

## Sexuality

This week in conversations, we talked about sexuality. While I'm really thankful that homosexuality/bisexuality is becoming more accepted as something genetic, it's still sad that many people treat it as an evil curse that should be fixed. Like another student said during class, it's completely dehumanizing when communities treat being gay as something wrong, that you're broken and need to be fixed. I have many homosexual friends who grew up in religious communities and have pondered suicide and other terrible things. Discriminating against someone's sexuality is like being racist today. In 20 years, I bet people will look back upon those conservatives who shunned sexuality the same way that we would look upon anyone who's racist today- absolutely ridiculous. We're in a society where I thought that people would treat everyone equally no matter what sexuality or race you are. But obviously there's still some discrimination that exists, whether obvious or unconsciously. For me, I couldn't care less whether someone is gay or straight. It doesn't affect how I would treat them, and I hope that it's the same for others. However, having gay rights being such an issue in the government and in other parts of society says that we're incredibly behind. These types of things are what makes society fall backwards.

For example, in Utah, gays cannot even come out without being discriminated against and looked down upon a lot. And thus, Utah is one of the most backwards states in the world. It's also the most conservative, which is ridiculous because it's completely religion-based and not based on any type of reasoning or logic. The fact that over 90% of homosexual students at BYU considered committing suicide raises red flags that this is something that needs to be fixed, but NOT on their side- it's the beliefs of the religious community that need to be changed in order to give these students their lives back. It's devastating that the school believes that "it gets better" as if homosexuality is a terrible crime. The church has counselors for such "conditions" who try and help them change their sexuality. My friend went to a counselor who gave him many forms of therapy that are inhumane - all for the sake of the religion, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman, and that defines the most important goal in life as reproduction - starting a big family and living a picture-perfect life. The good thing is that some people are generally becoming more accepting, as the media has portrayed any sexuality as being alright.

Overall, I don't understand why gay rights even exist, as gays should be treated equally in the first place. It's just as absurd as, say, having Asian rights or white rights. It just makes no sense why such a line has to be drawn in the first place. If I ever have kids, I'd hope that they grow up in a society where they will not be judged for who they love, regardless of race, gender, and class.

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17.S914 Conversations You Can't Have on Campus: Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Identity  
Spring 2012

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