What Matters – Equality

What matters to me? Equality amongst genders, races and sexualities. I believe that people are people, no matter what, and that needs to be recognized more fully by society.

It’s not just about accepting people – it’s about respectfully not taking into account the fact that they’re black, transgender, lesbian, etcetera, even when making friends. Liking a person only because you’re afraid of being called racist or homophobic if you don’t is vapid and actually quite rude. Like a person because of their character, not because they have a different coloured skin to you. If a person is cruel, or unfriendly, you have every right to dislike them, no matter what their race, gender or sexuality.

I think that transgendered or gender-queer people have it particularly tough, because they’re always being judged. Biological gender should make little or no difference to a person’s character, and just because they don’t feel comfortable with their sex it doesn’t mean that they’re freaks. It’s not an uncommon thing to not identify with your body, and to call them confused, (this goes for pansexuals, homosexuals and bisexuals too) is such an insult. They aren’t confused, they just identify differently, and there should be nothing weird or strange about that. For a modern society made to be more accepting, and to embrace the unique, we really are so judgemental.

Thankfully, most of the general public are more accepting of homosexuals, bisexuals or pansexuals these days, but often people are afraid of coming out, because they’ll be treated differently by their friends and family. People shouldn’t be afraid of loving somebody, they should be proud of the fact. People who come out suddenly find themselves losing friends of the same sex, who are afraid of rumours of a relationship between them, or scared of a romantic relationship trying to be initiated. This shouldn’t be the case – they’re the same people, and coming out as gay while society keeps the strong idea of ‘straight until proven gay’ can be very difficult.

I personally am pansexual, or at least a strong believer in the philosophy that love is a beautiful thing and shouldn’t be based on gender. Sexuality is a personal, deep thing. Telling a gay person that they just ‘haven’t found the right girl yet’, or telling a bisexual that they’re just confused is derogatory. It’s like being asked if you’re sexually attracted to whales and upon responding (hopefully!) with no, being told you just haven’t found the right whale yet. “How rude!” you’d think. “My sexuality is none of their business! How dare they tell me I just haven’t found the right whale yet! I’m not sexually attracted to a whale, that’s no problem of theirs.”

Exactly.

Not to say that a Caucasian heterosexual doesn’t have their share of problems and difficulties. But this essay isn’t about that, it’s about equality. A black, lesbian female should have as much privilege as a white, straight male, and that’s what this is about. Equality shouldn’t have to be enforced, or something that we have to be reminded about. It’s stupid and it makes me disappointed in society that I’m writing this essay at all, because equality shouldn’t just be thought or written about, it should be done. And it should’ve been done a long time ago.

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