

[TECHNOLOGY★★]TIM COOK SPEAKS UP

(P1) Throughout my professional life, I've tried to maintain a basic level of privacy. I **come from humble roots**, and I don't seek to **draw attention** to myself. Apple is already one of the most closely watched companies in the world, and I like keeping the focus on our products and the incredible things our customers achieve with them.

(P2) At the same time, I believe deeply in the words of **Dr. Martin Luther King**, who said: "Life's most **persistent** and **urgent** question is, "What are you doing for others?" I often challenge myself with that question, and I've come to realize that my desire for personal privacy has been **holding me back** from doing something more important. That's what has led me to today.

(P3) For years, I've been open with many people about my sexual orientation. Plenty of colleagues at Apple know I'm gay, and it doesn't seem to make a difference in the way they treat me. Of course, I've had the good fortune to work at a company that loves creativity and innovation and knows it can only **flourish** when you **embrace** people's differences. Not everyone is so lucky.

(P4) While I have never denied my sexuality, I haven't publicly **acknowledged** it either, until now. So let me be clear: I'm proud to be gay, and I consider being gay among the greatest gifts God has given me.

(P5) Being gay has given me a deeper understanding of what it means to be in the **minority** and provided a window into the challenges that people in other minority groups deal with every day. It's made me more **empathetic**, which has led to a richer life. It's been tough and uncomfortable at times, but it has given me the confidence to be myself, to follow my own path, and to rise above **adversity** and **bigotry**. It's also given me the skin of a rhinoceros, which comes in handy when you're the CEO of Apple.

(P6) The world has changed so much since I was a kid. America is moving toward marriage equality, and the public figures who have bravely come out have helped change **perceptions** and made our culture more **tolerant**. Still, there are laws **on the books** in a majority of states that allow employers to fire people based **solely** on their sexual orientation. There are many places where **landlords** can **evict tenants** for being gay, or where we can be **barred from** visiting sick partners and sharing in their **legacies**. Countless people, particularly kids, face fear and abuse every day because of their sexual orientation.

(P7) I don't consider myself an activist, but I realize how much I've benefited from the sacrifice of others. So if hearing that the CEO of Apple is gay can help someone **struggling** to **come to terms with** who he or she is, or bring comfort to anyone who feels alone, or inspire people to insist on their equality, then it's worth the trade-off with my own privacy.

(P8) I'll admit that this wasn't an easy choice. Privacy remains important to me, and I'd like to hold on to a small amount of it. I've made Apple my life's work, and I will continue to spend virtually all of my waking time focused on being the best CEO I can be. That's what our employees deserve—and our customers, developers, shareholders, and supplier partners deserve it, too. Part of social progress is understanding that a person is not defined only by one's sexuality, race, or gender. I'm an engineer, an uncle, a nature lover, a fitness nut, a son of the South, a sports **fanatic**, and many other things. I hope that people will respect my desire to focus on the things I'm best suited for and the work that brings me joy.

(P9) The company I am so fortunate to lead has long advocated for human rights and equality for all. We've taken a strong stand in support of a workplace equality bill before Congress, just as we stood for marriage equality in our home state of California. And we spoke up in Arizona when that state's **legislature** passed a **discriminatory bill** targeting the gay community. We'll continue to fight for our values, and I believe that any CEO of this incredible company, **regardless of** race, gender, or sexual orientation, would do the same. And I will personally continue to advocate for equality for all people until **my toes point up**.

(P10) When I arrive in my office each morning, I'm greeted by framed photos of Dr. King and Robert F. Kennedy. I don't pretend that writing this puts me in their league. All it does is allow me to look at those pictures and know that I'm doing my part, however small, to help others. We **pave** the **sunlit** path toward justice together, brick by brick. This is my brick.

Words: 795

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-10-30/tim-cook-im-proud-to-be-gay>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you found the passage difficult to read or had problems understanding specific words or idiomatic expressions, please discuss them with your tutor. The following discussion questions should be answered in your own words and with your own arguments.

1. Briefly summarize the content of the article in your own words.
 2. What motivated Tim Cook to openly acknowledge his sexuality? Was he hiding his sexual orientation before to people around him(P3)? To the public?
 3. “I’m proud to be gay, and I consider being gay among the greatest gifts God has given me. (P4)” Why does Cook say being gay is the greatest gift God has given him? (P5)
 4. “We pave the sunlit path toward justice together, brick by brick. This is my brick. (P10)” What does Cook mean by “my brick”?
 5. Do you think Cook’s speech will “make different for others”? What are you doing for others?
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WHO / WHAT / WHERE ARE THEY?

Dr. Martin Luther King

(Person) an American pastor, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. He is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience based on his Christian beliefs.

VOCABULARY

Come from () roots	(expression) Come from something은 ~에서 나오다[비롯되다/출신이다]; roots 는기원, 뿌리
Humble	(adj) (지위·신분이) 미천한
Draw attention	(expression) 관심을 끌다
Persistent	(adj) 끈질긴, 집요한
Urgent	(adj) 긴급한, 시급한
Hold [someone] back	(expression) ~을 저지[제지]하다
Flourish	(v) 번창하다
Embrace	(v) 포괄하다, 아우르다
Acknowledge	(v) (사실로) 인정하다
Minority	(n) (한 집단의 절반이 못 되는) 소수
Empathetic	(adj) =empathic; 공감하는
Adversity	(n) 역경
Bigotry	(n) 심한 편견
Perception	(n) 통찰력
Tolerant	(adj) 관대한, 아량 있는
On the books	(expression) (본문에서는 법안에) 기재되어, 기록되어
Solely	(adv) 오로지, 단지; 단독으로
Landlord	(n) (방·집·사무실 등을 빌려주는) 주인, 임대주, 임대 회사
Evict	(v) (주택이나 땅에서) 쫓아내다
Tenant	(n) 세입자, 임차인, 소작인
Bar from	(expression) ...을 금지하다.
Legacy	(n) (과거의) 유산
Struggling	(adj) 투쟁하다, 몸부림치다, 허우적거리다
Come to terms with	(expression) (좋지 않은 일을) 받아들이는 법을 배우다[받아들이려고 애쓰다]
Fanatic	(n) (...에) 광적인 사람
Legislature	(n) 입법 기관(의 사람들), 입법부
Discriminatory	(adj) 차별적인
Bill	(n) (의회의) 법안, 의안, 표결 법안
Regardless of	(expression) ...에 상관없이
My toes point up	(expression) “Turn one’s toes up to the daisies” 죽을 때까지
Pave	(v) (널돌·벽돌 등으로) 포장하다
Sunlit	(adj) 햇빛이 비치는