

James Macak

Dr. Elena Chernyak

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### Breaking Social Norms Reflection

Religion is, for many people, a very uncomfortable topic to partake in during discussions and throughout their daily lives. Often one is shunned when they bring up biblical or religious materials to back up their side of a debate. The other day, I discussed with some friends that ended up posing the question of how I felt about same-sex marriage. This was the perfect opportunity to break social norms and argue from a stance, which so happened to be one where everyone else who was present disagreed. I unboxed my views clearly and calmly.

Having known the people present are very excepting of many modern theories and views on matters such as these, I was expecting a strong reaction to my proposal. I was hopeful of keeping the discussion civil, as subjects that have emotional attachment frequently develop friction.

My stance was simple; marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and a woman. This alone was enough for my friends to be left staring at me with their mouths open, wondering in awe how I can say such a thing. Once they handled the initial shock of my words, their rebuttal was along the lines of “How can you say such a thing?” and “You are offending so many people.” I continued to back up my view by quoting from the book of 1 Corinthians in the New Testament. And I stayed true to my belief as the discussion developed.

My feelings following the discussion were like those going into it. I was not surprised by their reactions. But I find it strange that as a society and an environment, one being a liberal college campus, who professes to be a place for open-mindedness to thrive, can be so close-minded when it comes to traditional conservative views. Proclaiming biblical passages is not something I usually do during discussions, and I found it to make people look at me like I have three heads. But three heads are better than one, right? It takes courage and perseverance to make progress in affairs that matter, so this social norm is one I will continue to break.