

Sexuality On Hold

Although he can't remember the exact moment the thought first crossed his mind, Jay wonders if he's gay. Oh, there was the normal exploratory stuff that guys do when they're growing up, but nothing out of the ordinary. He wasn't abused when he was a kid, but now that he's in high school, the wondering has become a serious concern.

What bothers Jay is having no serious relationships with girls. His friendships with girls have been just that—friendships. It's not that Jay is attracted to guys, he just isn't attracted to girls. Yes, his relationship with his military father was horrible...yes, he is very close to his mother. But does that mean he's gay? And who's he supposed to talk with about this stuff?

Jay is an avid Pittsburgh Steeler fan, second-string quarterback on his high school team, he loves the outdoors, and runs track. He's active in his church and is thinking seriously of becoming an Episcopal priest.

Yet he's getting nervous because his friends pressure him about getting a girlfriend and comment about his apparent lack of sexual desire. "What's the deal, Jay, are you gay?" they joke now and then. He's afraid to talk to anyone he knows, including his youth worker—because what if he is gay? Or what if he isn't gay, but the person he talks to tells everyone? No way can he talk to his parents about the issue—especially his redneck dad.

Finally Jay figures out a way to deal with his problem. He'll ask a girl out to the prom—there are lots of girls who have let him know they're waiting for his phone call—he'll pressure her for sex, the word will get out, and then the guys will leave him alone. He'll worry about his sexuality later.



"Let me tell you why men are terrified of gays. Because most gays know how to treat a woman—kindly, gently, thoughtfully. They'll talk for hours and they know how to listen. Perhaps my closest friend is a gay person, and it drives my boyfriend up the wall. As much as I care about my boyfriend, he and I have yet to have a meaningful conversation. All he wants to do is talk about football and sex."

Carol

The Stats

About the relationship between self-esteem and coming out as a gay person to one's parents: among respondents 14 to 23 years old, young people with good self-esteem tended to be the ones who announced their sexual orientation to their parents.

Phillips Graduate Institute, 1996

By the Book...

For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God." So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans 14:7-12

1. What are Jay's options?



2. What would you do if you were Jay?

3. If Jay is a Christian, how could he consider the sex option?

4. Is Jay right in believing there is no one to talk to about this issue?