

## Matt Kirkham's Testimonial

I've known a church of love, but I've also known a church of pain,

I grew up as a son of a Pastor so church was a part of my life since I was born, growing up in a church that thought being Gay was wrong, I thought this couldn't be me and it couldn't be Gods plan for me. I tried hiding what I was from myself and others to keep life in what I saw as Gods way. It would be brought up with my parents and other people at church, on how being Gay was a sin and I remember the feeling of wanting to cry because that is who I was. I stopped going to church because I didn't want to hide the fact that I am Gay, and I didn't want to be in a church that made me not feel welcomed. The church I went to would speak against what I was and in doing so it made me not want to be apart of this community and not want to sit in a service that made me feel like I was a sin. It hurt me in many ways, because I thought God loved all his children and how could he hate one of his children if we are all God children. In doing so my faith with God was falling apart and I felt my self-losing until it was completely gone and now, I don't go to church at all.