

Former Transgender Defends Kim Burrell, Says She 'Welcomed Him With Love and Open Arms'

A former transgender and gay man is coming to the defense of Kim Burrell, saying she showed him love and acceptance.

Burrell has recently come under intense scrutiny for her comments about homosexuality.

Twenty-four-year-old Orhonde Chapman once attended Burrell's Life and Liberty Fellowship Church as a cross-dressing, openly gay high school student. He has been promoting his support for Burrell in an online campaign on Facebook and Twitter.

He said that accusations calling Burrell homophobic are not fair and that she welcomed him with love and open arms.

"Knowing her character, knowing her as a person, a person of love, it's totally unacceptable," Chapman said in an interview with CBN News.

He said, "I got to see her heart. I believe had she been homophobic or had she been against gays or anything at the time, me being openly gay, she wouldn't have supported me. She wouldn't have helped me. She wouldn't have spoken positive and encouraging things in my life to make sure I still was on the right road that I needed to be on mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually."

Chapman believes the backlash Burrell has been getting comes from a lack of understanding and is being fueled by people who don't really know her.

"I think the opposition is coming from a misconception or the

wrong perception of what she said.

“She was in a sermon preaching the Word of God. It was taken out of context and flipped into something else,” he commented.

In 2009, a then 17-year-old Chapman made national headlines as a cross-dressing teen at Nimitz High School.

He was sent home after he wore a wig to school. Officials said he violated the district’s dress code.

It was during that time in his life that he first attended Burrell’s church.

“I could remember a service that we were having in church and that was the moment that I got delivered because she came from the pulpit and labored with me in love and prayed with me, and I had never had anybody come and do that for me, and I really needed it and for that I respect her, because had she not been sensitive to what I was going through, I think would still probably be going through the same thing,” he explained.

“I went to her broken. I went to her you know, needing somebody, and she always had positive things to say to me.”

Chapman, who now attends Table of Praise Fellow Church in Houston, said at times Burrell offered him biblical correction, but it was always delivered in a loving manner.

“I love to be corrected and even sometimes Pastor Burrell corrected me, but it was the love, the love that came from her. It was the love of God and it was the correction that I know I needed is the reason why I accepted it and moved forward in God and moved forward with the things that I was supposed to do,” he commented. {eoa}

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