

Raleigh Sullivan  
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LGBTQ+ Online Activity

When I was growing up, I really wasn't educated on the LGBTQ+ community and their struggles. I knew about lesbian and gay individuals, but beyond that I had no knowledge that there were other sexual orientations. I believe that this has created an underlying bias in me towards this community and I am thankful to have gotten to watch these videos because they have shifted my perspective. I can sometimes feel uncomfortable with LGBTQ+ individuals because I don't always know how to interact with them. This assignment has helped me to see things from their perspective and have a better idea of how to treat them in the way that they deserve. My responsibility as a nurse is to provide care to all people regardless of who they are and how they choose to live their lives. In full transparency, I feel convicted in my faith as a Christ-follower that being LGBTQ+ is against God's plan for us. It's difficult for me to share that because it tends to shut people down and cause them to view me as a hateful or judgmental person. However, I want to make it clear that this is a personal belief that I never want to force on others. I am not one to tell people how to live their lives and my goal is to love all people and treat them with respect even if their views don't fully align with mine. It breaks my heart that so many people give up basic human needs such as healthcare due to prejudice and lack of education. No person should be turned away from or provided a lesser quality service because of any of their personal beliefs or qualities. I aspire to educate myself so that I can contribute to the end of this discrimination and be a safe place for these individuals. However, I do have one concern that has to do with trans kids. I know this was addressed in the video as a concern, but I am hesitant about the hormone therapy drugs that are being administered that are not FDA approved for pediatric use. It didn't seem like there was concrete evidence that these kids would be safe and healthy after long-term use of these. In addition, this is a very life-altering decision that is being placed in the hands of individuals who are too young to

have a traditional sense of medical emancipation in the first place. I am interested to see how this plays out and am thankful to have received this education.