

Gay and Transgender Issues in the Workplace

Pride or Shame? It's a Choice

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Being proud or ashamed of ourselves is a choice. That's true for all human beings, but here's an unscientific test that helps us focus on the choices of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.

You walk willingly into a clinic for electric shock therapy, psychoanalysis, or just fervent prayer, to eliminate your homosexual feelings. Pride or shame?

You're a male who starts wearing a touch of perfume, a hint of make-up, and androgynous clothing to work, or with your family, to signal your need for female expression. Pride or shame?

You have a spouse but choose to go to the wedding, funeral, or company picnic alone. Pride or shame?

Your girlfriend reaches across the restaurant table to hold your hand and you take it with a grateful smile. Pride or shame?

You're a gay, Catholic priest, brother, or nun with a lover, but you pretend in public that you're single and celibate. Pride or shame?

You're applying for a job, and in the application you write about your presidency of the campus lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender student group. Pride or shame?

Your parents and children ask to meet your friends but you only invite over the "straight-acting" ones. Pride or shame?

The doctor, dentist, and hospital forms ask if you're "married," "single," "divorced," or "separated." You write "same-sex partner." Pride or shame?

You and your beloved are asked, "Are you guys brothers?" or "Are you two sisters?" and you respond, "Do you really think we look alike?" Pride or shame?

You're sitting in the airport and the person sitting behind you uses the term "faggot" a couple of times in conversation on the cell phone. You get up and move away. Pride or shame?

Your Facebook page is filled with pictures of you and your beloved holding each other and kissing. Pride or shame?

You refuse to put a rainbow flag or equal-sign decal on your car because you think it's "flaunting." Pride or shame?

You think of heterosexual sex as love-making and beautiful. You think of gay and lesbian sex as love-making and beautiful. Pride or shame?

If someone could give you a pill that would make you straight, you'd take it. Pride or shame?

You feel angry and express your frustration when other people, including your spouse, acts as if there's something "not quite right" about being gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. Pride or shame?

We get to choose. Pride or shame?