



Triumph of the Mockers: The Confessions of a Gay Rights Activist

F. Connor Cason

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You can go to any segment of American life and find the mockers, but the gay movement, as I will show, has been in the vanguard. In three decades, it has come from whispers to bold, public assertions of sexuality, in mocking tones, that have hardened us to any shock and disapproval. It has brought the gay life to a place of power at the expense of its members' health and safety. Political victories push forward a logic that questions everything. Resistance is mocked, and the mockery hardens into scorn. Scorn for the church marches forward as open hostility for any mention of the gospel. Scorn for education becomes gay curriculum for elementary schoolchildren. Scorn for employment appears as demands for the hiring of gay employees by organizations opposed to the lifestyle. The legitimate goals of civil rights are mocked by each new wave of frivolous lawsuits. An in-your-face defiance of anything rules the land. The mockers have triumphed. Society follows. As we look at the movies and the carefully choreographed television presentations of the absurd, our resistance fades into unspoken opposition or general acceptance. We begin not to notice the glaring inconsistencies of the gay life explained versus its realities never seen. Numbing comfort sets in. The church retreats into a new theology or hides altogether. The territory of mockers is off-limits. The advance of the mockers's most impressive among those who have never had an opinion of the gay life. They have observed their neighbors and employees, who are generally hard-working and who are models for the Americans striving for the best in life. They see gay entrepreneurs and those skilled in transforming homes and neighborhoods into postcard models of urban renewal. They are amused by the slightly crazy antics of the gay men they know. So happy, so campy. They strive to understand, but they do not see the details of that life....Many who are living the gay life are not even aware of the costs. - from Introduction.

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