

Paganism In The 21st Century



Over the past two decades, disagreements about sexuality and gender have reached a fever pitch. The Progressive crowd uses a person's views on LGBTQ issues as a litmus test for cultural legitimacy, labeling anyone who does not support the pro-LGBTQ agenda in full as a racist, homophobe, transphobe, and generally unfit to participate in modern society.

Getting caught up in the rhetoric and forgetting the context is easy. The 21st-century LGBTQ phenomenon becomes clearer by looking at it through the lens of history.

The pagan Greeks and Romans sanctioned homosexuality, or at least did not consider it a social, civilization threatening crisis. Do your own research, but it's clear that in antiquity homosexuality, pederasty, and associated behaviors were perfectly acceptable.

Two thousand years ago, if you were a young male slave in the Roman Empire, men could rape you at will. A man penetrating another male (usually a boy under 20) was not considered odd, abhorrent, or effeminate behavior. In fact, there is no Latin word for "homosexuality" because sexuality was more about dominance than gender. Gay men were not considered per se sinful or perverted – many were property.

Then those awful Christians came along. Not only were the early Christians opposed to violence and war, but they had the gall to assert that the poor and sick deserved mercy and Caesar wasn't a God. They also believed that sexual relations were appropriate only between a man and his female wife. Talk about a radical idea in AD 100! Rome was scandalized. For three centuries, Christians were persecuted, tortured and murdered for espousing such heinous views.

Before we go any further, I must remind my Progressive Christian friends of some historical facts.

The Christian Church opposed homosexuality, pederasty, abortion, and the so-called 21st-century woke sexual and gender identity agenda from the beginning. If you think I'm in error, read the Didache, St. John Chrysostom, St. Augustine, the writings of the early Fathers, and numerous other sources.

When I see some Christian churches today embrace the LGBTQ agenda and claim that Jesus taught us that "love is love" and that there is nothing sinful in sexual acts between same-sex people, I'm

perplexed. Why? Because it was the Christian Church that made these acts immoral and transformed Rome from a pagan to a Christian empire.

If you want to assert that the Christian Church has been wrong in its historical abhorrence of homosexuality, gender fluidity, abortion, and so on, then okay, that's a legitimate argument. But don't pee down my back and tell me it's raining.

Progressive Christians argue for a return to pagan sexual mores, at least partly. They have not discovered some hidden mystery kept from the faithful for ages, that Jesus thought it was okay for same-sex people to have sex or marry, that sex outside of marriage was not a sin, and that gender was fluid.

The Romans built and sustained one of the greatest empires in history. They did this before there was such a thing as Christianity. So when my conservative Christian friends argue that the woke agenda will be the downfall of the American empire, I tell them that I doubt it.

People like me, straight Christian males with traditional views on sex and gender, must face a few unpleasant (from our perspective) realities.

The cultural landscape has changed. Judeo-Christian mores are no longer dominant. That means Dylan Mulvaney on Bud Light beer cans and men in female bikinis prancing on fashion runways are likely here to stay.

Traditional Christians like me also need to remember that, according to Jesus, mercy triumphs over judgment. If someone is confused about their gender, that's a tragedy, not something to be ridiculed. We must be compassionate without sacrificing our values. Regardless of how cruel the pagans are to those who disagree with them, we are not allowed to return hatred with more hatred.

Organized religion is in decline for a reason. Why? My generation did a poor job of living out and sharing our faith with our children. Over the past 50 years, out-of-wedlock births have skyrocketed, divorce rates have soared, pornography has become ubiquitous, and atheism turned into the new norm. Who is responsible for this spiritual and moral disaster? The Boomers, my generation.

So when cisgender folks like me hear people saying ludicrous things like men can become women and women can become men and watch horror shows of men dressed in drag reading stories to children, we must remember that we created the conditions for this return to paganism to thrive.

As an American, I fully support equal rights for all people, and I always have, not just in theory but in practice. Everyone deserves to be able to work, live and thrive. As we enter the post-Christian cultural age, we must value diversity and tolerance even more.

My civic duty is to fully support the civil rights of all people. Common sense and nuance are required in this effort. Generally, adults should be able to do what they want – if changing their gender through surgery and drugs is something they want to do, then let them.

But as a Christian, I will not engage in or voice support for acts and beliefs I believe are sinful. That's my choice, but I do not get to make that choice for others. Tolerance is not an endorsement. The most radical 21st-century pagans object to tolerance because they want to force people to endorse their agenda.

If we want to end the culture war, we can do it. Right now, today.

No one needs me, or people like me, to validate their lifestyle. Stop demanding that I embrace the LGBTQ agenda, use the correct pronouns, or support transgender transitions and surgeries for minors.

Do demand that, to the greatest possible extent, adults who want to live in non-traditional ways (gay marriages, as a different gender than their birth sex, in polygamous relationships, etc.) are allowed to do so in every civic respect.

To my Christian friends - stop being perpetually offended and set a good example. Are you frustrated that your children don't see the value in having kids of their own and have become raging Nihilists? I wonder how that happened. We are to blame.

Turn the focus back on yourself. Be sure you're living the life you're telling others to live. Lead by deeds, not by lecture.

We need to love one another as Jesus loves us. When we do more of that people notice and are persuaded that maybe, just maybe, embracing paganism is not the best path to happiness.