

There is no Gray Area

By: Michelle Latour, 17 years old

My dad is gay. Four simple words and someone now knows my biggest secret. What's not so simple is trying to figure out how the person will react. They either accept it or they don't. There's really no gray area when it comes to this.

I found out my dad was gay when I was 13. I was starting grade 7 in a new school; a *Christian* school. My parents had just divorced and I was a mess. I wasn't surprised by his pronouncement just unsure of how it would affect me.

The first few people I told responded with variations of "gross" or "I'll pray for him I promise." Obviously not what I wanted to hear. I was in an environment where the choice my dad had made was frowned upon. Fast forward to the church where I had grown up. My dad's best friends dismissed him and treated him like a freak. Now I had to figure out how their reaction jibed with the "love your neighbors" and "judge not lest you be judged" platitudes that you always hear from the pulpit.

No matter how much I loved my dad or his new partner in crime, I was in over my head. I lost respect for people I had grown up looking up to. I realized who my real friends were and had to sort out what was right. I had people telling me that what my dad was doing was a "sin" but who the hell were they to tell me what to think of my own dad?

My decision? Who cares! My dad is who he is and he's happy. I don't spend time trying to justify or condemn his actions. Who the hell cares? If he's happy than so am I.

Does that mean that I never have to worry about the reactions of the people I tell? I wish. I haven't had the "nice Christian boyfriend" my mom would love to see me with. They've been raised in such a way that my dad's life isn't acceptable. Do I settle for a boy who is uncomfortable with my dad? Absolutely not! At the end of the day my dad was the first man who loved me and he won't be the last. I won't settle for friends, dates or role models who take up issue with my dad's character because they clearly have none themselves.

I either accept my dad or I don't. There is no gray area.