

Us Versus Us by Andrew Marin

Cover

For decades now, we have found ourselves in a culture war:
Us Versus Them.

The good news: There is no them.

Our culture war has been a civil war: Us Versus Us.

This is the untold story of religion and the LGBT community.

Thankfully, there is a path toward peace...

1

The Hug



2

The Occasion



3

Anecdotal observations

Anecdotal observations after living in Boys Town in Chicago for some time (months or years):

1. Most LGBT people regularly attended a faith community for the majority of their youth.
2. Most had left the church after they came out.
3. Most still believed in God and were interested in one day finding a faith community.
4. Most were less concerned with a church's theology of homosexuality than they were with how they were treated by individual Christians at church.

4

Scientific Survey

He decided to do a scientific survey regarding LGBT and religion looking at four main factors:

1. Spirituality
2. LGBT acculturation
3. Religious acculturation
4. LGBT tolerance of religion

5

The survey took two or three years, some of his undergraduate and then graduate education. Looked at coverage, validity, and survey design quality. Once it was ready he used the Marin Foundation to fund the data collection. Over six years collected 1712 usable surveys, at least 21 from each state and Washington, DC. Results were reviewed by Dr. J. Michael Bailey (atheist proponent of LGBT) and Dr. Mark Yarhouse (conservative evangelical director of the Institute for the Study of Sexual Identity at Regent University).

6

Each of the 6 chapters explores one aspect of the survey.

- Chapter 1 considers the surprising finding that 86% of LGBT people were raised in a faith community from age 0 to 18.
- Chapter 2 explores the reality that 54% of LGBT people left their faith community after the age of 18.
- Chapter 3 highlights the 76% of LGBT people who are open to returning to faith and its practices.
- Chapter 4 details the faith practices that 36% of LGBT people continue after the age of 18.

7

- Chapter 5 explores the result that 80% of LGBT people regularly pray – whether or not they identify or affiliate with any religious faith.
- Chapter 6 considers the impact of coming out on LGBT religiosity, given that the average age of coming out is 17 and yet an unexpected portion of responders are still closeted well into adulthood (at an average age of 32.5).
- Appendices A-C give survey questions, demographics, and insight into the religious experience of LGBT.

8