

Reflection: April 11<sup>th</sup>

## Sexuality

Our discussion about sexuality seemed to begin with a discussion of gay rights and how we felt parents should go about tending to the needs of their children who are transgendered. I think people got hung up on thinking that being transgendered always culminated in changing your sex organs. As a result, most people said that they think the ages of the children in the article were too young to make permanent changes to their body even though being transgendered primarily deals with identity and wanting to be seen the way you feel even if your biology doesn't necessarily agree. Some people felt that it wasn't okay to allow a child as young as three to determine what they felt their own identity was because they didn't believe that a toddler could understand exactly what it meant.

I brought up the case of the twins where one brother was raised as a girl due to a botched circumcision because even though he didn't have the organs anymore and was receiving hormone treatment to make him more like other girls his age, he said he still felt different and that he was in the wrong body which shows that to some degree nature can overcome nurture when it comes to gender identity. I wasn't surprised when people said that they wouldn't allow their child to live as the opposite gender even if they felt that way from a young age because I suspected that people who have strong ties to religion may not feel that it was something natural and therefore unacceptable. We also discussed how we would feel about having a partner who was transgendered or transsexual. Most people claimed that they would accept it as long as they were aware of this person's past. This seemed to only be an issue when people brought up the idea of starting a family because men and women who have undergone sex changes cannot reproduce with their new sex organs.

We also talked about pedophilia being considered a sexual orientation because a group of scientists tested for and seem to have found a biological relation, using brain scans, to what people are attracted to. While having it deemed an orientation will not lead to it being more accepted or legal, it at least lets others know that it isn't necessarily the choice of the individual. Even though we know that what we deem acceptable is cultural, because in other cultures marrying minors may be commonplace, most of us don't agree that this should be acceptable even though there is now a biological reason behind it. Someone decided to play devil's advocate and asked how is this different from homosexuality being acceptable now but not in the past. There is a major difference in sexual orientation involving consenting adults and pedophilia because it is often predatory and people take advantage of children who cannot defend themselves.

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