

"It's not God's policy."

In a church I once attended,
Till my 18th birthday, my faith extended.
But then I realized, I didn't have to stay,
For my true self, I had found the way.

As I came out as gay, my path took a turn,
Leaving the church, I began to discern,
A sense of alienation, a feeling of shame,
Their teachings caused fear and brought me pain.

But I considered myself lucky, you see,
Not raised in Utah, most my family not religious, indeed.
I moved on, let go of resentment and strife,
But then a revelation changed the course of life.

The age for baptism, they decided to alter,
But only if your parents were seen as falter.
If you disapproved of their love and their bond,
The choice between dad and God would respond.

A shocking policy, against what they preach,
Family forever, their teachings beseech.
A new level of homophobia, it became clear,
The church's stance, one I never did hear.

And so, I reevaluated my resolve,
Witnessing their hatred that wouldn't dissolve.
Their fear of queers, their strict policies in place,
It was time to stand up, to fight and embrace.

My fiancé, an excommunicate, took the news hard,
His children still active, their hearts deeply scarred.
Divorce was tough, our engagement a blow,
Dad or God, they were forced to show.

But we couldn't stay silent, we had to act,
Engaging with haters, it was our pact.
My fiancé, an activist, always ready to fight,
While I, more passive, kept my opinions out of sight.

Protesting outside the churches annual conference,
Was not my usual form of defiance.
But I couldn't say no, I had to be there,
To support my love and show I care.

To my surprise, it wasn't what I expected,
No angry chants, no violence detected.
Protestors stood in a circle, sharing their pain,
LGBTQ, allies, and Christian allies, all the same.

My fiancé spoke, his voice filled with emotion,
Sharing his story, his children's devotion.
Inspiring and heartfelt, all testimonies were,
I felt the pull myself, yet still, I deferred.

But then I saw a churchgoing woman, brave and strong,
Risking excommunication, she stood among.
Interviewed by a camera crew, she stood her ground,
For love and devotion, her reasons profound.

Her courage ignited something within me,
I let the guy interview, for all to see.
I shared why I left, my views on the policy,
The church's prejudice, plain and simple, I could see.

"It's not God's policy," I proclaimed with might,
"But fear and arrogance that cloud their sight.
They claim infinite love, yet exclude the gays,
Their stance on family, it's all just a haze."

The church must recognize, leaders and all,
That love knows no bounds, it shouldn't fall.
For in the end, it's unity that we seek,
A world where acceptance and love freely speak.