

KIM STOCK

Judge yourself before others



Regardless of how you feel about the act of homosexuality, you must continue to love the person. It does no good to attend church on Sundays and pretend to worship if you're not living the lessons of the Lord.

homosexuals.

When one of the Pharisees, an expert in the law, asked Jesus, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22: 35-40).

Jesus tells us to "love your neighbor as yourself." Our neighbor may be Mr. Friendly, who lives in the green house with the toy poodle. Or perhaps our neighbor is Tom Hunk, who drives all of the women gaga when he strips off his shirt to mow his lawn. We even may live next to Joe, a man living in a figurative closet because he too admires Tom's biceps. Christians are supposed to love Joe as much as they love Mr. Friendly.

For those who look down on homosexuals, we must remember that the Lord taught us to be nonjudgmental. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven... For the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6: 37-38).

Christians believe we all sin. If this is true, how can we judge someone else's sin before we take a look at our own? Jesus asks us,

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to your own eye?" (Luke 6: 41).

We don't want to be cast out of society because of our own sins. God is the only one who is able to judge. By thinking we have a right to snub our noses at somebody else, we are vastly overestimating our importance. The truth is, we are no better than anyone else.

OK, does this mean that God doesn't think homosexuality is a sin? I don't know. All I know is what the Bible says. But, even if God does look at this act with "detest," we must still feel nothing but love and mercy. When Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive his brother who had sinned against him, Peter assumed the answer would be seven times. Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times" (Matthew 22: 24-25).

Again Jesus commands us to "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 7: 36).

Regardless of how you feel about the act of homosexuality, you must continue to love the person. It does no good to attend church on Sundays and pretend to worship if you're not living the lessons of the Lord.

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E. HUGHES SHANKS

Women aren't just skin-deep



A man cannot be free as long he looks at a woman as an object for sex. As long as a man looks at a woman's breasts or rear end first, he is limiting his thoughts.

Men seem to be conditioned to do a visual scan to evaluate women's body shapes. Our eyes automatically move back and forth between the breasts and the rear end. It's more than just a bad habit. It's like instinct.

A man cannot be free as long he looks at a woman as an object for sex. As long as a man looks at a woman's breasts or rear end first, he is limiting his thoughts. Even when he looks at her breasts and rear end second, his thoughts are limited. If a man's thoughts are limited to a "sex first" or a "sex or bust" attitude, he is lost.

Men seem to be locked into a way of thinking about women that is based on their sexuality. Men spend too much time looking at their bodies. The women they encounter are constantly at risk of being sexually evaluated even before they open their mouths to speak.

We don't even have to actually be thinking about sex at that moment. Still, we take any opportunity to look. Maybe looking isn't such a bad thing. But what purpose does it serve? Why do we do it so often?

It is so common. We all know it's there, but we ignore it. I think it would be great if women started saying things to men like, "Hey you, what are you looking at?" or "Eyes off my chest pal!"

It isn't true that all men look only at the sexuality of women. Besides, a woman's shape is thought to be the symbol of her sexuality. If that were true, only some women would have something to worry about, because most men have a "favorite" kind of body shape. But that isn't true. The problem is much bigger than that.

I'm not saying every woman who encounters a man is being sized up for sex. What I'm saying is that because men spend so much time looking at rear ends and breasts, they are bound to lose their

focus. Women can help us to break this pattern of behavior by telling us to stop it.

Picture this: Two men are in a serious conversation about something, and as a woman passes, they stop just to look. Sometimes one or both may comment; other times they may not. But the conversation stops. What's going on here?

I get the idea that, no matter what is happening, a man has some special right to think "sex!" any time he wants. Not only that, he seems to be allowed to talk freely about it, any time and anywhere.

I try to avoid situations in which I find myself with a group of men who allow their conversations to be interrupted while they size up women's bodies. Sometimes, in an instant, we thoughtlessly base a woman's entire worth on her shape. Even for that short amount of time, what a man does in the 10 seconds it takes for a woman to pass says a lot about where a man's head is.

If I had been looking at women's feet for all these years, it wouldn't bother me so much. Maybe I'm paranoid, but what else could we men be thinking about but sex?

With a conscious effort, I can keep my eyes at eye level and off women's bodies. I'm amazed at how hard it is sometimes to control where my eyes go. When I try, I can temporarily free myself from this odd behavior. It's odd, even though it's so common, because the shape of a woman's body has no real

meaning.

I know logically that a woman's sexuality is only a tiny part of her. But how did I get to the point at which I feel a need to take back control of my gaze?

How can society advance if men see women other than just as people? It isn't right to say it's OK to look at a woman's sexuality one minute and her "business sense" the next. The two don't mix. And you can't have one without the other. Putting the two together is, at the very least, unethical.

What part does a woman's sexuality play in daily life? It has absolutely nothing to do with anything, but from the looks of it, men would be lost without it.

Of what value is sexuality between men and women in everyday relationships? Men and women may think there is some connection between the two. They may think there is an "appropriate" amount of sexuality. But how much is that? And who gets to decide that anyway?

Is it OK for men to include the element of sexuality in their evaluations of women? As long as men are thinking to themselves, "nice ass" or "that thing is as big as my house," women are looked at as objects.

It really doesn't matter what a woman's butt looks like, does it?

Shanks is a graduate student and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

Rising Up For The Occasion... Halloween

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