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## Same Sex Marriage And Religion

In recent years, there have been a multitude of debates surrounding the controversial topic of same sex marriage. Even more so, Christians have been held under a microscope in regard to their stance on the topic of discussion. Some Christians believe that it is an abomination, a terrible act and usually act in anger to discourage homosexuals. Others believe that it is tolerable, not because they think it is right, but because they choose to show love and grace. In this paper, I will present my mother's argument about same sex marriage, demonstrate that her argument fits with Kantian deontology from the course material, and then offer a starting point for a potential argument against it.

Recently, I spoke with my mother on the matter of same sex marriage to find out what her thoughts were about the subject. Her ultimate conclusion was that, even though she personally does not believe it is correct, she does not have an issue with it because ultimately it is up to God to decide whether or not it is just. She presented details that lead to the conclusion that she is accepting of same sex marriage on the basis of God and the contents of the Bible because she feels like it is her job as a Christian to love and support. She began with a claim that described that the residents of America are encouraged to live life freely and according to how they want with the exception of deliberately harming people or infringing upon laws. With that idea she moved to a claim that explained that in the Bible it is declared that a man should not have sexual relations with another man, and it is assumed the same for women. However, deeper in the Word are love, compassion, mercy, and grace; key components that Christians are expected to demonstrate on a day to day basis, regardless of the situation or the individual. If Christians practice love and if men marrying men or people identifying differently from their biological sex is something that is not physically harming anyone, then there should not be any reason to contest it with resentment. She feels that she is not called to judge and that same sex marriage, though she does not believe it is correct, it is not disobeying any laws set aside within the United States and on the same level, it is not causing anyone any physical harm when it does occur.

There are many approaches to making a conclusion and, in this case, I think the Kantian style approach best communicates the thought process behind the general conclusion my mother came to. The Kantian style of moral reasoning stems from the idea that we have a moral obligation or duty to follow and once we follow it or meet our obligation and do our part, so to speak, we cannot be held accountable for whatever happens after the matter. In this instance, if my mother does what is asked of her in the Bible which is to show God's love and not be judgmental or mean spirited, then everything after that is in God's control. According to my mother, He decides if it is right and if it really is an issue looking forward. Christians have an obligation or duty as a part of that religion that requires them to act out of love and kindness in order to show the love of God. Someone who uses the Kantian approach to my mother's conclusion would probably say something along the lines of your job as a Christian is to show love to everyone. If you hate or discriminate, you disrespect the men and women getting married and participating in same sex marriage as well as what God requests of Christians directly. You are better off doing what is asked of you and not thinking about it in a chain of events. You did your job and you were not responsible for the outcome otherwise; the universal law would be broken.

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If I were to start an argument against the conclusion my mother gave, I would probably start with the fact that she should agree with it because of her reasoning and according to the Kantian deontology it matches with. She should agree with it because everyone deserves to be treated with respect and equality, not just because that is what is required of her as a Christian. This approach also insists that, in this particular case, homosexuals should be treated equally because they are no less of a human compared to heterosexuals. What this means is that same sex marriage would be between equals and would allow homosexuals to express their desire in a morally acceptable way.

In regard to same sex marriage, there are plenty of relevant positions that someone could take in support of it or the latter. My mother's stance on the topic of same sex marriage would probably be more indifferent than some other views but aligned more so with Kantian moral reasoning patterns. She believes that she has a duty as a Christian to exude love for everyone regardless of the situation and that God would take care of the rest. In this paper, I presented my mother's argument about same sex marriage, demonstrated that her argument fit with Kantian deontology from the course material, and then offered a starting point for a potential argument against it.