 25, 2012 @ [9:11 pm](#)

14. These studies always ignore the existance of bisexuality. The way it works is this. Say someone is 20% straight, 80% gay. Due to ignorance of bisexuality, or internalized biphobia, or lack of a bisexual community where they are, they identify as gay, since their attractions are mostly gay. Now their parents insist that they "pray away the gay," or go for the cure, or what ever. They are pressured and shamed until they stop acting on the gay urges. However, they always were a little bit bi, and if the right woman comes along, they can function sexually with her (probably while fantasizing about men). So they HAVE NOT CHANGED AT ALL. They were always bisexual, and are still bisexual. They are just a gay-leaning bi guy who is only acting on his straight urges, and who has been shamed into identifying as straight. The numbers of the men who go through these camps who kill themselves is HUGE; being shamed for something we don't chose is very damaging.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDiYeJ_bsQo

This heart-wrenching video shows ex-Exodus leaders admitting that they never changed ONE SINGLE person, and that they drove people to suicide, and apologizing. The studies keep piling up that prove that being gay, bisexual, and transgender is biological and we are born that way. All you can do is to make a gay person become celibate, and a bisexual person only act on their straight urges. I have seen a few videos of people claiming that they were "cured" by these camps, and are now with women, but again, I suspect they are bi people acting straight.

Comment by Estraven — April 25, 2012 @ [10:10 pm](#)

15. As good as this is, a Doctor of Psychiatry should have known better from the start that a highly motivated individual could deny their basic yearnings only at great detriment to their own mental health. He should

yearnings only at great detriment to their own mental health. He should leave the apology in a suicide note.

Comment by Christopher Gauthier — April 25, 2012 @ [10:56 pm](#)

16. The fatal flaw is a two edge sword. Sexual orientation is such a subjective matter, there was no way to judge the credibility of subject reports of sexual orientation, after all.

Comment by Jerry3130 — April 26, 2012 @ [12:12 am](#)

17. For four decades, Robert Spitzer has played pivotal roles in mental health policies – not only on sexual orientation, but on gender diversity as well. This week, Spitzer conspicuously failed to retract a lifetime of trans psychopathologization, stereotyping gender identities and expression that differ from assigned birth roles as mental disease. This omission speaks to marginalization and scapegoating of trans and especially transsexual people by mental health policymakers. Just as disappointing, G/L movement leaders and progressive journalists have responded to this omission with silence and tacit approval.

Shifting stigma from one oppressed class to a more oppressed class is not real change.

See

http://www.bilerico.com/2012/04/gender_diversity_scapegoating_erasure_in_medicine_1.php

Comment by Kelley Winters — April 26, 2012 @ [12:16 am](#)

18. Actually, michael, the jones and Yarhouse study itself admitted that it was highly flawed. The “change” described was difficult, complicated, to use their words. I know of no one whose sexuality is difficult and complicated unless they choose to make it so.

Comment by Ben in Oakland — April 26, 2012 @ [6:42 am](#)

19. Estraven said “These studies always ignore the existence of bisexuality.”.

Yes, that fact always has me tearing out my hair. I agree wholeheartedly with everything you said.

Comment by Priya Lynn — April 26, 2012 @ [12:28 pm](#)

20. [...] letter is also noteworthy because it contains an apology for the harm his study caused to victims of “pray away the gay” therapy and to the greater LGBT [...]

Pingback by [Truth Wins Out - Dr. Robert Spitzer Apologizes to Gay Community in Unprecedented Letter to Scientific Journal](#) — April 26, 2012 @ [2:43 pm](#)

21. I’m sure all the gays that have been killed, and have killed themselves feel better. And I’m sure the kids that have been forced into reparative therapy and tortured feel better too.

I’m sorry, but self-reporting changes in sexual orientation should have never been scientifically valid. Did you know people lie? Did you know people can live in denial? WTF?

Comment by Gex — April 26, 2012 @ [10:22 pm](#)

22. I don’t understand the legitimacy of his retraction. He is saying that the study is flawed because they could have all been lying. How are studies that rate change in depression done, change in alcoholism done, or change in domestic abuse performed and analyzed? They are done in the exact same way. You interview the client to establish that, first, there is a problem in the relationship, then you re-interview the

client again to find out if they think that there is no longer a problem. What kind of objective standards could be used otherwise? This stuff is not like going to the hospital for a broken leg! Things that occur mentally have to do with thought and are expressed through speech and behavior. There is nothing wrong with the Spitzer study, just Mr. Spitzer thinks there is something wrong with his interpretation. Unfortunately, he seems not to be aware of how all other kinds of change research is done in large patient groups. This retraction makes him less of a scientist and more of a coward who bent due to discriminatory practices from ex-gay hate groups. And in this case, I'm really having trouble understanding how else "effectiveness" could be measured, ignoring the wife, the kids, the happiness; what objective standards are left to tell the therapist, "This person is not gay

anymore"?

Comment by Joey — April 27, 2012 @ [12:32 am](#)

23. Joey, how about a measure of sexual attraction? Something that shows that the person isn't simply pretending to be a heterosexual.

Comment by Emma — April 27, 2012 @ [12:53 am](#)

24. Joey:

I guess you are so smart you know better than the actual scientist who conducted the study. Whatever.

Because "ex-gay" is fraud by nature and study participants also work as "ex-gay" for pay hucksters by right wing political hack groups, their answers can't be trusted. I have long urged that so-called "ex-gays" submit to polygraphs, No Lie MRI's and penile plethysmographs to physically test if they have actually changed.

Because "ex-gays" are full of it, they have repeatedly refused to submit to such physical measures. They would rather spin tales of change than actually prove it. Want to talk about cowards? Look no further than the so-called "ex-gays."

Joey, let me know when they are ready to test. Until then, you are nothing more than a dishonest shill with an agenda.

Comment by Wayne Besen — April 27, 2012 @ [1:07 am](#)

25. Im glad you think we should put ex-gays on polygraph tests. Of course then we would have to re-evaluate all of psychological research with depression, bi-polar disorder, and other mental disorders and make sure all those patients were telling the truth right? The reason no one would think about doing such a thing is simply because political liberals have just as much of an agenda as of right wing fanatics. Homosexual studies are overly critised because some people just don't want to change, they want to be "normal".

Comment by Joey — April 27, 2012 @ [2:22 am](#)

26. I don't really care either way...I am neither motivated by Christianity, being that I'm agnostic, nor motivated by gay activist groups who like to over-exaggerate and misrepresent a lot of research. I'm just saying that the reason for Mr. Spitzer's retraction for the article is ridiculous. Look at the editors response when he first wanted to do it, "I said, 'I'm not sure what you want to retract, Bob. You didn't falsify the data. You didn't commit egregious statistical errors in analyzing the data. You didn't make up the data. There were various commentaries on your paper, some positive, some negative, some in between. So the only thing that you seem to want to retract is your interpretation of the data, and lots of people have already criticized you for interpretation,

methodological issues, etc.”...There is something very fishy about all this is all I’m saying.

Comment by Joey — April 27, 2012 @ [2:27 am](#)

27. Joey, who probably got all C’s in high school and then likely cheated on his Vo-Tech entrance exam, thinks he knows better than the scientific community, including the researcher who now sees the flaws in his own study and has the balls to admit it. Surely, we are all very impressed! Now, please, get back to pumping my gas, sir.

Comment by Evan Hurst — April 27, 2012 @ [5:04 am](#)

28. “So the only thing that you seem to want to retract is your interpretation of the data, and lots of people have already criticized you for interpretation, methodological issues, etc.”

And Spitzer wants it to be known that he now concurs with those criticisms. You can’t meaningfully retract an actual study, unless you are doing so on the grounds that it was based on fraudulent or erroneous data. But it does make sense to announce that you have decided that the study was indeed methodologically unsound, and that you now therefore retract the conclusions to which you previously came on the basis of it, in other words that you have ceased to believe that it demonstrates what you once maintained that it did. That is a perfectly reasonable thing for Spitzer to do.

Comment by William — April 27, 2012 @ [5:32 am](#)

29. [...] which Maddow discussed the implications of Dr. Robert Spitzer’s historic retraction of and apology for his infamous 2001 study that claimed certain “highly motivated” homosexuals could [...]

Pingback by [Truth Wins Out - Rachel Maddow Gives ‘Kudos and Thanks’ to TWO](#) — April 27, 2012 @ [9:02 am](#)

30. I have been arguing against Dr. Spitzer’s study for years. Spitzer keeps saying that there’s no way to know if people who claim to have changed their sexual orientation are being honest. But there is. That is why the plethysmograph was invented. Check out this (partial) article from Wikipedia, “The original volumetric was developed during the 1950s by Kurt Freund in then-Czechoslovakia. Freund later wrote, “In the early fifties homosexual interaction was still an indictable offense in Czechoslovakia. I was of course opposed to this measure, but I still thought, as did my colleagues at the psychiatric university hospital in Prague where I was working, that homosexuality was an experientially acquired neurosis” (p. 223)[6] He then developed phallometry to replace psychoanalytic methods of assessment because “[P]sychoanalysis had turned out to be a failure, virtually unusable as an instrument for individual diagnosis or research....When phallometry began to look promising as a test of erotic sex and age preferences, we started using it mainly as a test of pedophilia, that is determining who has an erotic preference for children over adults” (p. 223-224).

In post-World-War-II Czechoslovakia, Freund was assigned by the communist government the task of identifying among military conscripts men who were falsely declaring themselves to be gay.[7] “Freund (1957) developed the first device, which measured penile volume changes... to distinguish heterosexual and homosexual males for the Czechoslovakian army.” [8] When he escaped Europe for Canada, Freund was able to pursue his research using phallometry for the assessment of sexual offenders.[7] At that time, attempts to develop methods of changing homosexual men into heterosexual men were being made by many sexologists, including John Bancroft,[9] Albert Ellis,[10] and William Masters of the Masters and Johnson Institute.[11] Because phallometry showed that such methods were failures, Freund was among the first sexologists to declare that such attempts were

unethical.[7][12]"

Comment by John A. Leopard — April 27, 2012 @ [11:42 am](#)

31. John, your quotation mentions John Bancroft. In his short paper about the Spitzer study (2003) Bancroft briefly mentions his own attempts in the 1960s to modify the sexual orientation of gay men and says, "My experiences fairly quickly led me to conclude that such interventions were ineffective."

Similarly Kurt Freund himself claimed some success in the 1960s in changing the sexual orientation of gay men, "but the results were short-lived: by five years after the treatment all of the patients were experiencing homosexual feelings again, and 87 percent of them were engaged in homosexual behaviour." (SIMON LEVAY, *Queer Science*, 1996)

Comment by William — April 27, 2012 @ [12:08 pm](#)

32. Anyone studying "ex-gays" has to take into account the mindset of many of the participants. The impact of "name-it-and-claim-it" theology on self-reports of "change" cannot be under-estimated.

It's not so much that "ex-gays" deliberately lie. It's more that they have a special way of looking at "belief". Those from more charismatic backgrounds are told that "what they profess in faith" will come to pass – if their faith is strong enough.

For example, such a believer may say, "I have been healed by Jesus" of this or that affliction – even though they still suffer from it. By proclaiming it on a spiritual level they help to bring it about on the physical level.

This idea of "claiming it on faith" is reinforced by such Biblical passages as "By His stripes we ARE healed" (past tense) and "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you HAVE received it, and it will be yours."

When these believers say, "My sexual orientation HAS changed", they may actually mean something closer to: "I strongly believe that my orientation has changed on the spiritual level and I am professing faith (confident hope) that it will also be true on the physical level."

That's what I meant when I said I was "ex-gay". It was what John Smid meant. It's what many of the men in our ministries meant. But these were self-reports of our hope – not a factual reality – believing (in faith) that what had changed on the spiritual level would manifest itself on the physical.

Comment by Michael Bussee — April 27, 2012 @ [4:17 pm](#)

33. Honest minds can disagree, even with themselves.

"Do I contradict myself? Very well, then, I contradict myself; I am large — I contain multitudes."

— Walt Whitman

Comment by jl@sf.us — April 27, 2012 @ [5:25 pm](#)

34. [...] The author of a controversial 2001 study upon which the Prop. 8 Proponents based their claim has now denounced the study and written a heart-felt apology to the entire gay community: I believe I owe the gay community an apology for my study making [...]

Pingback by ["I Owe the Gay Community an Apology." Says Author of Controversial "Ex-Gay" Study | American Foundation for Equal Rights](#) — April 28, 2012 @ [12:40 pm](#)

35. HE SHOULD BE STRIPPED OF HIS TITLE!!

Comment by M J — April 29, 2012 @ [11:17 am](#)

36. Everyone has the right to be whatever they want to be, including exgay. Stop the hate and violence against exgays!

Comment by MJ — April 29, 2012 @ [4:53 pm](#)

37. Everyone has the right to be whatever they want to be. Including exgay. Stop the hate and violence against exgays!

Comment by MJ — April 29, 2012 @ [4:54 pm](#)

38. MJ:

Wow, you are a sore loser.

Comment by Wayne Besen — April 29, 2012 @ [4:57 pm](#)

39. MJ, there's never been any violence by gays on "exgays". The only time they're hated is when they seek to oppress gays and deny them equal rights – if they stop being bullies they'll be left alone.

And no "exgay" wants to suppress their sexuality for personal reasons, they unfortunately sacrifice their happiness to avoid the condemnation from people like you who tell them they'll be eternally tortured for harmless acts of love.

Comment by Priya Lynn — April 29, 2012 @ [5:09 pm](#)

40. I don't hate "ex-gays" I just find them kind of silly and sad.

Comment by emma — April 29, 2012 @ [5:13 pm](#)

41. Gays are constantly spewing hate and violence everywhere now. They are increasingly bashing even those that love them. The evidence is everywhere, even here. Get your head out of the sand! Stop the hate.

Comment by MJ — April 29, 2012 @ [5:19 pm](#)

42. No one has the right to determine if someone is happy or not. It is a personal decision and right. If someone is unhappy they have a choice; it is still a free country. Trying to infringe on the happiness of others is silly and sad.

Comment by MJ — April 29, 2012 @ [5:26 pm](#)

43. So, MJ, are you saying that ex-gays are not straight? Do ex-gays exist in some kind of nether world then? I thought in your world view that are absolutely only two sexual orientations (well, one, since you don't consider homosexual to be a "real" orientation).

Comment by PhilipJ — April 29, 2012 @ [5:28 pm](#)

44. Mj:

Please stop the "ex-gay" infringement on my happiness. Stop calling me sexually broken and perverse. Stop trying to pass laws to take away my rights. Stop insulting my family. You are doing everything in your power to infringe upon my happiness not the other way around.

It is LGBT people who fill the column of hate crime statistics. Not so called ex gays. That is delusion.

Comment by Wayne Besen — April 29, 2012 @ [5:37 pm](#)

45. Wayne, two wrongs don't make a right!

Comment by MJ — April 29, 2012 @ [5:42 pm](#)

Comment by MJ — April 29, 2012 @ [5:42 pm](#)

46. There are no laws to take away anything from gays. That is a delusion. Stop insulting our families.

Comment by MJ — April 29, 2012 @ [5:44 pm](#)

47. MJ, "There are no laws to take away anything from gays."

Are you an idiot?

Comment by Daniel — April 29, 2012 @ [6:04 pm](#)

48. What do you call laws that explicitly forbid any recognition of our families MJ?

Comment by RainbowPhoenix — April 29, 2012 @ [6:10 pm](#)

49. [...] Robert Spitzer. M.D. Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, Columbia University, U.S.A. 25 April 2012, cited:
<http://beta.truthwinsout.org/news> [...]

Pingback by [On the psychopathology of homosexuality « Just a Bahai Blog](#) — April 29, 2012 @ [6:10 pm](#)

50. Obviously MJ is either ignorant or blindly biased. This is an irrational person who can't be reasoned with. To say something so obviously untrue is just amazing.

Comment by Wayne Besen — April 29, 2012 @ [6:16 pm](#)

51. MJ, don't you realize that the "ex-gay" industry does not exist to make "ex-gays" happy. The reason it exists is to help facilitate the anti-gay industry's persecution of gay people – because the industry needs to convince itself and the general public that being gay is a choice and is changeable. The only problem is that the notion has been exposed as a big lie. Change of sexual orientation simply does not happen.

If "ex-gays" were simply and quietly celibate or pretending to be heterosexual, they would be left alone. But there is a huge army of professional "ex-gay" warriors who insist on telling the rest of us, and the general public, that we are perverts, sick, broken, deviates, sinners, and abominations, and that we must join them in their pathetic "ex-gay" charade, or else their loving barbaric god will condemn us to eternal torture.

Comment by Richard Rush — April 29, 2012 @ [7:50 pm](#)

52. Claiming that Spitzer's Study, dated 2003, is now repudiated and should be expunged from the record is typical of the totalitarianism that so prevalent in gay activist groups. Indeed, such actions were limited to totalitarian regimes like the old Soviet Union, where the faulty science of the biologist, Trofim Lysenko, could not be questioned for purely political reasons by Stalin and his successor Kruschev (which is alarmingly similar to the APA's stance on any research that even hints at the mutability of homosexuality and "Truth Wins Out's" stance on the Spitzer study).

Such actions are not only inappropriate and outside the bounds of a democratic society, such as ours, they're also not in keeping with standard scientific practice. Here's an excerpt from a Psychology Today article, dealing with the subject:

'A few months ago, Zucker told me, Spitzer had called Zucker wanting to talk about the latest DSM revision. During that call, according to Zucker, Spitzer "made some reference to regretting having done or publishing the study, and he said he wanted to retract it. My recollection of the conversation was something like this: I said, "I'm not

recollection of the conversation was something like this. I said, I'm not sure what you want to retract, Bob. You didn't falsify the data. You didn't commit egregious statistical errors in analyzing the data. You didn't make up the data. There were various commentaries on your paper, some positive, some negative, some in between. So the only thing that you seem to want to retract is your interpretation of the data, and lots of people have already criticized you for interpretation, methodological issues, etc."

Link: <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/fetishes-i-dont-get/201204/how-ex-ex-gay-study>

In the article, Zuckerman also went on to say that he would have published a letter from Spitzer, changing his interpretation, had he requested it. Spitzer did not, so no letter was received nor published thus far.

Besides, despite questionable claims to the contrary, there is much credible research that supports the findings of Spitzer's study. Just a few examples are Drs. Mark Yarhouse of Regent University and Stanton Jones, who did a far more rigorous study with respect to methodology and internal checks, showing that differing degrees of change did occur among a significant percentage of homosexuals, who sought help from Exodus International. Other research documenting the mutability of homosexuality is in the Phd thesis of Dr. Elan Karten of Fordham University.

So to claim that Spitzer's study is no longer valid because of his recent statement to Dr. Zuckerman is false. Rather, a far more plausible reason for Spitzer's change of heart was the relentless pressure and intimidation that gay activist groups, like "Truth Wins Out" exerted upon him.

Comment by [Semyon Suslov](#) — April 29, 2012 @ [8:39 pm](#)

53. Spitzer's study was discredited long before he recanted. The methodology was simply so horrible that it's baffling that was accepted in any peer-reviewed journals.

There are also not any credible studies backing up Spitzer's study. They inevitably are shown to have totally falsified data or the subjects admit they were lying. Even the president of Exodus admitted that he has never actually seen someone change their orientation.

No one "intimidated" Spitzer except possibly bigots like you who needed an excuse to keep attacking gay people. Much like the totalitarian regimes you try to compare us to.

You have no evidence to back up your claims of "choice" and "mutability". You have a decades long chain of lies and blood. Nothing else.

Comment by [RainbowPhoenix](#) — April 29, 2012 @ [8:51 pm](#)

54. So, Semyon, since homosexuality is a choice, you (or any heterosexual) COULD wake up tomorrow morning and make a conscious, deliberate, decision to be gay, right?

Tell me at what age you made a conscious, deliberate, decision to be attracted to the opposite sex. If heterosexuality isn't a choice, how can homosexuals choose to become heterosexual?

Comment by [PhilipJ](#) — April 29, 2012 @ [9:52 pm](#)

55. [...] Spitzer. M.D. Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, Columbia University, U.S.A. 25 April 2012, cited: <http://beta.truthwinsout.org/news> On April 11th the Huffington Post ran this headline: "Psychiatrist Behind Controversial [...]

Pingback by [On the psychopathology of homosexuality « Just a Bahai Blog](#) — April 29, 2012 @ 9:52 pm

56. Claiming that Spitzer's study is not repudiated is typical of the totalitarianism that goes on in right wing Christian fundamentalist groups. No matter what the evidence says they will go on believing their bigoted anti-gay, homophobic beliefs. It's sad that no matter what the evidence shows they will cling to false beliefs to support their own biases.

Comment by Daniel — April 29, 2012 @ 10:31 pm

57. Semyon, Jones and Yarhouse defined successful change in orientation so loosely as to include those who still had same sex attractions and just had chosen not to act on them. Their study didn't prove anyone had changed orientation and has been thoroughly discredited. There has never been any study showing any successful changes in orientation, it simply does not happen.

The idea that Spitzer gave in to pressure isn't credible. The heavy criticism came shortly after his study, maybe 2 years at the most and discussion of it had diminished to practically nothing in the last several years. The idea that he resisted heavy criticism early on and then after 11 years when no one was talking about it decided it was too much and gave in is laughable.

Comment by Priya Lynn — April 29, 2012 @ 11:00 pm

58. Wow, Priya, I didn't realize that I qualify as an ex-gay! :-) I've been abstinent (mostly by choice, and certainly not due to moral/religious strictures – I'm just too damn picky) for almost 6 years...but I still consider myself as gay as I ever was. My physical/emotional/intellectual attractions haven't changed – and I sure don't want them to !

Comment by PhilipJ — April 29, 2012 @ 11:18 pm

59. That's right Philip, according to Jones and Yarhouse you've successfully changed your orientation from gay to heterosexual.

I spent 9 years celibate myself, once again, it had nothing to do with religion, lol.

Comment by Priya Lynn — April 30, 2012 @ 12:05 am

60. In response to Priya Lynn's comment no. 57:

No matter the emotional, mental, or behavioral issue it seeks to change, psychotherapy never results in a 100% change 100% of the time. Rather, it results can range from elimination of the unwanted feelings to or a reduction in them such that the person experiencing the feelings can now cope with them. It's true whether the issue is depression, addiction, anxiety, or sexuality.

Thus, even though some homosexuals were not 100% successful at changing their orientation, they were successful at lessening it. Given the standards by which psychotherapy is considered successful, such an outcome is a success, showing that homosexuality is subject to differing degrees of change depending on the person and that it's a mutable trait.

The reasons why such findings are so important and must be pursued are here:

<http://marriage-onemanandonewoman.blogspot.com>

Comment by [Semyon Suslov](#) — April 30, 2012 @ [12:51 am](#)

61. Semyon, then it's an irresponsible fraud to say that people can go from gay to straight. And your blog is just bigoted claptrap.

Comment by [Daniel](#) — April 30, 2012 @ [1:10 am](#)

62. Except psychotherapy that attempts to change orientation has a zero percent success rate. Torture; no change. Castration (physical and chemical); no change. Hypnotism; no change. Prayer; no change. Lobotomies; no change. Catharsis; no change. Nothing has ever produced a proven change to a person's orientation. Just broken people and families.

But that doesn't matter to you Semyon. The only thing that matters to you is that gay people are continued to be treated as sub-human. The blood on your hands and the broken families in your wake don't matter to you as you still have special treatment.

Comment by [RainbowPhoenix](#) — April 30, 2012 @ [1:18 am](#)

63. Semyon, why would you want gay men to marry straight women—or lesbians for that matter. Or for lesbians to marry straight men or gay men? Why would you wish future unhappiness on all these people? Why would you want people to marry people they are not attracted to—that they have to work so hard at being intimate with? You're a really cruel person.

Comment by [db](#) — April 30, 2012 @ [1:20 am](#)

64. Wow, after reading your blog I find you even more delusional. From your first paragraph—being treated with “courtesy” isn't a right. I don't care if you're nice to me. I'd rather have equal rights, including the right to marry the person I choose.

Comment by [db](#) — April 30, 2012 @ [1:25 am](#)

65. “Everyone has the right to be whatever they want to be. Including exgay.”

That's why I'm a lovely, magical unicorn whose every step leaves behind a trail of flowers in my wake. Because that's what I want to be.

But why on Earth would anyone want to pretend they're something as ridiculously fictional as an “ex-gay”? At least my unicorn fantasy is fun.

Comment by [justme](#) — April 30, 2012 @ [3:07 am](#)

66. Semyon, my same-sex feelings are NOT unwanted, so I see no reason to pursue any “ex-gay” program. I'm not highly motivated to change so I wouldn't cooperate anyway.

I think we need to start calling out people who believe that “conversion therapy” works. If you REALLY think it's effective, it should be MANDATORY that your daughter(s) marry “ex-gay” men (and vice-versa). There are claims of tens of thousands (one source says hundred of thousands) of “ex-gays”; surely your children can find ONE compatible person in that throng. If you balk AT ALL at your child marrying an “ex-gay”, then you are a hypocrite.

Comment by [PhilipJ](#) — April 30, 2012 @ [8:18 am](#)

67. Here is an example of a very HIGHLY motivated individual who didn't change orientation in the least:

<http://www.lgbtqnation.com/2011/08/survivor-mit-grad-student-samuel-brinton-remembers-ex-gay-therapy/>

I call on those who believe that “ex-gay” therapy (torture in this case) is effective to go through this same “therapy” that Samuel Brinton did themselves to change THEIR sexual orientation. Those who refuse to go through the same procedures that Samuel did are hypocrites (because you are asking someone to do something that you are not willing to do yourself); those who do go through and find their sexual orientation not changed (which won’t change) are liars. If the orientation of a highly motivated person like Samuel doesn’t change, it sure won’t work on those less motivated.

Comment by PhilipJ — April 30, 2012 @ 8:28 am

68. Heh, PhilipJ, but our same-sex attractions ARE unwanted – thing is, WE aren’t the ones who don’t want them...

Comment by OldBaldGuy — April 30, 2012 @ 8:30 am

69. Thanks, OBG...I meant to include that in my post. :-)

Comment by PhilipJ — April 30, 2012 @ 8:31 am

70. [...] stating that it had a major flaw. He apologized to the gay community for the study, writing an open letter exclusively published at Truth Wins Out, which read in part: " The Fatal Flaw in the Study [...]

Pingback by [Dr. Robert Spitzer, famous for helping to remove homosexuality from mental disorder classification and for publishing study supportive of 'ex-gay conversion therapy,' retracts conversion therapy study, citing a fatal flaw | God Discussion](#) — April 30, 2012 @ 9:44 pm

71. [...] apology is contained in a letter, addressed to Dr Ken Zucker, obtained by the website, Truth Wins Out. The full text of the letter can be found at the bottom of this [...]

Pingback by [GayTitle: World LGBT News » Robert Spitzer apologises to the gay community for 'ex-gay' study](#) — May 13, 2012 @ 9:42 pm

72. [...] EXCLUSIVE: Dr. Robert Spitzer Apologizes to Gay Community for Infamous ‘Ex-Gay’ Study (truthwinsout.org) [...]

Pingback by [Is Peter Saunders advocating torture of LGBT folk? » A Plaque Of Mice](#) — May 15, 2012 @ 9:08 am

73. [...] sexual orientation could be changed, but not only have his studies been discredited, he has apologized for the damage his flawed findings had caused. Several months ago I told you that because of [...]

Pingback by [Obama to come out of the closet? - Page 74](#) — May 17, 2012 @ 1:17 am

74. Yes, Dr. Spitzer, acknowledging your mistake and apologizing for it IS something. Thank you.

politicsbyeccehomo.wordpress.com

Comment by [chuck fraser](#) — May 18, 2012 @ 11:49 am

75. Even aside from House’s dictum ‘everybody lies’, sexuality is fluid. I’m primarily homosexual (my preferred label if I must have one, though I’ll answer to ‘gay’, ‘lesbian’, ‘bi’, or ‘queer’ for convenience’s sake) but in practice I’ve been all over the lot. Men and women are like bananas and cantaloupes; I’d rather slurp a cantaloupe, but sometimes I’ll take a banana, if it’s what’s on offer (and gentle and not too big), and for years at a time I won’t take anything at all. Psychology doesn’t even hammer square pegs into round holes; it hammers Silly Putty into them. It’s a pseudo-science.

Comment by ACW — May 18, 2012 @ [11:51 am](#)

76. ACW, having attractions to both men and women is not a fluid sexual orientation. Many people are strictly attracted to one sex and those that are bisexual cannot stop being attracted to both.

Comment by Priya Lynn — May 18, 2012 @ [11:56 am](#)

77. Some of you guys are missing the point:
Anyone can make a mistake. Anyone can be wrong.
We all are at times wrong, and we all make mistakes
(even the smartest among us). Sometimes it takes generations for mistakes to be recognized.
As many times as Dr Spitzer was right, on this he was wrong, and in spite of his professional record, he was also foolish to think his “study” was scientific.

Comment by Ken Weinberger — May 18, 2012 @ [12:30 pm](#)

78. I fully believe truth and enlightenment will win out over ignorance — someday. As sure as there was a Renaissance, as sure as enlightenment that flowed out of Paris in the 15th century did change the world, people will someday be left to live their lives “in the pursuit of happiness”. Here, Here! to two steps forward after one step back for a change, and just like that we have moved forward along our great human continuum. Kind of helps you from giving up sometimes, doesn't it...

Comment by nick — May 18, 2012 @ [1:05 pm](#)

79. Finally some truth. This is such an exciting time for the gay community. With gay marriage on the headlines and the first Black president to come out in support of it makes all those years of hell trying to change something that deep in my heart I knew wasn't possible, much time wasted. I almost took my own life thanks to these unethical studies. But today in these times, I've never been more politically charged and excited to fight the bigots who simply hate us. I don't want to take away their right to hate but I'm sure as hell not going to let them f*ck with my civil rights and liberties. I've come along way and proud to be a gay man. I encourage and plead everyone with a heart to donate to HRC or marriage equality.

Comment by Antonio — May 18, 2012 @ [2:49 pm](#)

80. Mr. Spitzer is right in that the “change” cannot be proven and those people who say they have been “cured” may well be lying. However, what applies to the “change” of sexual orientation, applies also to the determination of sexual orientation as such: It cannot be proven scientifically whether somebody is heterosexual, homosexual or something else; we always have to “rely” on what people are saying.

Comment by Andrea Stoll — May 18, 2012 @ [6:01 pm](#)

81. “It cannot be proven scientifically whether somebody is heterosexual, homosexual or something else; we always have to “rely” on what people are saying.”

Not true with men. We can measure attraction from men through a penile apparatus and in both sexes through a No Lie MRI.

No studies on ex-gays should ever be done in the future without taking psychical measures to ensure actual attraction is matching a research subjects words.

Comment by [Wayne Besen](#) — May 18, 2012 @ [6:10 pm](#)

82. [...] A draft of the letter has already leaked online and has been reported [1

Pingback by [NYT: Recanting on gay 'cure'](#) — May 18, 2012 @ 6:10 pm

83. It is always easy to abuse those who are already being abused. This so-called “professional” abused his privileges so that he could deliberately hurt millions of those who had no champions and no help. He is a sadistic monster just as were the Nazis who sent gays to the gas chamber. Parkinson’s is too good for him.

Comment by [Carlton Colquitt](#) — May 18, 2012 @ 6:26 pm

84. This is coming from a straight guy, and psych major from 20 years ago... so take from it what you will. I applaud his original contention that helped rid the books of “gay disorder”. I believe you’re born that way, just as I was born colorblind, my friend was born black, my wife was born a woman, and my cousin was born gay. But from a purely scientific perspective, you have to always consider a result that goes against your previous evidence. His fault lies not in considering counter-evidence, it was by doing it so poorly. It wasn’t scientifically proven evidence – it was hearsay. Again, straight dude talking, but I can’t imagine what it must be like growing up as an automatic outcast (essentially, and unfortunately). I’m sure someone in the LGBT community must have wished they weren’t that way, instead of embracing it as who they simply are. So consider that there’s a possibility that a therapy exists that helps that person “overcome” their sexual orientation, so that they are happier “being straight”, feel more accepted, etc. As a scientist, he had to consider that this was a possible option that ran counter to what previous evidence concluded. What he didn’t do was then form a hypothesis and test it, and see if it could be replicated and proven, and I think that’s where his apology comes from. He didn’t follow scientific process, but asking the question to find an opposing result is part of the process.

In my opinion, the worst thing is that those who are against the LGBT lifestyle *don’t* listen to scientific fact, and in another time would have been just as likely to claim I should be discriminated against because I can’t see the difference between some reds and greens. If they stopped listening to their 2,000 year old books, their preachers and their talk shows, and took fact as what it is, this would be a better world for all of us.

Comment by [Dustin](#) — May 18, 2012 @ 6:49 pm

85. His study should have been called “Can prayer and electric shock therapy make sinners lie their way into religious respectability?”

Comment by [krissy](#) — May 18, 2012 @ 8:27 pm

86. Dr. Spitzer:

There is much blood on your hands. I doubt that you will see this – but I can only hope.

Your apology is too little, too late. If you could bring back my foster-son who was essentially tortured by his “christian” employers until he took his own life at 27 – hanging himself in front of his mother, grandmother and nieces and nephews, maybe that would help.

Your “studies” were thrust into his face by people who did not have a scientific background to evaluate scientific validity but who were anxious to have some way to scientifically backup their prejudices.

I think you knew very well how your study would be received by those who selectively interrupt the bible to support their own preconceptions, and others who hate. You were seeking publicity and fame. I don’t see these people out campaigning for constitutional amendments against pork, for which there are many religious prohibitions by many otherwise

conflicting religions.

The very fact that you allowed it to be published without peer review speaks to your credentials as a scientist. And, as a scientist, you should be strongly aware of selection bias; your “study” reeks of it. As well as reporting, exclusion and confirmation bias. No, I believe that you were very well aware of the damage your “study” would do – you were seeking the spotlight again, recklessly ignoring the causalities you would never meet.

Hardly a day goes by that I don’t think of my son – and how so-called christians (intentionally a small ‘c’) used arguments that were partly based on your methods to tell him that he was going to hell.

I can’t recall any other time I’ve posted a response to any on-line report of any kind – but this causes me so much pain even now, five years later, that I can not now be silent. I will not be back to look at responses either, as this causes me too much pain, and I don’t care to see the bigots justify their hate.

There is much blood on your hands. Your statement was so little and so late, so justified as to be self-serving. I think that you only care for your reputation. I also think that history will see through your transparent attempt. I do not forgive you.

Don

Comment by Don — May 18, 2012 @ [11:39 pm](#)

87. Dustin: thanks for your post. A reminder, though: being gay isn’t a “lifestyle.” It’s an orientation.

Comment by [John M. Becker](#) — May 19, 2012 @ [12:36 am](#)

88. John, correction cited and approved! :)

Comment by Dustin — May 19, 2012 @ [7:43 am](#)

89. We’ve proven that being gay is not a choice, Are we now going to try to prove that unforgiveness is not as well?

Comment by Ron — May 19, 2012 @ [9:10 am](#)

90. I guess he apologizes to the community and those who tried the therapy and failed because the ones he hurt the most who tried to change and couldn’t and ultimately took their own lives because they couldn’t fathom life without their family’s acceptance are dead and he can’t apologize to them? And he continues to call himself a scientist until the end? So did Mengele. What he really should do is step down from his post at Columbia and turn his fat tenured pension over to the a financially strapped gay and lesbian youth organization. That would demonstrate to me he is truly sorry for the blood on his hands and that he isn’t just another washed up academic trying to keep his name alive because he never had an original thought of his own.

Comment by Bill Huron — May 19, 2012 @ [10:46 am](#)

91. Having never experienced any direct loss as a result of Spitzer’s study I don’t share the anger of many of you although I do understand it. I think its important to keep in mind that it would have been very easy for Spitzer to keep quiet and pretend he never did anything wrong and I’m grateful that he stood up to admit his failure.

Comment by Priya Lynn — May 19, 2012 @ [11:38 am](#)

92. i guess I can’t blame Spitzer for how his study has been used by the real culprits. the people with “blood on their hands” are the ones who used his study to advance their hateful agenda. perhaps Spitzer should

have known to what use his study would be put to. perhaps he should have never given any ammunition to the fanatics. but i don't think we can blame him for the hateful ways in which the study has been used. I think it's intellectually honest of him to admit the study was flawed.

Comment by Andy — May 19, 2012 @ [12:19 pm](#)

93. I read this article – very great. That led me to the Exodus International site, which is...I guess “laughable” is the word? Jeffrey Wallace, some Grand Poohbah worker, recruiter, mind-alterer, whatever, writes to his 100 teenaged soldiers of gay-conversion, “God hates all sins...” God “hates”? I would estimate this is a brand new piece of data for the already-confused youth of this organization.

God is One Who hates certain things. I wonder if he “hates” that I’m not capitalizing the h’s in this sentence as I repeatedly refer to him – god, that is. (Is it a hated sin not to use the shift button on g’s and h’s?)

It’s incredible to me that a person of mr. wallace’s stature (oops, again with those disrespecting lowercase letters) in this organization would teach his impressionable followers that we possess the POWER to create hatred in god. It’s also “incredible” to me that organizations like this factory of disenchantment and discontent can sustain itself in a world of ever-growing acceptance for one another.

Incredible.

No...I was more accurate with “laughable”.

Good GOD. (Caps merely for emphasis, you understand.)

- Joe Dougherty

Comment by DocORock — May 19, 2012 @ [2:02 pm](#)

94. I am a gay man. I have been so for my 73 years. After one failed marriage and before a subsequent but unsuccessful marriage to good women, I did several years of Freudian talk therapy to deal with the relationship loss and my homosexuality. It was an intellectually interesting but expensive process. My psychiatrist had a good reputation in one of the largest cities in the mid-west U.S. The therapy did nothing to change my sexual orientation and I am now certain from my own experience that my orientation is no choice any more than my ethnicity or race. Dr. Spitzer is to be commended for his apology.

Comment by fred breen — May 19, 2012 @ [2:37 pm](#)

95. The real joke is their belief that god not only confides in them what he allegedly hates, but that god, as it turns out, hates exactly the same things they do.

But it is blasphemy to suggest that god confides in them the status of his relationship with any other soul on earthl.

Comment by Ben In Oakland — May 19, 2012 @ [3:24 pm](#)

96. We often hear the mantra, “God is love,” but through observation of multitudes of His followers, it seems more like, “God is hate.” It’s fascinating to observe how often Christians redefine words to mean the opposite of their conventional definitions.

Comment by Richard Rush — May 19, 2012 @ [9:35 pm](#)

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