

Queerology: A Podcast on Belief and Being
Episode 9 - Isaac Archuleta
Transcript

Matthias: Hey friends this is Matthias Roberts and you're listening to Queerology a podcasts on belief and being, this is episode 9.

Isaac: Whether you are side A or you are side B, you're motivated because you love God and that is a sacred place and we can't do away with that I don't I don't want to tamper with anybody's motivation for how or either I'll be proud we're just going to reverence it and that's going to happen under GCN.

Matthias: My goodness, it has been another week in the LGBTQ Christian world, for anyone who is kind of catching up this week, the gay Christian network announced mid last week that they're going to be parting ways with the now former executive director Justin Lee and then on Friday announced that Isaac Archuleta is going to be taking over as interim executive director for GCN and kind of ushering in a new era for GCN. Justin was the one who started the gay Christian network, so this is kind of a major shift and I know there are a lot of questions, a lot of speculation floating around the internet, floating around this world and I have Isaac on this episode to kind of address some of that speculation. I believe that this is his first public interview that he's done since being named is the executive director. Really excited to have him here and if you're coming to this episode looking for answers about what happened with Justin Lee and the board, I'll be upfront bit like we're not we don't really get into that and I echo the call so many people to the board for transparency behind their decision. I think that this transparency is something that our community deserves and it's something that only the board can decide to give and until they choose to release more information we're left waiting on that, but if you're coming to this episode wondering what direction GCN will be taking under the new leadership

you're in luck. What are his visions for GCN? What's going to be happening to the organization? I've been paying attention on Facebook, Twitter is seeing so many of the conversations that are happening and I hope that the questions that I ask address a lot of the issues that I've seen coming up.

Briefly, if you're new to the GCN community we use some language such as side A and side B that may be unfamiliar, so really quickly, side A means that you believe that same-sex people can be in relationship with each other, intimate partnerships with each other and be blessed by God. Side B people believe that celibacy, so abstaining from intimate relationships specifically sexual relationships is the way to honor their sexual orientations and God-given gifts, both of these sides fully accept LGBT people as not being broken, there's just some ways of viewing it. One saying relationships are blessed by God and other people saying theologically I'm not there, I don't believe that they're blessed by God, but I can still live a healthy life.

Isaac Archuleta has spent his life's work addressing the reconciliation between sexuality, gender, relationships and spirituality. He spent time as a seminary professor, he owns a counseling practice devoted to LGBTQ people and their religious families and he works specifically to help those navigating the road that he's journeyed. He has a Masters of Arts in clinical mental health counseling, he's spoken at numerous conferences, churches, forums around the nation, he contributes to the Huffington post, has been featured on NPR Isaac is coming to GCN with a wealth of knowledge, but I'll let him kind of get into that so let's just go ahead and jump in.

Matthias: Isaac, how are you doing today?

Isaac: I'm doing great, thank for having me

Matthias: Yeah, it's so good to have you here. So to start, how do you identify and then how has your faith formed that identity?

Isaac: That's a good question, I identify as Hispanic Cisgender bisexual male and gosh, my faith has been an incredible mechanism to shape my identity and in many ways I say that and then I don't mean it all at the same time, so I'll kind of break that down a little bit. I was born to two conservative Christian pastors and I thought that the right thing to do would be to shut down my identity. So in other words it was wrong for me to be authentic and I thought that God wanted me to, or God thought of me as his precious son, but there were standards in terms of how I expressed my character or my personality in the world and if I didn't get that right then I was somehow failing God and in the church that I grew up when we called it righteousness.

So, this is how I took it; I was righteous, if I was a masculine little boy who liked sports, because then I would be fulfilling God's plan for masculinity and boyhood and I thought I had to shut that down. So I hid who I was for a very long time, just swallowing so much pain and rejection and all of that accumulated and it just literally became paralyzing. Depression, anxiety and by the time I got to high school, my senior year of high school I drank till blackout every weekend of my senior year of high school and I was medicating the pain of not being free enough to be who God created me to be. I know that now, but I thought then that I was medicating the pain of feeling authentic but, feeling like God would throw that person in the trash, like I was disposable to God, so much so that I kind of deserved to burn in fiery hell. So College was a very rough season of my life. I drank a ton, I was arrested and kicked out of CU-Boulder and just so lost. Whenever I talk about this with clients in my office, I always say I felt like an tethered balloon, just floating around not knowing how to do relationships or masculinity or sexuality, I didn't know how to do manhood or boyhood, my academics were just atrocious and I was just so lost and I thought I was not the drinking part but, I thought that shutting myself down would make God love me and so I got a degree in psychology because I wanted to study everything

related to human behavior, so that I could figure out that golden key to change myself and when that didn't work I went on to seminary to see if I could research everything from a more professional standpoint, as a mental health provider and see if I could figure out the key to change my sexuality. I thought that's what God wanted. And then it was actually at a conservative Christian seminary where I sat in the library and read literally everything I could get my hands on related to gender, sexuality, human development, literally everything I could get my hands on and the research and science wasn't behind a change in orientation in some ways, there are a couple caveats out there but, at least in statistics and I was in therapy, so I started therapy working with a counselor who taught at the seminary and together I kind of journeyed into the space where.... I will share you one story; it was kind of a pivotal story.

I was driving home from seminary in the car that my boyfriend had bought me, driving to the apartment I was living in, because he paid for it for me and I just felt so dirty here I was this duplicitous seminarian by day, gay boy by night and I was just so torn in half drinking like crazy, even though I was a seminarian and I was just driving home one day and I was thinking about human development and love and if God is love, could there be a clean version of God as love and a simple version of God as love, because at the time I really loved my boyfriend, you know people who weren't affirming of LGBT people would say that my love isn't love and that it's lust, but it feels the same way to me and it was on that one particular drive home where it just felt like I was liberated. Then I begin to really feel like my love wasn't dirty, that when I fell in love not lust, but when I fell in love with someone, that was God being expressed through it. If God is love then there was no other choice and so then my faith became, at one point it was my prison and then at one point it became my liberty and so now walking in the fullness of God's created being and that's you know in theology we call it the **imago Dei** the image of God, **I am,**

you are, we are the image of God and it felt like the first time I really got to sit inside of my own body and enjoy and bask at who God made me, rather than feel so disassociated for myself. So that's how my shaped my identity.

Matthias: Wow! He said my faith at one point felt like a prison and then transformed into Liberty and like what a transformation.

Isaac: Yeah, I had to update, this might scare some people as though I kind of created this loose version of God, but I had to update the rules I'll put it that way of relationship around God, in psychology we have this thing called the illusion of control, it's this illusion that; "if I perform well and if I behave in the right way that I will control your emotion and God's" and it was just this disillusion that I had kind of lived my whole life in and then when I began saying oh my God I'm not, like this little small human is not in control of how God feels, as though I was making God happy and then literally making God sad,

Matthias: Right,

Isaac: And I had to change the way I saw God to say, God isn't that fickle, God is stronger, more steadfast, more holistically aware of who I am, so in order for God, and a relationship with God to become my liberty, I had to update my definition of God in terms of not being this fickle, emotional, weak being, but this being that literally held or holds the universe together and therefore not swayed by my behavior.

Matthias: Great, because that is such a powerful you said that were control, but like that image of God is such a powerful means of control. I think often in our churches of our actions directly relate to how God feels about us and thus when we do something quote-unquote wrong or outside of the bounds of what we're told is right orthodox whatever then God is deeply hurt or upset or whatever and I mean, I would say like in some ways I think some of that might be true, but when it's used in such a means to keep us in

this like rigid little box of who were supposed to be like, because it's such damage like.

[Laughter]

Isaac: Oh my God, oh for sure, yeah and I think when I shared this, when I share my story I have to be really careful because people always get hung up on the behavior piece. When we talk about the antithesis of the illusion of control to say God isn't swayed by my behavior a lot of people's you know ears perk and they say; ah wait a second is that, wait a second Isaac is that true or you just kind of this left-wing loose fanatic". No, absolutely not, I think sometimes we just understand parenting wrong and I know that's a weird aspect of our domain of life for me to bring up, but it's this idea you know like I steal a cookie from the cookie jar and a parent would say "hey stop it, you made me angry", but when I think about God and He's watching all of his children take cookies from the cookie jar He's not just like no or whatever, but He's saying yeah I knew you were going to do that, I was prepared, I created you, I knit you in your mother's womb I knew that you were going to do that, so you're not you're not changing my mood, I can hold the tension on this one, in fact I sent My Son. Okay, I have plans bigger than this end; let's talk about it because this isn't right. I thought that would be, that is I think that God that became my Liberty.

Matthias: It's such a different picture of God than what I know I grew up with and that idea of God as a parent, I think that word can be very loaded word for so many of us but I think when we think of parenting and it's in its best form of what we wish maybe our parents were or maybe what our parents are, if we see God that way like, it's such a beautiful picture. So this is a such a transition, you've had a really big week,

Isaac: Yes I have

[Laughter]

Matthias: So, it was on Friday that it was announced that you're the new interim Executive Director of the Gay Christian Network, congratulations.

Isaac: Thank you.

Matthias: That's huge, I guess.... I'm wondering like to start off with, like how does it feel like?

Isaac: Honestly it's my biggest dream come true, I'll just put it that way I have literally devoted my life's work to.....how do I say this? To devoting care, critical thoughts, attention to the horizon where spirituality and human sexuality and gender meet, because I know what it's like to be abusing a substance I know what it's like to have the darkest cloud come over your body and just sit in utter despair and suicidal ideation, I know what it's like to sit in a Pew and watch your dad preach or ministers preach and think I'm just damaged, that's it I'm just damaged and through the journey that I've been on to come to a place and say whoa whoa....I'm not damaged I am perfectly made you know Richard were are perfectly imperfect, I love that and I've just fallen in love with people just like you and me, so much so that I've devoted my life's work to us to say how do we how do we understand ourselves? What really is sexual orientation on a psychological, neurological spiritual level? What are our emotional cravings and should we make peace with desire or do we shut it down? How do we interact with God? Who is God? Who am I? Just for the simple fact that we deserve to know who we really are and so when I got the phone call and they said you got the job, it was just like....huh, just so exciting that I would get to share my contributions with the community. That I would begin, it's kind of like my little white flag over here in Denver Colorado, I'm like waving it around saying, I'm here, I'm here and then they gave me a phone call, it was just, I'm like; oh my gosh.

[Laughter]

Isaac: I am like, hey is this coming true? Something I devoted my whole life to doing, you know there's a lot of spectacularity that comes with being the interim executive director and that's fun, my Facebook page and Twitter was blowing up yesterday, that's great, but I'm mostly excited about, is to get all of us around almost like friends coming over for dinner party and saying; hey guys look what I found. Look what I found, this is who we really are, this is what we're all about, ah let's talk about it.

So that's what I'm mostly excited about, I am so excited for conference to sit down with everyone and talk about things like, the illusion of control or what is the function of sexual orientation. I say that the function of sexual orientation is not to tell me whose body I'm going to like to sleep with, the true primary function of sexual orientation is to guide me towards someone who can teach me God is love at the deepest most sacred layer and I just I want to be a voice to help contribute to the way that we understand ourselves as God's created children. So that's what I'm mostly excited about.

Matthias: Yes, that's really exciting. What are your biggest hopes for GCN coming up in the future, like it's because, it seems like the organization is kind of transitioning, maybe even pivoting a little bit and

Isaac: It will be and it won't be, there's a lot of people saying oh my goodness, Isaac ah what about side B? Are you going to create a social activist organization, like goodbye God and goodbye side B's, absolutely not. No, we are going to stay true to the roots. As a pastor's son, I know that all people belong in the church, we all belong at the table, and this isn't about a transition that says okay the people who believe with me come and the people who don't see you later. That's not what we're about at all, but to say we are all on a spiritual journey and you might be focusing on one thing when I'm focusing on something totally else, your thoughts and your opinions might introduce me to something that I've never

seen or perspective I've never had, and we're all going to stay under the same tent and we're just going to expand.

So one of my dreams is to, we're going to create a lot more programs, I do a lot of weekend retreats and seminars for the LGBTQ community, but also for our religious parents and so what we're going to do is; one of my goals is to use the conference as kind of like a launching pad and then all year long we're going to produce content that unpacks what we introduced at the conference so that all year long we get to have a dialogue around content, monthly content that people could use in their regional pockets to facilitate discussion, so that's one of the one of the big goals.

Also one of my biggest dreams is to create, to turn GCN into an organization that's very financially stable, right now we're in a position where we need money and so we'll be will be asking for some money. We're writing grants and that sort of thing, but just because I am the executive director I have to pay attention to everything, so I have tons of dreams, but my biggest one is to create year-long interactions where we can say; okay here's another video or here's a speaker unpacking the same thing, how do we stay connected and cohesive as one body.

Matthias: Yes, because I know like I mean since the news kind of broke this week with Justin leaving and you stepping in, there's a lot of speculation around like, when, what the hell is going on and I know it took a lot of people kind of by surprise like, because GCN hasn't been, I mean we've kind of gotten I think used to this this mode of conference and then not a whole lot going on and then another conference and so for this kind of big thing to happen in the middle of the year, of course there's a lot of people wondering like, what is going to happen to our organization that we love so much and with a leader like Justin who is so deeply loved in the community. Of course those questions are coming up and so lot of circulation are coming up like, where's GCN going, what is

happening, is there still room for me as a side B Christian or as someone who is maybe more evangelical in my beliefs, like those kind of things where GCN has provided those spaces and I guess what I'm hearing you say is like yes, absolutely.

Matthias: Yes, absolutely and I kind of I want to be very blatant with this, because I want people to feel safe, as a professional counselor it's my job to hold the space for all options and it's given me a very unique perspective especially as the son of two pastors in the Assemblies of God Church, I mean it's just it's a very unique world, but going on my own spiritual journey I've learned that, it's just that it's a spiritual journey and it doesn't matter what I believe, it just matters how I love and GCN is going to be a place that holds that space to say come on, we might not all agree, but I can sure love you and I think in our community that's so important so, yeah it doesn't matter if you are side B or you are side A, we're going to hold that space exactly how it's always been.

Sexuality can be so complex and it's not my job to insert myself into people's theological worlds, it's my job to create a space where we say; let's learn together and let's just speak really smart about how we learn and how we treat each other.

Matthias: Yeah I'm finding myself really curious about this side B thing which I'm actually curious about, why I'm so curious about it and I think mostly, because I've seen a lot of my side B friends are the ones who are getting most nervous and I think they've kind of... if I'm understanding and them right, like they've kind of felt like I in GCN over the past few years there have kind of been this continued like pushing out of side B people and so I guess I'm curious like, how do you plan to create that space for people who may be a minority within this movement like and maybe not just side B people, but like I know there are a lot of trans people who are worried and, the official statement was we're trying to bring in more diversity and so diversity being more conservative or different identities who are underrepresented in our

communities. What are some of the ways that you're hoping to do that?

Isaac: So as the organization becomes financially healthy one of the things we're going to need and it's a good problem to have but we're going to need more staff and we want to be very intentional to hire more people of color to our trans brothers and sisters, women we want to be really intentional to make sure that all people are represented on the staff and board of GCM so that's really important to me and Tina and Kyle and I know the board will absolutely agree with me on that. In terms of side B, when you asked that question, one word that came to my mind was sacred. I want to hold a sacred place, because you know if God came down and spoke to me tonight and said side B is the way to go or side A is the way to go I mean that would be great, but it's not going to happen and in the meantime I know that whether you are side A or you are side B you're motivated because you love God and that is a sacred place and we can't do away with that. I don't want to tamper with anybody's motivation for how or why they love God, we're just going to reverence it and create a beautiful little spot for it to exist and that's going to happen under GCN for sure.

Matthias: I know you mentioned people of color and I know that's also been a really major critique of GCN in the past, especially the conference in Pittsburgh, there was almost no representation from people of color and in Houston things kind of like set off on one track of becoming more intersectional and more inclusive and then Pittsburgh seemed like a step back from that and I know that there's a lot of differing opinions within the organization, but what are your hopes in including people of color and the race conversation; like needs to be heard?

Isaac: Yeah, and as a Hispanic person I find that that's incredibly important, navigating academia as a person of color, at the time CU-Boulder was the number one most white school in the nation and I felt like such an alien. And it was so hard, part of the reason

why my grades were so horrible is because, I first had to learn how to study I had no idea, and to professionally navigate and just even spiritually to navigate the world as an ethnic minority has been very challenging, I've had to play catch-up in many areas. One of my favorite examples is; I didn't even know who James Taylor was, till I was in college.

[Laughter]

Isaac: Now I'm like, oh God I was in a bubble, that's just culture right and so yes, I definitely want to be very intentional to serve the needs of other people of color just like myself and will be responsive to what people are asking for, that's definitely on the radar. So some changes will be coming down the pipeline for sure.

Matthias: Good, you mentioned you're a psychotherapist and a psychologist and theologian and like you've done all of these wonderful things towards the inclusion of LGBT people within our communities and within our churches, how do you feel that has kind of set you up for this role, I mean it's a big role to step into and we're used to seeing one person in that role, I mean I think everyone GCN has been Justin for the past 20 years

Isaac: Just about, yeah right

Matthias: So we have Isaac now step in, I'm curious. What do you think you're bringing to us?

Isaac: I really, I can geek out on this probably for the rest of my life. I love the integration of psychotherapy and spirituality. To really look at what is psychology showing us about human behavior and being reciprocating beings, that I am intentionally woven to be in reciprocity with you and my neighbors, my lover and God and I am fascinated at the study of that part of us you know that because that is spiritual. Solid spirituality is all about being in reciprocity with our self with our other and God and I find that psychology and spirituality they're just so mutually informative. And so that's one of the things that I am really excited to bring to the table; is

this very robust conversation about how do I fall in love and how do I love really? Well not just romantically not familiarly or according my friendships, but also with the divine creator and so that's one of the things and I've been sitting in that little counseling room for a long time learning and listening to people just like you and me who are coming out, who are trying to reconcile their sexuality with spirituality, who are having a very challenging time with their parents or their clergy and so I bring a robust knowledge about what does daily life sound like? Not just in my life, but in our communities life and being very intentionally prepared and equipped to get in there and to know how to resolve some of those spiritual relational issues so that's what I'm really excited to bring to the table.

Matthias: Yeah, because I know like I think for a lot of us and this is coming from my experience oh I don't know I don't know if I can necessarily universalize it but I think I went through that theological conversation and kind of came to terms with myself theologically and then once I settled into that, there was kind of a like, well now what like how like if I'm I've made this transition from side B to side A, I'm looking around like I have no idea what to do and that psychological side of things of moving into our identities and moving into ourselves like that's such a huge piece for so many of us. How do we date? How do we enter into these relationships? How do we continue our relationships with people that were maybe leaving behind in different places and all that to say like that's huge, like I think we need those conversations?

Isaac: Oh absolutely, I when I first started out being a psychotherapist and that was actually an adjunct professor at a seminary and I was doing these long lectures on shame. What is shame? How do we look at it? How do we resolve it and I'm like.....I know everything about shame

[Laughter]

Isaac: I remember a year and a half goes by and I kept waking up saying why do I feel like God is against me? It's not my turn, no one loves me, I can't do relationships, I'm doomed and then it hit me, I was just sitting in my bedroom one day and I was like oh my God this is shame. I'm still carrying shame and we need resources to say ah that's why my relationships aren't working and this is what I can do about it or ah this is like the same mistake I keep making in my relationship, but now that I know about it on this conscious level I can do something about it. And the same thing with God, now that this that we're mirroring for each other, who is God and how do we love and so again I think that human the study of human behavior just informed spirituality and so many levels and vice versa. So like I said I can geek out on this all day long.

Matthias: Totally and I'm going to push into that a little bit because, this is what I study too and that shame piece, like that feeling of God is against me, I've noticed that in my own life, that still pops up and I talk to my own therapist about it and like why do I still feel this way? I cognitively know that He is not, but my body still has this shame deep within it

Isaac: Sure

Matthias: and in case if you'd maybe talk about that a little bit more, because I think that's something that I hear about a lot of people still wrestling with, that kind of idea of what if one of these people who are telling me that God is against me what if they're right?

Isaac: Oh gosh yeah, absolutely. So I'm going to look at, I'll take us to the ground layer, the ground level and then I'll build us up a little bit to answer your question.

I think that in my in my language, the way I like to talk about this is, we have a ton of emotional cravings I like to think of them as buckets, okay so it's like this bucket to feel loved, to feel value, to be confident, to be cherished, to feel safe, to feel seemed, to feel understood, I mean we have we have thousands of these

emotional cravings and that's it's like we kind of hold all of these buckets and we push them out in front of someone and we say; hey, will you fill these up? And sometimes they do and sometimes it's like they just kick them back and we're like ooh, ouch you know gosh, that rejection and we're like kind of hey can you fill these buckets up please you know we push them out one more time. What happens though to turn shame on is; it's like instead of someone filling them up with this beautiful fluid that's just full with this beauty, this fragrance, it's almost like they start pouring mud water into these very sacred emotional cravings, so what we began saying is, oh my desire to be held by the same gender, or my desire to be seen and understood gosh, when I put that need out I get something very dirty in response. So I'm going to stop sharing that bucket with people I don't understand. You people to fill that up and in fact I'm just going to start hiding that thing. It's not going to come out and what that does is, it puts us in the place where we're emotionally starving, but we're also afraid to push it out in front of anyone. We're shutting down the vulnerability, so because we're starving we hop into this fantasy, one; because we're trying to medicate the pain and two, because we're still trying to get that sensation back into our lives so, then we reach for too much chocolate cake, or too much alcohol or too much pornography and we create this fantasy of what will soothe us then we dive headfirst into that behavior and then we do that behavior and then we say oh my God, look what I just did now I'm really dirty. Not only is the bucket dirty, but the pain from that bucket makes me do this dirty thing and then we began saying this is who I am.

So we have a distorted emotional craving, this bucket full of mud and then it turns into an identity distortion. I am this person and that I always say shame is not a conscious thought it's an emotional experience. It's the emotional experience of I am something damaged, every time I do that thing, oops, it shows how dirty I am, and so shame I think when it's on the layer of what

you were talking about and I was talking about when we wake up saying God, I think God is just against me it's that emotional experience of shame and we can leave there. I always tell my clients there's three layers here, when I know at least for me that shame is active, I called the fallen trifacta. So if I feel valueless, look at what I just did, no one's going to want me, I feel powerless I told myself I would never do it again and I just did it, I'm totally powerless, I can't even trust myself and I'm worthless I keep doing that thing and I shouldn't expect what I really crave to ever come I should just put up with getting less. And sometimes that's how we feel in relation to God; I'm valueless, look at who I am I. God's not going to want me, I told myself I would behave better and I can't, I can't trust myself, so now I'm powerless and God will never bless me so now I'm worthless and the good things I want are never going to come. So if we're ever feeling that fallen trifacta, I would say hey guys, stop, pay attention because you got some shame on board and let's resolve it and the way that we resolve shame is by cleaning out that bucket. Hey, I learned about this emotional craving from someone who was willing to pour mud in this bucket where mud never belonged and it's my job to clean that up just like I was saying about my car ride home from seminary, to say I learned that mud water deserved to be in this bucket and they taught me that it was accurate to have mud water in here and then this transition to say whoa this bucket didn't deserve that at all, let me clean it out and then get trustworthy people to fill this bucket up the way that it should have been filled up the first time. And that's how we undo shame

Matthias: I love that, I mean we know like biologically that shame hijacks that cognitive function well, so like no matter what we necessarily know cognitively like it is it's a primarily a bodily experience, in so that they're bringing it to light that like that registering with our bodies and seem like this is shame and then taking those steps.

Isaac: And then to kind of sew it back in with that parenting example that God isn't like [mmm-hmm], yeah you deserve that shame,

that's like that horrible parent would. Just to make a point, but I think God is saying like whoa hold on hey look at me, come here you got some mud in there and it doesn't belong in that, let's clean that out I'm not against you, you just think I am it's a transition. I thank you for pushing us into this area of dialogue, because I think that many of us are still carrying shame, I always say that there's six layers of coming-out, you've heard me talk about this, but I'll just briefly share them real quickly. But the first one is I have to come out to myself, the second one is I usually will come out to friends and then coming out to family the fourth one is coming out to God to say all right God, how do we reconcile this? Where are you and where am I? Are we in this together or not? And then the fifth one is to come out publicly and this sounds a little odd well, you just did, but what I mean by that is to actually demonstrate your affection and your love socially to feel comfortable walking down the street holding hands to let your parents see you being affectionate, to start doing things, to start the transition. That fifth layer is really hard and I've noticed from my clients and even of myself that we don't get to layer five very often but the sixth layer is to get back into those buckets to get right back into those emotional cravings to say well we will these aren't dirty. My desire as a man to be loved by another man that is not dirty, God is actually okay and more than that, God created me that way, mud does not deserve to be here let me clean this thing up and I think that once we start reintegrating our emotional cravings as clean, so we're re-categorizing them as clean, now we're having back into the truest imago Dei that we can now I am actually living out as the image of God.

Matthias: Amen Isaac, thank you so very much.

Isaac: You are welcome.

Matthias: Congratulations again,

Isaac: Thank you.

Matthias: Isaac can be found on Twitter @IamArchuleta be watching for registration to be opening for GCN's conference, it's the largest LGBTQ Christian conference in the world. Registrations is going to be opening for that soon that's happening in January at the end of January in Denver Colorado this year. I'll be there, Isaac will be there almost everyone who has been on this podcast will be there you want to be there too. Queerology is on Twitter @Queerologypod or you can tweet me directly @MatthiasRoberts and as I say every week if you're enjoying Queerology I would love it if you could head over to iTunes and leave a review to make it easy you can just go to www.MatthiasRoberts.com/review and it will take you right there I'd also love to hear from you, there's a little contact page on my website send me a note let me know who you want to hear on the podcast and until next week we'll talk to you later bye.