

Asher Brown

By Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins



According to www.Queerty.com, a 13 year old boy, Asher Brown, was "bullied to death." Asher was small in stature and also gay. His story could have turned out very differently. It could have been a wonderful blessing to know who he was so young (others sometimes can't accept themselves fully until their 20s, 30s, 40s, or later). Additionally, he came out to his parents who then affirmed and supported him (others have experienced rejection). To know and accept who he was so young in life and to have his family support and love him unconditionally could have been the makings of a very beautiful story. However...

At school, Asher was harassed. He was insulted, tormented, threatened, ridiculed, and even physically attacked. Apparently, he couldn't bear the thought of being treated so cruelly for the rest of Junior High, High School and possibly beyond. He found his step-father's handgun and killed himself.

Why do we continue to reach out with an affirming message to LBGT people? Sometimes those who have enjoyed our ministry for years and have become comfortable with who they are will say, "I'm more than just gay; why do we have to talk about it in church?" Or they will say, "We're past all that now, especially the younger generation. Nobody cares about sexual orientation anymore." The suicide attempts among queer youth, the homelessness among queer youth who have been tossed out of their homes, the bullying that takes places on school campuses, the hatred that is preached from pulpits, the reality of marriage inequality in this country and the fact that politicians will boldly campaign against same-gender loving people, and often win (!) all suggest that reaching out to LBGT people with compassion, affirmation, and hope continues to be a very needed ministry.

Even if we have found ways of living in safety and with joy, we must remember that not everyone has, and until there really is "liberty and justice for ALL" we must continue to offer hope and healing to our sisters and brothers who continue to be abused simply for being who they are.

God bless the ministry of Metropolitan Community Churches. God bless the memory of Asher Brown and God bless all who mourn his untimely death. Amen.

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