

Taking a Stantis

THOUGHTS FROM CHICAGO'S CARTOONIST

BY SCOTT STANTIS | [About](#)

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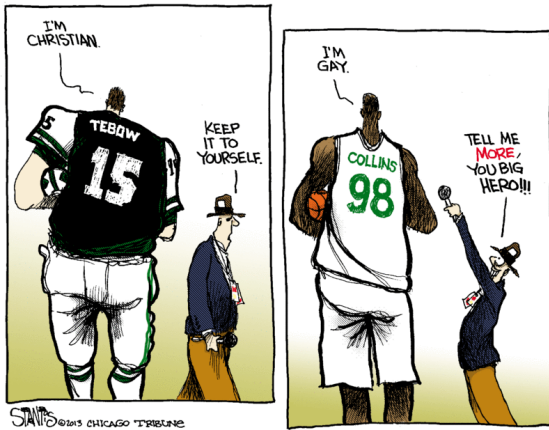
Collins, Tebow And The Media

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This cartoon is a comment not so much on either Tebow or Collins but, rather, on the media and the culture we live with today. The fact that we seem to care more about what a high profile athlete does with his privates versus what they believe. Faith often informs a person how to treat themselves and others around them. In Tebow's case his profession of faith was often met with derision.

While a hope and pray for nothing but the best for Jason Collins and Tim Tebow I pray harder for a culture that seems to be so very badly broken.



Posted at 09:27:39 PM

Comments



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This is a great commentary on the irony of an "open-minded" society that rewards progressive voices but condemns or shuns traditional. Thanks for illustrating the frustration so many people feel.

Posted by: michael ritter | 05/01/2013 at 06:59 AM

One potential reason is that religion is a choice, sexual preference is not.

Another could be that gays do not seemingly seek to "convert" others, but religious people will and have committed crimes against humanity to do so. A third is that religion lends itself to excess, destroying common sense, sense of perspective, compassion and empathy. For every Tim Tebow or Jimmy Carter whose faith betters himself and others, there's a Kirk Cameron, a Fred Phelps, a Jim Jones. A fourth is that being gay is not generally used as a justification or excuse for inhumanity, whereas religion as an inspiration for the better angels of our nature often seems more practiced in the breach than in the observance. If patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel, religion would likely be the first.

Posted by: Tim Sayeau | 05/01/2013 at 09:24 AM

Hmmm ... right after posting the above, I decided that 'seemingly' in the second sentence is a poor choice of a word. I used it because absolutes are rare in this world; to say 'no person would' or 'no cases exist' is to invite, even demand, to be proven incorrect.

Posted by: Tim Sayeau | 05/01/2013 at 09:33 AM

Scientifically speaking, no one is born a homosexual. The act of homosexuality is a learned behavior which can be unlearned. The practice of homosexuality is as detrimental to a society as stealing, murder and adultery.

Posted by: Alan | 05/01/2013 at 09:34 AM

The text in this cartoon came out from the Christian right within seconds of Jason Collins coming out as gay. The borrowed text was ridiculous then and it is ridiculous now in cartoon form. First, Tebow has been in our faces with his religion for years (as have thousands of pro athletes who thank God for every extra yard or bucket). Second, he actively uses it to recruit others to his religion, and others use it to recruit people. Third, his religion actively persecutes others - including gay people - so stands to reason people wouldn't want it in our faces over and over and over again. Fourth, it takes no courage whatsoever in America to be evangelical Christian. On the other hand it takes a great deal of courage to come out as an active player. The cartoon and its borrowed text resonate with the right wing because they can't stand that others are unbelievers. Oh and they hate gay people and can't stand that people would actually congratulate Jason Collins. Your cartoon feeds the broken culture and makes it worse so congrats on that.

Posted by: Kevin Boyer | 05/01/2013 at 09:38 AM

^^ As proof of the cartoon resonating with a certain type, and feeding the broken culture, witness the comment above by "Alan" comparing being gay with murder. Your cartoon will soon be spattered all over right wing websites and social media feed. Congrats on that also.

Posted by: Kevin Boyer | 05/01/2013 at 09:43 AM

Thank you for a powerful look at the world we live in and our so-called "values". I look at this cartoon with great sadness knowing that the good moral standings we teach our kids are twisted with such vulgarity, that they will never understand the importance of faith, but will be pinned against a wall and shunned if they take a stand for it! It's not only an eye-opening cartoon, but a heart-opening one too.

Posted by: Diane C. | 05/01/2013 at 11:24 AM

Scientifically speaking, there is no scientific basis for homosexuality being a learned behaviour. None. That, failing 'proof' that does not rely upon flawed research, assertions taken for facts, religious writings and arbitrary statements, is an absolute.

Posted by: Tim Sayeau | 05/01/2013 at 11:35 AM

typical conservative false equivalency. Here's how this cartoon is wrong:

#1: Christians are not an oppressed demographic. #2: religion and sexual preference are not comparable. #3: Christians are often the primary oppressors of homosexuals. #4: Christianity is NOT the religion of the US. There is no official religion, despite what that dipshit Palin has told you.

And for that troll who thinks homosexuality is a "learned" behavior, tell that to the thousands of other species with a significant homosexual population. You know, like dogs, cats, dolphins, frogs, snakes, birds, etc...

Posted by: Sean W. | 05/01/2013 at 12:19 PM

Before any assumptions are made of the fervency the "right wing websites and social media feeds" will have over this image, take a step back. This image is a comment on the media's facination with one set of morals while another set are constantly bashed.

Take ESPN for the most recent example. They issued a statement of "regret" over one of their commentator's viewpoints on the topic. When Chris Broussard was asked his take on the issue as a Christian, he more or less said although he personally does not condone homosexuality, he respects Jason Collin's bravery. So why is ESPN apologizing for this?

Posted by: Marcus Casas | 05/01/2013 at 01:47 PM

I find myself angry at times over issues that may or may not be my fault. Angry to the point of perhaps wishing harm on someone or something. I have self control and find the urges I know to be wrong for me and wrong for society in general.

I am attracted to many beautiful things in nature, yet, once again, I use self control over my feelings and emotions, and do not touch nor take that which is not mine, or that which would be wrong, wrong against nature.

The issue perhaps is not whether a person learns homosexual tendencies or is born with them, it is with what that person does with the inherently wrong feelings or emotions.

Many a man has seen a beautiful woman and in his mind has fantasized about an encounter and has left it at that. It is the deviant whom shows no self control that carries it to an evil end.

Posted by: Arthur E. Mueller | 05/01/2013 at 01:53 PM

"Scientifically speaking" ...? Yeah, right. Faith is something you adopt, and sexuality is something you're born with, scientifically speaking of course.

Scott, your cartoon is snark, and your wishy washy explanation is even worse. You must realize that true "Christians" who use the Bible to revile homosexuality ignore similar proscriptions against touching a pigskin--all within a few verses of each other. Nothing but cherry picking ancient texts.

Try praying for people to get smarter.

Posted by: Lenny Pincus | 05/01/2013 at 03:13 PM

Arthur,

Seems like your a deviant yourself according to the New Testament:

"But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." - Matthew 5:28

And if you're an adulterer, then your lumped in with the homosexuals:

"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers,

nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Picking and choosing indeed.

Posted by: Bobby | 05/01/2013 at 04:07 PM
Dang autocorrect: you're

Posted by: Bobby | 05/01/2013 at 04:10 PM

A cartoon is just a cartoon, and interpretations will vary; still, the implication here, I feel, is somewhat disingenuous. If Tim Tebow had kept his religious beliefs to himself, he would have faded into obscurity a whole lot faster than he did, since he is a crappy quarterback (albeit much better than I could ever be). He wears his Jesus on his sleeve, and as a result the media love affair with him continues to this day - no one was telling him to keep it to himself. I guarantee that most people will forget about Jason Collins' sexuality long before anyone forgets that Tebow loves his god.

Posted by: Bruce Sullivan | 05/01/2013 at 04:51 PM

What a load. How many times was Tebow on the cover of SI? How many times has Tebow kneeled on the field (Matthew 6:5)? Christian persecution complex is alive and well.

Posted by: Lester Ballard | 05/01/2013 at 05:46 PM

Are you kidding me? Tebow has had so much media hype over his religious beliefs to the point that it is annoying. Where do you get the idea that the media told Tebow they did not care? He was all over the TV praying and getting praise for being Christian. I guess you think it takes a strong person to say "Hey look. I am part of the majority" because that is all Tebow has done. Collins is a first and deserves the praise.

Posted by: David | 05/01/2013 at 08:13 PM

Whatever happened to sexual matters being private? This country is way too obsessed with sex in general. It's sad that parents have to turn the TV off so frequently because they would like their children to have an ounce of innocence still left before they get to their teen years. And this isn't a recent development considering I grew up with the Monica Lewinsky scandal being talked about day in day out.

Posted by: Your Friendly Neighborhood Prude | 05/01/2013 at 09:32 PM
Hmm, let's see if we can all spot the difference:

In Matthew 6:6, you have Jesus commanding you to pray in secret, so Tebow, a self-proclaimed follower of Jesus, completely disregards this and disobediently puts on a public display. Frequently. So frequently, that it becomes a parody of self-indulgent showy holier-than-thou-ism (rather than focusing on being a good quarterback).

Then you have Collins, who bravely comes out as the first gay professional athlete -- when every advisor and pundit suggests that it will be financial suicide (what national sponsor wants THAT?), and even the likely end of his professional career.

One is just the latest religious person to keep reminding everyone publicly that they're religious -- a religious role model that is completely unnecessary in light of the fact that there are churches in every town, religious programming on every television, on our money, surrounding us. The other is the very first to come out as gay before they retire, a significant role model for the millions of gays who have been told professional sports is out of their reach.

See the difference?

Posted by: Xuuths | 05/02/2013 at 08:57 AM

Sigh. Conservative thinking is, anymore, positively nonsensical. Mr. Stantis's cartoons are quite effective at highlighting the nonsense for everyone--not the effect he's going for, natch--so I say with all sincerity, Bravo! By all means, keep doing what you're doing.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mehta's* rejoinder nicely sums up this particular bit of nonsense:

"The idea, of course, is that the media is celebrating Collins for telling the world he's gay, while they were mostly annoyed by Tim Tebow for telling the world he's Christian.

"If that sentence seems weird to you, that's because the cartoon makes no sense.

"Collins did something no male in the NBA (or several other popular leagues) had done: He came out as gay while still playing professionally.

"Believe it or not, there's no shortage of Christians in any sporting league. Need evidence? Just listen to someone on the winning team during a post-game interview.

"When Tebow told the world he was Christian -- more Christian than other Christians, really, with his eye black messages and on-field prayers -- it was annoying. It doesn't take "courage" to proudly proclaim, "I'm in the majority!"

Not to mention, Tebow chose his religion; Collins didn't choose his sexuality. Tebow wanted you to become a Christian; Collins isn't trying to (in fact, can't) make you gay.

"Finally, Christianity of the sort that Tebow preaches is the reason people like Collins have such a hard time coming out. Tebow hasn't said anything disparaging about Collins, but evangelical Christians have no doubt acted like they're being oppressed by the "gay agenda" while at the same time being the oppressors.

"The main thing both players have in common right now is that they're each looking for a team to play on -- a team that will judge them for their skills and not what they say or do outside the game."

* <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/2013/05/01/memo-to-scott-stantis-tim-tebow-is-no-jason-collins/>

Posted by: ktward | 05/02/2013 at 09:24 AM

"It takes no courage whatsoever in America to be evangelical Christian." - Bingo.

Posted by: Nate | 05/02/2013 at 10:06 AM

Poor Arthur Mueller. Had to comment on a website about a snarky cartoon to discover he will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Poor Tim Tebow. Getting so unclean just touching the pigskin.

Poor Scott Stantis. Gets waylaid by his own attempt to crash history. Maybe he can re-publish all his pro-Dubya cartoons to remind us how wrong he can be.

Posted by: Lenny Pincus | 05/02/2013 at 12:21 PM

Fact is, the liberal media is intolerant. Tebow has as much courage in his little finger than most of you anonymous posters. I am glad Collins is not persecuted, and I hope he never is. There is no need. We will all stand before God.

Posted by: Bob | 05/02/2013 at 04:00 PM

Stantis, your art skills are a perfect match for your intellect.

Posted by: Nate | 05/02/2013 at 04:20 PM

I can prove being gay is by choice. All of you atheist that believe in evolution. Well believe this. Evolution says that creatures evolve to their surroundings; get better and adapt.

Well if everyone is gay how in the world will the population continue? Two gay guys pounding each other in the rear with their dirty butt hair isn't going to make babies. Therefore it is impossible for the species to survive and against everything Darwin preached.

All you gay lovers go pack a lunch because you just got powned.

Posted by: Your Moma | 05/02/2013 at 10:08 PM

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