

The Advantages of Being Heterosexual

We live in a society where being heterosexual or perceived as heterosexual carries advantages and entitlements. Many of these benefits are most often invisible and provide financial, emotional, and safety entitlements. Some of these advantages include:

- I don't have to consider my safety when walking with my partner.
- I can walk hand-in-hand with my partner with no regard to the comments, looks of horror, or safety.
- I can go to any restaurant I wish to celebrate my anniversary and love with my significant other without regard to safety concerns.
- I can be reasonably assured that the police will respond to my call for help regarding a domestic dispute.
- I am never questioned about my sexual orientation.
- I am never asked to explain the heterosexual "experience."
- I am never asked to explain how I got this way regarding my sexual orientation.
- I am never asked to explain the "straight agenda."
- I can use the appropriate pronouns, when asked about my relationship, without fearing people will judge or reject me.
- I can speak in public about the causes and equality of all people without being judged of personally having an "agenda."
- When my significant other is in the hospital, I am assured of being allowed to visit them, because I am considered family.
- I am never asked to speak for all heterosexuals.
- My sexual orientation will not be used to deny me the opportunity to rent an apartment, or obtain a job or promotion.
- I do not have to consider whether I will find accommodation when planning a vacation which will welcome my significant other and me.
- I do not have to be fearful that I will be arrested while in my hotel room.
- I can openly display pictures and personal items which celebrate my relationship.
- If I choose, my sexual orientation will not prevent me from the child adopting process.
- I can live in this society without ever thinking about the benefits I have because of my sexual orientation.
- If my significant other should die, no one will question whether I have the right to make the arrangements or question the appropriateness of my attending the funeral.
- I can openly grieve because of the death of my significant other.
- I can be assured of retaining the property I shared with my significant other after their death. No one will question if I have ownership rights.
- I can be assured no one will take away my children because of my sexual orientation.
- My fitness, as a parent, is not questioned because of my sexual orientation.
- My family and I can see us portrayed positively in stories, movies, pictures, greeting cards, and posters.

- I never have to hear, “what a waste,” when people find out my sexual orientation.
- I never have to answer “who plays the man and who plays the woman?”
- I am free to choose the job or profession I wish without regards to the appropriateness of my sexual orientation.
- I can be assured my employer will give me time off, under the Family Medical Leave Act, to care for my ill significant other.
- I can be assured my employer will offer health benefits to my family and me with no tax consequences to me for the portion paid by my employer.
- I do not have to provide any other documentation to my employers other than a marriage license validating my relationship with my significant other to qualify for health care or other company benefits.
- I will be entitled to my significant other’s social security benefits.
- I can be assured the law will protect my position, as a parent, should something happen to my significant other.
- I can be assured the government will provide tax benefits for my significant other and me, because of my relationship.
- I don’t have to consider how my partner or I will be treated when invited to a social gathering.
- I don’t have to consider when my work group plans a “family” gathering, whether I will be included or welcomed or the result on Monday, if I do not attend.
- I can easily share my plans for the weekend or what I did over the weekend or on vacation without considering the pronouns I use.
- I don’t have to explain to my supervisor that because I don’t attend the company get-togethers or am unable to share my personal life, that I am not a team player or aloof.
- Spousal abuse is an acknowledged social ill and I can expect help from the police and other social organizations.
- As a straight young person, I can count on being helped by our community’s social service organizations.
- I can introduce my date to my family and probably not have them ignore them.
- Should something happen to my relationship, people will not tell me the reason is because these types of relationships never work out.
- I don’t have to seek validation of my sexual orientation and me as a person through the collective studies by the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, other scientific studies, or my book of worship.
- I don’t have to continue to defend my humanness and who I am as God’s perfect child to those who judge me as a moral deviant and condemn me to an eternity of hell.
- I can turn on my T.V. or attend a movie and not see a caricature that would describe my entire community.
- I can celebrate who I am, in my fullness of a person, by being true to myself.
- I don’t have to think about my sexual orientation at all.

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