

Rafeh Qazi  
Thomas Rapp  
March 1, 2016

# Gay Rights in The Military

## Why They Should be Allowed to Serve

*Speech for audience one: The senior citizens church school class has invited you to one of their morning classes to offer your perspective on the issue of gays in the military. This church setting can be of any denomination or religion you prefer, as specific or as general as you want to make it.*

Today I have been invited to speak on a very important and controversial issue in our society. I have been asked to speak regarding whether a homosexual person should be allowed in the military or not. I believe that everyone should be allowed to serve in the armed forces and that someone's nationality, sexuality, or gender should not be the determining factor in terms of whether or not they can serve. I know that we all might have very strong opinions on this issue but I beg of you to please hold them back temporarily. I also ask of you to please keep your hearts and your minds open and if in the end you do not agree with me, then I will have been very thankful for your time and undivided attention.

I just want to read an excerpt from the Bible here... "In speaking to the Athenians, Paul stated that God 'has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings' (Acts 17:26)". God states His will very clearly here. If all human beings are created from one blood then that means that there is no separating factor. That means that we are all equal. If God... The almighty... The omnipotent... If He has made such a claim, then who are we to interject with our own interpretations that defy His will and go against His very own words. If we are to call ourselves religious people and true servants of God... We must embrace this view point completely. We cannot then create our interpretations and change them whenever it is convenient for us. We cannot then separate people based on their sexuality, gender, or nationality. If we cannot separate them based on the aforementioned traits, then we must go ahead and provide them with the same opportunities and rights as a straight Christian, or a straight Muslim, or a straight Jew. We have to be careful to not contradict ourselves... But more importantly... We have to be extremely careful not to contradict the word of God.

I believe that it is only a matter of time we move past this complete and unjust ruling of a human being not given equal rights based on their gender, sexuality, or nationality. How is this any different than when there was open racism against the minorities? How is this different than when black men, and black women, and black children were enslaved? How is this different than when shops would say that dogs are allowed, but people of color are not? I will tell you the answer... It is not any different. It is exactly the same. In this case, the only difference is that we are discriminating against someone's sexuality rather than their skin color.

Now let's discuss this from the perspective of the Constitution. According to the 14th amendment, "All men were created equal". There are no ifs... There are no buts. It does not state that all men were created equal... Except for gays. This amendment agrees with the word of God. Therefore, even lawfully speaking, it is unjust, unethical, and simply unfair to hold such prejudice based on falsified reasoning. I want to read a bit more from the Bible here so there is no room for misinterpretation. *"Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him"* (Ephesians 6:5-9). God does not care a single bit in terms of who you are because *"God shows personal favoritism to no man"* (Galatians 2:6).

In conclusion, according to the Bible, according to the constitution, according to humanity, and most importantly, according to God... All men and women are created equal. If that is the case then discrimination and prejudice for any reason whatsoever is not only unlawful but it is also a sin. Especially, we should not be trying to stop men or women from doing good. If God says that everyone should be treated fairly, then who are we to intervene and contradict His word? Thank you.

### **Audience Assumption: Senior Citizens**

*The reason why I chose to focus on religious arguments is because I assume I will be speaking with elderly people who are very religious. Also, most old people are not very amenable and have very strong viewpoints so it is easier to argue with them through religion and pathos than pure facts and statistics.*

**Audience Two: The Intrafraternity Council and Campus Panhellenic (organization that oversee frats and sororities on college campus) have asked you to speak to a sorority pledge class at one of their evening meetings. They want to hear your perspective on the issue of gays in the military.**

Today I have been invited to speak on a very important and controversial issue in our society. I have been asked to speak regarding whether a homosexual person should be allowed in the military or not. Before I continue... Who here does not know a gay person or does not have a gay friend? *I assume laughter, or applause, or both at this point so I would probably pause here for a bit. This is because almost every young person is more exposed and comfortable with the idea of different sexualities. Gay people are now extremely normal. Transgender, pansexual, etc, that is now what we are currently having trouble accepting.* I believe that everyone should be allowed to serve in the armed forces and that someone's nationality, sexuality, or gender should not be the determining factor whether or not they can serve. I know that we all might have very strong opinions on this issue but I beg of you to please hold them temporarily. I also ask of you

to please keep your hearts and your minds open and if in the end you do not agree with me, then I will have been very thankful for your time and undivided attention.

According to the 14th amendment of the constitution "all men are created equal". But apparently, the government did not get the memo. I think that Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) policy is a joke. It's like telling a hispanic person who is light skinned that "Hey, we are cool and you can totally be in this country so long as you don't tell me you are actually from Mexico. Also, don't worry, I'll try to never ask you". It is a shameful policy that does not adhere to the modern standards and as a matter of fact it does not even adhere to the old standards! The constitution was made in 1777 and not allowing gays in the armed forces is a direct violation of constitution because it discriminates against a human being based on a characteristic that they were born with and has nothing to do with their skill-set or what they have to offer.

I believe it is only a matter of time we move past this complete and unjust ruling of a human being not given equal rights based on their gender, sexuality, or nationality. How is this any different than when there was open racism against the minorities? How is this different than when black men, and black women, and black children were enslaved? How is this different than when shops would say that dogs are allowed, but people of color are not? I will tell you the answer... It is not any different. It is exactly the same. In this case, the only difference is that we are discriminating against someone's sexuality rather than their skin color.

In conclusion, it is 2016 people. It is the 21st century, this issues should be antiquated. These issues should solely exist now in history books. We live in a sophisticated and modern society. We live in a country where we are allowed to cherish our freedom and embrace our differences. This country is known as the melting pot for a reason. I believe gay people should be allowed to serve in the armed forces, and I hope you agree with me on this. Thank you for your time and undivided attention.

**Audience Assumption: Intrafraternity Council**

*The reason why I chose to focus more on ethos and logos instead of pathos here is because we have people on the council who are more likely to appeal to reason. This is because they are more exposed to different sexualities, different genders, and different nationalities in the college. I believe the frat council will have a more amenable outlook on this issue and the line of reasoning that avoids religion will prove to be much more effective.*