

## Reflection 2

The discussion from this week was really lively and at times, quite heated. We spoke about the Eastern Michigan University student who was expelled from her Master's in Psychology program for referring gay clients to another psychologist in the program. There were a variety of opinions present in the room; the most notable rifts across the classroom were about the nature of Christianity and the responsibilities of a student when they enroll in a science-based curriculum. As a Christian and a social scientist, it was a challenging conversation to navigate because the two sides of my life were being painted as completely unrelated, whereas I disagree with that view.

A sense of self and a grounding with God is what carries me throughout my life, and I cannot imagine advancing in my career as passionately or quickly if I sequestered my faith-based opinions from my career-related opinions. The best advice I've ever gotten from a career professional, a senior officer at the Moody's Corporation, was that it's "important to bring your whole organic self to work, everyday." I think it's important to decide that your values transcend your belief system and necessarily need to leak into your daily life. Christianity is about feeding the hungry, helping the sick, and comforting the grieving - all things that demonstrate the selfless and perfect love of Jesus Christ. Personally, I think if I were in the EMU student's position, I would attempt to treat the patient, but I'm not in that position right now. I happen to think that it is excessive to fire or expel someone for making a decision that (unpopular or not, divisive or not, reprehensible or not) did **not** break any rules. The class dynamic, however, made it sound like this opinion is some kind of oxymoron. All in all, it was an interesting discussion, and I think I learned a lot about how other people think.

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