

Liberty and Justice for all

That is what we say every day and it is the motto of the United States. But is it true, do we really believe that everyone deserves liberty and justice? We thought that it was ok to give most but not all people that liberty and justice until 2015 when we finally decided that everyone was equal and deserve freedom. What changed, before then whenever you would even mention same-sex marriage people would lose it. Shouldn't everyone have the right to be happy? We clap and smile when we see a bride and groom walk down the aisle, but what is so wrong with two brides or even two grooms walking down the aisle together? They are just like us, but they just have different people that they love. Stopping them from being able to marry the person they love is taking away their freedom and their individuality. For a country that is so against bullying and making people feel like they are alone, we have no problem telling anyone who loves someone of the same-sex that they can't get married and even if they do that we do not recognize it as an actual marriage.

Same-sex marriage was legalized on June 26, 2015, that was 50 years after the fight started and I know that they have been longer fights for rights like the fight for women's rights. But that was still too long and there were so many laws passed before same-sex marriage that do not help the citizens of the U.S. like in Juneau Alaska flamingo owners are prohibited from bringing their pet into a barbershop, in Arkansas it is against the law to honk a car horn at a sandwich shop after 9 pm, in Arizona it is illegal to refuse a person a glass of water, and all of these other laws that served no purpose in helping anyone. My question is, why is anyone else's life your business and how is it your problem?

The biggest reason for so many people being against same-sex marriage is because they were raised that way and their religion or view of what is socially acceptable does not allow people to be with someone of the same sex. In 2008 California became the first state to allow and recognize same-sex marriage, but then not even a year later the law was taken away because there were so many people who were against the LGBT community having any rights. Then, in the end, of 2008 Connecticut legalized same-sex marriage and gave out the first marriage license. But still, the other 49 states didn't start to change their laws and recognize same-sex marriage until 2015 when the United States Supreme Court made it legal in every state. Now we know California as the gay state where everyone is accepted for whoever they are and the middle of the country as the conform or be shunned states, but to think that the middle of the United States started this change before a state that is known for its huge love for pride is insane. As someone who lives in San Francisco for almost half of the year, it is so hard to think that there was a time where being gay was shunned upon and hated because I see all of the love that everyone has there of everyone else no matter who you love or what gender

you are. Since living there it has given me a new outlook on the LGBT community and the struggle they have faced and still face today with people not believing that they should have the same rights as them. I am a part of the LGBT community and anyone who supports their community is a part of it. We are all allies and people who believe that what they have been fighting for is real.

Hypocrisy is a practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform. This fight for same-sex marriage is a huge hypocrisy in the United States like the people against raising minimum wage are not the ones working and trying to make a living for that level of pay, and the people who are against universal health coverage either have no current health problems or have insurance. The fact that we constantly say that we are a country that runs on freedom and loves anyone who calls themselves a U.S. citizen. But then go and tell these people who just want to be happy and marry the person that they love that they can't because you are two girls or two guys and that is not how it is supposed to be. We are a country constantly claiming that we accept everyone and we have freedom for everyone when that really isn't it, we have freedom and accept the people who are "normal" or what you think of when you think of an American. The moment you show some type of difference then you are shunned or told to conform and that has to stop because that mentality is going to ruin this country. For the longest time that was how it was for anyone in the LGBT community because we would claim to accept them, then turn our backs to them when they try to express themselves. Now it is better and we are starting to get better at loving everyone for whoever they are, there are still people who don't think that what this community is doing is right. That is how it is always going to be and there is nothing we can do, all we can do is show them that we are all the same and there is nothing wrong with loving someone of the same sex.

Also, the churches are playing a big part in why it took so long to be legalized and why even when it was legalized so many people don't recognize it. These people are taught to believe that Jesus only allowed a man to marry a woman and that marrying someone of the same gender was a sin and there was a special place in hell for them. But in the bible, it says that Jesus loves everyone and he will forgive your sins no matter how bad. So the churches have been lying and telling generations that they should suppress their gayness because God would not approve and if you did not suppress it they would kick you out of their church. At the beginning of this fight, the churches would only follow what their God told them and nothing else. But now there are churches for all religions that are made specifically for LGBT people who have been shunned from their churches because of who they loved. The churches are now seeing that this is a thing not going away and they need to start changing to accept these people. A study done by the Pew Research Center shows that in 2019 (4 years after the legalization of same-sex marriage) Catholics were 57% for and 43% against, Jews

were 77% for and 23% against, Mormon was 26% for and 74% against, and Muslims were 42% for and 58% against (“Views about same-sex marriage,” 2019). That is a huge difference from when the fight started, it could still be better and that will hopefully come with time. But they will always believe what that small book tells them, that loving someone of the same sex is a sin and for that.

There are places that perform gay conversion therapy that are made for people who believed so strongly that God would not love them for that that they would learn to suppress their gayness and learn to love someone of the opposite sex. Or their family doesn't believe that being a homosexual is not right in the eyes of God, so they send away their families and friends to a place where they will be told that loving the people that they want to is wrong. The first camp was found in 1920 when analysts decided that homosexuality was not appropriate and they tried to treat it, but it was found soon after that homosexuality was incurable. Then in the 1930s the doctors began to physically and mentally abuse their patients as if they were criminals who have committed a crime punishable by death. Gay people have no right to be treated this way, the fact that this hatred started so long ago and is only slowly going away today. I think a big part of why people kept trying to change homosexuals is because Sigmund Freud stated that “homosexuality could sometimes be removed through hypnotic suggestion.” So after reading this people of the religious community believed that there was still hope for their loved one who had been plagued by the devil. They tried for years and years to change them back, so that they could be redeemed in the eyes of god and go to heaven after they pass on. But in the end, they changed back for a bit to make it seem as if the treatments works. Then later they would go back to their gay side because that is who they truly are and you can't love someone that you aren't attracted to in the slightest. People like Sandor Ferenczi, Anna Freud, Melanie Klein, Wilhelm Stekel, Edmund Bergler, also had big parts in keeping conversion therapy at large over the years.

There was a study done by The National Institutes of Health in 2004 that showed that students hear anti-gay insults at least 25 times a day and 97% of the time teachers do nothing about it. 50 years, it took that long for a man to marry the man he loved or a woman marry the woman she loved. I realize that there were so many other fights that have gone on for longer or are still going on, but this is a fight that shouldn't have even been a fight in the first place. They just wanted to be able to marry the person they loved without everyone judging them because they never judged a man for marrying a woman that he loved, so why should anyone judge a man for marrying a man that he loved. It is because of this discrimination that the LGBT community is denied rights like hospital visitation, socials security, and disability insurances. My dad and I have some family friends named Carl and Mark, the two of them have been married for 15 years and they had to get married in Canada because there

was almost nowhere in the U.S. that would give out a marriage license to two gay guys. Recently Mark switched jobs and was called into to see his boss about his health insurance. His boss said that he would give Mark health insurance and not Carl because this company did not recognize their marriage. Shortly after that Mark called my dad, then my dad called the company and settled the whole thing out and Carl ended up getting his health insurance back. But that just goes to show that even in 2019 when it is common for gays to married there are still people refusing to recognize their marriage because that is how they were raised and for some reason, they don't want to change what they think.

The Supreme Court passed laws like that it is illegal to refuse a person a glass of water, it is illegal to share your Netflix password, and that in Fort Thomas dogs are prohibited from chasing people of other animals before they legalized the marriage between two people that love each other. To answer my question from earlier, yes everyone should have the right to be happy in my opinion and that might not be the same for everyone else, even though that is what it should be. But even with all of this evidence of why we should be ok with it at this point I don't know what to tell you anymore, we are a country of liberty and justice and we still do not give everyone the justice that they deserve. Most of the fight is over, seeing that the marriage is legal, but there is still a fight between the LGBT community and the church because they still believe that this is not ok. That is a fight that will probably never end because there will always be at least one person out there who will live by that old book. There is nothing we can do to stop them from thinking like that other than showing them every day that there is no difference between us. There is no reason to keep fighting and we should just live in a place where everyone can be happy without the fear of judgment from everyone else.