

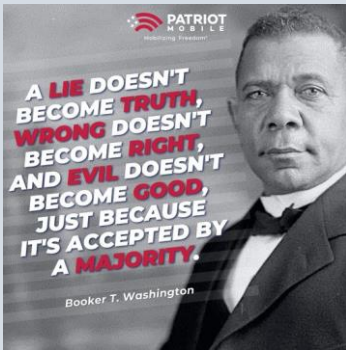


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BE STILL AND YOUR SOUL WILL SPEAK

“Anyone who does not love does not know God because God is love.” 1 John 4:8 The Voice



Dearest of All, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, this article is written in support of the Bisexual and Transgender believers. When I refer to believers, I'm speaking of the necessity of you KNOWING and believing that you are great and honorable. Do not, I repeat, do not give your greatness away or view yourself as less than because of the hetero-normative, fundamentalist doctrine.

May 17th is the International Day to Combat Bi-Trans-Homophobia. To succeed in the battle against homophobia – dislike of or prejudice against gay people –

self-love, self-acceptance, and self-appreciation, are powerful internal influences. The oppressor, the adversary (enemy) hurling homophobic, intolerant, and misogynistic (strongly prejudiced against women) language, is doing what they do. The adversary never wants you to KNOW that you are competent, creative, and capable of overcoming the isms that can imprison those of us who are different. BE mindful - different is not deficient.

It's no consolation that Black and Brown people are being gunned down by the very 'professionals' hired to protect us. Much like my fellow Veterans and BI-Trans family, we are 'othered' by outside forces. It's key to see oneself from the inside through the eyes of justice warriors. Attacks are going to come. Learning to dodge the propulsion of hatred from haters may not be easy, but it certainly is necessary. We must vote for people who have our best interest and we must worship in places where humanity is affirmed and celebrated. We must always reject, resist, and disregard the words used to hurt us, even when the words come from family, frenemies, politicians, and preachers.

Take your self-estimate from God. I realize many of us have walked away from unsafe places of worship where both wickedness and righteousness co-exist. You have nothing to prove to a God who already loves you. If you're wondering where God is: Look to **life**. If you're questioning what God is up to: Look to **healing**. If you're pondering what God cares about: Look for symbols of **wellness**. Practice these hints daily in preparation for the Intl Day to Combat Bi-Trans-Homophobia.

Thank you to the Lansing Journal for your invitation to write this article.