

Queerology: A Podcast on Belief and Being

Episode 32 – Rae Ingram

Transcript

Matthias: If you enjoy listening to Queerology, then I need your help. Here is why. I created Queerology by myself on a shoestring budget, recording and editing every episode in my tiny closet. How's that for irony?

That's where you come in. Will you help keep Queerology on the air by supporting it financially? By tipping as little as \$1 a month, you can help me improve and keep making Queerology every week. All you have to do is jump over to MatthiasRoberts.com/support to make a pledge and listen away.

Hey friends. This is Matthias Roberts and you're listening to Queerology, a podcast on belief and being. This is episode 32.

Rae: People would almost rather that we say we have no faith at all than to say that we are followers of Christ.

Matthias: Rae Ingram is a poet, spoken word artist, writer, actress, student, and a lover of Christ. She's a Veteran of the US Army and is currently enrolled at Chicago Theological Seminary, where she's pursuing her master's in Divinity with a focus on chaplaincy. Rae is a huge advocate for relationship over religion, and enjoys to spending time with her wife and their first baby Carter.

Before we dive in, a couple of things. First, like I mentioned last week, over the break between seasons, we hit the level on my Patreon page, to be able to start offering transcripts of every episode. I am so grateful to be able to offer this, and it's because of the generosity of you all, so thank you. Thank you to everyone who supports Queerology on Patreon. I am just blown away.

Also, here's an opportunity. You've heard several guests on the podcast if you've been listening for a while, talk about the organization Evangelicals for Social Action. They're a progressive Christian organization and they're hosting their Oriented to Love retreat, which is a weekend that convenes Christians who normally wouldn't even meet, let alone listen to each other, with the purpose of fostering unity in Christ in spite of and across differences in theology.

So they bring together LGBT people and straight people who may not necessarily agree, and have a weekend retreat together to foster this unity. They host four of these retreats every year, and a number of guests who've been on Queerology have attended these retreats in the past. And the next one is going to be the first week of April, in Dallas.

So if this is something that piques your interest, there are links in the show notes. Applications for this are due by January 20th, but like I said, they do this four times a year across the country.

So definitely check it out, see if there's one coming near you. I would highly recommend it. They provide and foster kind of the protected space Alicia was talking about in the last episode, between LGBT people and other people in the church, and it's just an incredible opportunity. So go check out the show notes and maybe attend that event in Dallas in April.

I'm talking with Rae today about her new podcast QueerVotion, which is a podcast for queer Christians of color. This is an incredible podcast. It just started up last week with a pre-episode, and the first episode is actually launching on Wednesday. It will be releasing every Wednesday, but we'll let Rae talk about all of that, so let's go ahead and dive in.

Rae, hi. Welcome.

Rae: Hi. Thank you for having me.

Matthias: Yeah, I'm so excited to have you.

Rae: I'm super excited to be here.

Matthias: So to start, a question that I start every episode with, how do you identify, and then how would you say that your faith has helped form that identity?

Rae: I identify as a lesbian, a full-fledged lesbian here. With that, as far as my faith goes, I'll just say my identification in sexual preference in that capacity. As far as my faith goes and how I identify, I identify as a Christian and I'm a follower of Christ.

I grew up Muslim actually, so it has helped ... my faith has actually helped form who ... with me, especially in Christianity, with me being a lesbian, to be more open, to be more accepting of myself and others who are like me, but more importantly who are not like me, because when I think about Jesus, that's what I think about. I think about him being so accessible to people who were nothing like him, who were not always right there with him, even when we're thinking about his disciples, right? So as far as that goes, it's helped me just be more open and more in love with myself.

It's been a hard journey just speaking from my experience. Growing up Muslim, there's a lot of restraints, there's a lot of no's and do not's. So when I converted to Christianity, there was so much freedom in Christ. There was so much ... I want to just say arms wide open. It was really just kind of, come as you are and Christ is going to meet you right where you are. I know that's such an overstated thing, but that's really what happened for me.

And I've tried to keep that same energy up when it comes to myself, and when it comes to dealing with other people, when it comes to speaking with other people who may not necessarily agree with my orientation, or necessarily agree with even my blackness, or even my social economic status. But I've tried to remember to just be as open as Christ was when I met him when I'm dealing with those things, when I'm dealing with someone that may not necessarily be where I'm at and vice versa.

That's kind of how it's shaped. I hope that kind of answered it a little bit?

Matthias: Yeah. No, absolutely.

Rae: Okay.

Matthias: I'm hearing how you describe your faith transition and how ... I don't think you used the word "Constricting," but you said, "The no's," and I feel so many people ... me, this is coming from my experience, but for those of us who grew up in Christianity, I think a lot of us describe Christianity that same way of there are a lot of no's.

Rae: Really?

Matthias: To hear it from your perspective of that, of how open it was, it's refreshing. And I'd be curious if-

Rae: That was so not my ... I remember being in high school. We moved around so much, and I remember being in high school, and I would see these kids in Lexington, Kentucky, having Bible study. And here I was in hijab, and I would literally peek around the corner and just kind of listen. And I remember seeing the women, the girls ... I mean, they were girls, but they were so confident, and when they were reading Scripture, they were so on fire for this man. And I just remember being so envious of that, because I was so ashamed.

I was ashamed of just of having to be ... and just again, from my experience growing up Muslim ... in something that was just so misogynistic. I couldn't do a lot of things, and I don't mean like partying or anything like that. I couldn't have Bible study, I couldn't lead a Bible study for anybody if there were men in there. It was truly segregated. And when I think about Christ, I really think it's an inclusive thing. It's something that there's no gender, there's no race, there no cast system, none of this is there.

Yeah, that's interesting though, to hear your point of view. For me, it was just very open. It was like, wow. And I was like, "Okay, so this is it. This is what I'm here for." I've always known about Jesus, but we knew him in a capacity where he was a prophet and not the prophet. I was never blind to who he was and I did go to church with my grandmother growing up, just a little bit when I was fairly younger. So I always knew of Jesus, but I didn't know him. And when I finally came to know him, I knew without a doubt that this was where I wanted to be, and I wanted to walk along with him for the rest of my life.

Matthias: I would say that my faith has definitely transitioned into a place where I would say, absolutely yes. The Christian faith is one of inclusion, and it's such a beautiful vision, when taught that way.

Rae: Right. That part. That's the take-away. That is the take-away. Yes, sir. Too many people don't get that. Though it's like there's all these prerequisites that people want to put on God, and people want to put on Christ, and even other walks of life. And it's just like, but is that really God? Is that really what God would do? I don't think that's what Christ ... I just don't see that Christ would walk past this person on the street and ... you know, just different things of where our climate is at in our world now. And it's just like no, no, I just don't see that.

When I talk to people and we're talking about God, or we're talking about faith or religion, or divine, however you choose to reference God, I just remember ... or I try to remember I should say, that however you get to that peace is your peace. If Christ is my peace, no one can take that away. And I think a lot of times people want to try to put all of these things to say, "No. Well, you're not entitled to have a relationship with God."

I said on my podcast that people say all the time, "You can't be Christian and you can't be LGBT." I'm like, "That's a lie." That's a lie, as we say in the Christian church, "A lie from the pit of hell." You know how we say in the Southern Church, that's a lie. We're just like, "No. I can be," because if we start making prerequisites, none of us will make it.

None of us will be able to even take a look at God's glory, but if we start looking at people and start looking at things in a sense of grace, more things happen, more love happens, more social justice happens, more awareness happens. A lot of things happen and move, and that's where Christ is at. That's where Christ happens at, when we start taking off and get out of these whole prerequisites. There's no prerequisites when Christ said, "Whosoever." I'm the whosoever. You're the whosoever. You know?

Matthias: Yeah.

Rae: Sorry.

Matthias: No. It's so good because it's the truth.

Rae: I mean, yeah, I don't see Christ sitting up in a house, a mansion in the hills somewhere, looking down. I see him out here with us and working the streets, and talking to the people that ... people who normally just don't talk to.

And we're not saying that that person is not entitled to talk to Christ. There's no entitlement. No, that's the wrong message, and I think that if we can just unwrap literally from our minds what it means to be a follower of Christ, like really unwrap and really ... what is the word? I'm trying to think. Like, really dive into what that means when you say you're a Christian, regardless if we're gay, straight, an ally, whatever. If I'm a follower of Christ, what does that look like?

Matthias: You mentioned your podcast, and I'm so curious about that, because this is a new thing that you're doing, this podcast that you're starting. I would love to hear about it. It's called QueerVotion, right?

Rae: That is correct. Yes, sir.

Matthias: Tell me about QueerVotion.

Rae: Yeah. So, QueerVotion came out of my little fascination with podcasts. I constantly keep podcasts playing. And it was just something that ... I was on iTunes, and on SoundCloud, and I'm looking and I'm like, "Okay. All right God, I love you and I need to hear more of you throughout my day." I'm like everyone else, busy, and it's never a sense of I'm too busy for God, but it's moreso like, okay, I'm going to get this in but I first have to do these other task. But I wanted to create something that would allow me to be in a constant conversation with God throughout the week.

So I said, "Let me come up with QueerVotion," and I went through this battle back and forth of what to call it. And I'm looking on iTunes and SoundCloud, I'm like, "Okay. There's got to be something here for people of color."

A lot of people of color are so conflicted. We can't rationalize ourselves as being Christian and gay. It's hard. It is hard because we have been taught on Sunday mornings that one of us is wrong and it wasn't the Christian portion of me. And we're like, wait a minute. So most of us fall away from the church, so we don't attend.

I wanted to create something that was open and affirming, and that was a safe space for people of color to come, and our allies. And not just people of color, but that is who the demographic is for and who it's aimed at. Where they could come and I'll have a guest on, and we'll talk about a particular Scripture or Bible verse, and talk about how that particular Scripture has helped us get to our mountain top as well as through our valleys, and just talk about what God has done for us.

And there's going to be some journal prompts, there's going to be lots of laughter, because that's one of the things I love to do. But also, just remembering that Christ is at the core of it, and that we are the whosoever. And by we, I mean everyone. No one can say that you are not a Christian. No one can say that Christ did not die for you.

And I know I may be more on the extreme side of theology. We all have a spectrum. But that's pretty much what QueerVotion is about and I think we're in a space where we're just trying to get through our day. We're so busy, so I wanted this weekly podcast that could just keep people motivated, and keep them just knowing that they are loved, and reminding them of God's love, and reminding them that there is nothing wrong with you.

And it's geared towards the younger crowd, the Millennials, because a lot of them don't know God. A lot of them don't know church, and I don't mean that in the sense of a

building. I mean that in the sense of community. So I wanted to provide a sense of community through this space.

And yeah, that's it. The introduction episode is out, and we'll have another episode up next Wednesday, so I'm super excited about it. It's totally foreign to me.

I have absolutely no idea what I'm doing, and I'm okay with that. I think that's even the greater excitement of it, or the thrill of it, is that I have no idea what I'm doing, but I know that there's a need for it, and it's something that I've been working on for months. And I've just been very quiet about it, but I'm so excited to talk about it and just to see what happens, and to see not only people's lives impacted, but my life impacted, and my life changed, and my spirituality grown, just challenged with conversations. Yeah.

Matthias: Right. I'm hearing you talking about this and I'm thinking back to when I started this podcast and I was in the same boat. I was like, I have literally no idea what I'm doing, but I just want to talk to people.

Rae: Yes. I'm on YouTube, so how do I get my RSS code?

Matthias: Right, right.

Rae: So, what do I do? I have no idea.

My wife is so awesome, because she's like, "Just YouTube it and you'll figure it out." She has so much more faith in me than I have in myself. So I'm like, "Okay." And YouTube has been phenomenal. And I've been looking at other people's podcasts and their websites just to kind of get an idea, okay, this is how this goes.

But at the end of the day, I felt like this was a need. I wanted to be able to hear people that sounded like me, that grew up like me, who kind of just have this ... I think, representation is so important, and it's not to take anything away from anybody that's already out there doing this. It's just, I think, to be able to provide another safe space where people can feel ... especially people of color who can feel like, "Okay, wow. You're right. I can have a relationship with God and no one has the authority to take that away for me because nothing can separate us."

And people are so timid and scared that they will allow people to, so I'm hoping that with this space we can just reinforce that Christ is here for everybody and there is so much room at the table for all of us.

Matthias: I mean, you're right. I think about that need for a podcast like what you're doing. I mean, I can talk to people of color all I want on this podcast, but it's not going to provide that space of safety that your podcast will. It's so good.

Rae: I'm sorry to cut you off-

Matthias: No, go ahead.

Rae: ... but I'm really hoping that also it provides a space for those who may not be ... who aren't people of color, to still feel comfortable to learn and to come in and hear and see, okay, this is what happens, or this is how ... I hate to use this but I'm going to have to say it, but this is how kind of the majority of the black churches work, or this is how ... I don't like saying that, but it's kind of like people are so timid sometimes when there's something foreign to them, so I'm hoping that this provides a space that people will be like, "Oh, okay. That's not awkward," or, "Yeah, it's different," or, "Oh, I'm not very familiar with it, but hey, it doesn't mean that it's wrong, or it doesn't mean that I can't be familiar with it, or I can't learn about it."

I'm really hoping that people of color are drawn to it and those who are not people of color are drawn to it, and our allies are drawn to it. And it's something that people can take away with them weekly, and think about things, and meditate on things that we discuss, and come back to us and we'll talk about it on that next week's show, and we'll just kind of keep it going.

Matthias: It sounds like it's going to be a really kind of interactive thing, and that's really cool.

Rae: Yes. Yes. That is my goal. I think a lot of times people just talk without thinking, like, "Okay, what am I talking about?" Or, "What am I ..."

I would love for people to email us in and let us know what their take away was, what did they get from it, or add in, chime in, let me know what you want to share on your journal prop this week, and how did you feel about what I said or what the guest said.

And I think that's really what my goal was, to just kind of make sure that the listener is heard as well, because a lot of times it is not just me talking. This is not just going to be Rae and the guest talking. We're going to be digging into whatever.

And the concept is that whomever the guest is, they will provide the Scripture or the Bible verse, and we're just going to literally go headfirst into it and see what it is in that Scripture, kind of do a little background first, and then see how it's applied to us, because I think the Bible is literally applicable, I believe in every situation.

And life is hard, and there's great things that we can take away from the Bible to get us through. But life is so good, and there are great things that we can take away from the Bible to keep us there as well.

Matthias: And I'm thinking about this, because I know so many of the ... at least in the circles of the queer Christian world that I feel like I find myself in, there isn't that much interaction ... like, we talk about how do we live as queer Christians, but to actually dive into the text and start reading it in ways and working with it in ways that are liberative, that's so cool.

Rae: Well, because I am so used to ... and again, I'm just going to try to speak for me. Someone getting in the pulpit, or getting on stage and just talking, or preaching the word ... you know that I mean? Verus yes, I've done devotionals and yes I've done Bible

studies and they are phenomenal, but to actually engage with each other, and almost keep each other accountable too in a sense of our growth and where we are and how do we live, like you challenge, how do we live as Christians.

How do we do this, because it's a hard thing. It's a hard thing to say ... people would almost rather that we say we have no faith at all, than to say that we are followers of Christ. They would much rather hear that than to say, "No, no, no, no, no. You can't do that. You can't." But it's like, "You know, you do realize you can't either then."

So yeah, I think it's important that we talk about dialogue that's in the Bible, that we talk about what did Jesus say here? And what did this mean? Or what does this mean to you, because your interpretation can be totally different from mine. And God speaks to us all, so I think it's like a taking into my own hands of learning and listening to God for myself here.

That's one of the biggest reasons why I wanted to do this, because I wanted to challenge myself to grow deeper and to know ... you know, when people say, "I want to know God," and I'm like, "Yes. I want to know God as well," but I want to know what he said, I want to know ... and not on a theology level. I mean, I want to know ... I need to see these words and I want to know how these words really impact my life on a day-to-day basis.

Matthias: I'm sitting here with ... it's such a needed, needed thing, I think, on all levels, all of the different complexities that you're bringing in, and particularities that you're bringing into this conversation. I'm thinking about ... so many different people say this, so I'm thinking about a professor who says this too, if our theology and the way that we're reading the Scripture doesn't work in actual lives for actual people, then what are we doing?

Rae: Wow.

Matthias: And I feel like that's kind of what you're doing too, of bringing actual people, actual lives, actual particularity to the text and say, "Let's read this together."

Rae: Yes. Yeah. When I first came to Christ, I was a part of these small groups. Some people call them life cells, or ... I don't know any other names. Small groups is what I know it as. And that's kind of like how we would do it. And it really forced you to literally take God out of it ... I don't want to say take God out of it, but take any preconceived notions that you had, any ideas that you thought you may have had of Christ and religion, it forced you to clear all of that from the table and just really get as close to the heart of God as you could.

So, that's what I'm hoping to do with QueerVotion in a 30 to 45 minute time span, and just getting to know different people, globally, of course internationally, and then nationally, locally here, in California, even people that aren't Christian, but we can still talk about text. I can still see how this text may have helped you, because we all still

have to be here. We all still have to live in this world, we still all have to get along, we all still need to love each other.

That takes some dialogue. We need to talk, so let's do that with this text, and how does that go. And here we are. We don't talk enough. People don't talk enough in our world. We scroll enough.

Matthias: That's true.

Rae: I'm guilty. I mean, I am.

Matthias: Yeah, yeah. Yeah. This is such an interesting point, you bring up that point of people who don't even necessarily share the same faith background of being able to still approach the text and read it together. That's something that I feel like not a lot of people are willing to engage with. If like someone who doesn't share my faith coming to this text, and still being able to glean something about it, only then, if they don't take on that faith, that is like ... I'm trying to think of the words that I have for it.

Rae: But that's something that I think, when we really say that Christ died for the world, he didn't say he died for the black world, the women world, the men world. He died for everyone.

So I'm not not going to deal with you, or interact with you I should say is the better word, because you may be Muslim, or you may be a Buddhist. Because I feel that the divine, whatever name you want to identify the divine as, is somewhere where we all meet in the middle. And I think it's all there on the cross, regardless. Regardless of what I believe, regardless of what you believe, Christ is there on the cross, for me and for you.

So regardless of however you get to him, that's where we meet in the middle. The intersection is there. That's where my heart is with it.

I think so many times we're so afraid to engage with people who are not common, or not common to us, who don't feel like we feel, and that's the beauty of Christ. Christ was out here like, "Hey. I don't need to be with the disciples. Those guys are good. I need to go down here into the streets, and I need to be with the people that necessarily don't know who I am, don't even expect me to come. They're not even checking for me," as we say. But when he did that, lives were turned around and changed, because he was willing to be obedient and go where people did not expect him to go, and to go to the people that needed him the most.

And sometimes, those people that need us the most are those that do not believe like we believe, but I can still display Christ, regardless of that, and I can still be the Christ that that person may only ever meet.

Matthias: Right. And I think about even just that intersection of being queer-

Rae: Right, yeah.

Matthias: ... and how that's a world. And you mentioned this, you mentioned this in the black church of how there's kind of that "either, or," I would say it's pretty similar in the white church too. It's like you are either in the church, or you're gay, or queer, or whatever.

Rae: Wow, okay.

Matthias: And that intersection ... I mean, I would say there's some progress being made in some white churches where that isn't the case, but for a lot of people for grew up in that Evangelical context of you can't bleed over, you can't be gay and Christian, you can't be LGBT and Christian. So to be Christ in those communities in the way that you're talking about, I do think that's what Jesus would have done.

Rae: Absolutely.

Matthias: Exactly what you're saying.

Rae: Absolutely. That's exactly what Jesus would have done. Jesus would not be sitting back casting judgment, he would not be sitting at a table full of food and watching the hungry go by.

I mean, being queer, whatever the identification is, whatever it may be for your orientation, same gender loving, whatever you want to use, when it comes to having a relationship with Christ, that is the first and foremost important thing. That has nothing to do with race orientation or anything.

Again, it goes back to what we were saying earlier as far as these prereqs. Why do we have to put all of these prereqs on God and his love for me? That's so wrong. God is so simple, but men has made him so complex.

I think people have a hard time wanting to accept the wholeness of a person. I had a friend of mine, when I got married I wanted her so badly to come to our wedding, and she says to me, she's like, "I can't come." She's like, "But I love you guys so much. I just can't come. That's just something that I'm not able to do. I can't wrap my mind around that. I don't believe in that. You know where I stand and what the Bible says, and I stand by what the Bible says." And I said to her, "And I respect that," and I said, "I love you," and I said, "I stand by what the Bible says, and the Bible says to love, and because of that, I'm not going to be upset that you're not attending, but I'm going to continue to show you that I love you."

To this day she is still one of my dearest friends. She's moreso like a mentor. We will talk about everything. She ask now ... she wouldn't even ask before. She ask now how my wife is doing. What we're talking about as far as if we're going to have children. She doesn't just acknowledge one part of me anymore. She acknowledges the whole of me.

There had been times that she has called me and she has needed me to pray for her. And it's things that she had shared with me that she hasn't even shared with some of her closest "Christian" straight friends. I'm so honored by that, because I know that she

could've chosen not to do that. And I'm honored because I know that she's seeing God. You know what I mean? I know that it's deeper than a raised gay.

Matthias: Yeah.

Rae: That's not it. She knows, "Rae, I know you're praying." She's like, "I know you're a prayer warrior. Do you mind lifting me up in prayer?" I literally just shook my head in amazement, because I'm like, I know that is not me at all. I know that is someone else.

I think people have a hard time, but when people see these awesome displays of who God is in us, being executed every day around us, they start to challenge their own beliefs, and that's what we have to do. We have to constantly ... you know, you have to make sure you dot your i's and cross your t when you're queer and Christian, because they're already over here thinking that we're doing all of this extra crazy stuff.

For some reason they don't wrap their minds around that we recognize holiness too and know how to be on our behavior as well. They just think that is this big crazy party going on or something. But when people see that being displayed, when they see Christ being displayed in us and outward towards them, it draws them to where, "Oh, I do have to recognize," because at some point it's past the, "That's a choice that she's doing. That's a choice that he's making." It's literally like, no, this is ... in the words of Lady Gaga, "I was born this way."

Matthias: Yes.

Rae: I absolutely can not change this and have really no desire to change. So when people start to recognize that okay, that is a whole person and I can talk to them, and they are okay, there is nothing wrong with them, and more importantly, when we walk in confidence in who we are, it doesn't really matter what the other folks have going on, because there's always going to be haters. I mean, Jesus had haters every day. You just have to remember who you are and who you belong to, and just keep it moving.

Matthias: Yeah. And you mentioned earlier how you see divine and God in connection, and it sounds like by keeping the connection with your friend, and not automatically writing her off because she wouldn't come to your wedding, which would be a valid response-

Rae: Sure, sure. Absolutely.

Matthias: ... but you're not doing that, and keeping that connection and staying grounded in your particularity, something really beautiful and divine emerged out of that.

Rae: Yeah. I mean, we talk on a weekly basis, me and her, and I think about if I would have did that, if I would have just said, "Okay. I'm not going to deal with it, I'm not going to ..." I did take a step back in a sense of like, okay, I won't speak about it, but I'm not going to not talk about it if she's around and someone ask me.

Matthias: Totally.

Rae: Because I'm not ashamed.

Matthias: Right.

Rae: But I wanted to also be respectful. But over time, she has come around, because I've remained the same.

And I think sometimes people just ... they forget that when it comes to ... that they have no heaven or hell to put us in. Nobody does, so how can someone tell me that I can't be who I am, and I can't belong to who I belong to?

If I would have just written her off and not did anything with her, and just ignored her, that would have done more harm than good to her, and just had another reason for her to have another chip on her shoulder when it came to our community. And that's the last thing that I want to do. That's not what I'm here for. I'm not here for that. I'm here to love you, love you through it and be there with you when you get to it. I'm not here for that. There's already enough of that going on.

Matthias: Yeah. And it can be such a difficult decision to make, to choose that kind of love.

Rae: Yeah. It's hard.

Matthias: Yeah.

Rae: It's hard because instantly, self preservation comes first.

Matthias: Of course, yeah.

Rae: That's important and I'm not saying that you go out here, you get beat up verbally or emotionally by friends, or so-called friends, or the church even, but there are some people who are a worth the investment, and if you just remain consistent with them and you remain faithful, you remain faithful to them, they will see God in you. And if they choose not to, the faithfulness was not in vain, because there's something beautiful, like you said, to come out of it.

But that's not the reason why we do it. We do it because I say that, "I love you," and we know that love is a verb, and love is not something that writes people off. You got to make sure that you are showing that person that you love them. And that may be in different forms. It's in different forms. That's a whole another conversation.

Matthias: Yes. Yeah. Because I'm not hearing you say ... I think sometimes people, especially when we have these kind of conversations about loving the people who are doing things that could be harmful, it can get into that territory of like, well, do you mean I should just roll over and take it? And that's not what you're saying.

Rae: No. Absolutely not. Absolutely not. No, no, no, no. There has to be a level of self preservation and you have to know your own strength as well, to know, okay, can I deal

with this, am I cool? I know plenty of LGBT folks who are good associates of mine, who go to churches every Sunday, and listen to people literally berate them. And it hurts my heart to hear.

I'm like, "You do know what they're saying, right?" But they're so cool with it. They have gotten to a point where they're like, "I'm just trying to be the best example ..." I had somebody told me that they're just trying to be the best example of LGBT in that church. And I just was like, "Man, what an unhealthy spot to be in, because that place is not affirming who you are as a child of God." But me being their associate, I'm not going to beat them up, because they're already getting that.

It's tough. It's a hard response, to be intentional to love. But Christ was intentional to get on that cross. If I'm that intentional with my relationships, because we're all in some type of ship, if I'm intentional with all of that, then I know that at the end, God's glory, that's what we'll see. That's what will happen, that's what will be shown I should say. Excuse me for the ramble there. He'll be magnified through it all because I'm not going to give up on my brother or sister, regardless if you say that you hate me, regardless if you think that I'm not entitled to.

It's so fascinating that we're the first that they want to shun, but we're the first that they call. I have plenty of friends who are LGBT and they're with their families, and they're the oldest maybe, and none of the other siblings are stepping up, but hey, their gay son is stepping up and stepping in, and making things happen. And who else would have been there? Their parents are sick, or something like that.

It's a sad reality, but it's also a beautiful acceptance of like, dang, it took all of that for you to finally recognize me? And it's hurtful, but it says so much on our part when we can still remain strong and steadfast in who we are and whose we are.

Matthias: Yeah. Rae, thank you so much.

Rae: Absolutely. Thank you.

Matthias: This has been such a pleasure. If people want to listen to QueerVotion, how can they find it?

Rae: Absolutely. You guys can find it on SoundCloud, and it's QueerVotion, it's all one word. And we also have a website at www.queervotion.com.

Right now, I'm just on SoundCloud and I'll figure the rest of this stuff out for iTunes etc. and the other platforms that they have, but yes, you can find me there. And every Wednesday we will be dropping a new podcast, so please look out for it, and thank you so much for having me.

Matthias: Absolutely.

Rae: It's been amazing to talk with you.

Matthias: Likewise.

Rae: And I feel like we could just talk for hours ...

Matthias: Yes.

Rae: ... and I know we can't. But thank you so much for having me.

Matthias: Thank you.

Rae: I'm super excited.

Matthias: Be sure to check out Rae's new podcast, QueerVotion, at queervotion.com. She did end up getting Apple podcast figured out, so it is now live on Apple podcast and SoundCloud. QueerVotion is on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook @queervotion.

Queerology is on twitter and Instagram @queerologypod, or you can tweet me directly @matthiasroberts.

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If you have ideas about what you want to hear on the podcast, reach out. I'll get back to you.

Until next week, you all, bye.