

Mike Walker Monologue Script

Hi, my name is Mike Walker. I am having some health problems now, and it is worrying me. I have not been good about getting healthcare. I've had some bad experiences in the past with medical people not treating me well, so I have avoided going to see doctors. I feel like once they know I am gay, they treat me differently; sometimes even harshly. It doesn't make sense to me. I am still just a man.

Being gay has not been easy. Growing up, I attended a religious school and learned that being gay was not viewed positively. While I didn't know I was gay as a kid, I did know I was a little different than my peers. I followed the life course that was set out for me by my parents: go to college, get a good job, get married and have children. I met my wife Trudy in college. She was a science major and became a science teacher. I was a Math major and became a math teacher. So, we had a lot in common, we were good friends, got married and had a pretty good relationship.

It's not like being gay hit me over the head, but I didn't watch women the way other men did. Over time, I felt myself more drawn to listening to other men talk about themselves. Then, I began to realize that I wanted to be with other men. Once that pull became more real, it was harder to stay in the marriage.

It was very hard to admit about my sexuality to myself and eventually to others. The first person I confided in was a friend. He was kind to me, but I don't think he understood. I had a gay male acquaintance. I reached out to him and eventually spent a lot of time talking to him about it. He helped me a lot in thinking through what would need to be done and how difficult it might be to admit these feelings to others. Once I did admit this to myself, I felt more comfortable with myself.

Finally, I had to tell Trudy, who was shocked and hurt. She felt betrayed. I felt terrible for letting Trudy and my son down, not to mention my parents. But I couldn't live a life that wasn't right for me anymore. Although this was really hard for both of us, I knew it was the right thing to do. We talked about it a lot at first. I tried to help her in realizing that it didn't have anything to do with her. She was a great wife and mother. It was me who needed to live my life as me. We separated, and eventually got divorced, but were able to remain friendly. Trudy eventually was able to come to terms with it too.

Once I started my life as a gay man, I needed time to figure my life out. My parents did not understand it, but eventually were able to come to support me. I joined a hiking group and met some friends, eventually meeting Jim. We have been together for 30 years. I have a great relationship with my son Tyler. He loves me and Jim.

Now, here I am facing a health challenge. I am worried because my mother died of colon cancer. I hope that my hesitation to seek healthcare hasn't hurt me too much.