

Heterosexual Privilege, Points to Ponder

Marrying, which includes the following privileges:

- Public recognition and support for an intimate relationship (eg, receiving cards or phone calls celebrating your commitments to another; supporting activities and social expectations of longevity and stability for your committed relationship)
- Paid leave from employment when grieving the death of your spouse
- Filing joint tax returns, inheriting from your spouse automatically under probate laws
- Immediate access to your loved ones in case of accident or emergency
- Family-of-origin support for a life with a spouse-dislike won't be based on homophobia

Not questioning your normalcy, sexually and culturally:

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- Having role models of your gender and sexual orientation
- Seeing condoned romance and relationships from fiction, movies, and TV
- Having positive media images of people with whom you can identify
- I can if I wish arrange to be in the company of people of my sexuality most of the time
- If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me
- I am never asked to speak for all the people of my sexuality
- I am not accused of being abused, warped or psychologically confused because of my sexual orientation
- I don't have to defend my heterosexuality
- People don't ask why I made my choice of sexual orientation
- People don't ask why I made my choice to be public about my sexual orientation
- My masculinity/femininity is not challenged because of my sexual orientation
- I am not identified by my sexual orientation
- I can choose to not think politically about my sexual orientation
- People do not assume I am experienced in sex (or that I even have it!) merely because of my sexual orientation
- Nobody calls me straight with maliciousness

Validation from the culture in which you live:

- Living openly with your partner
- Talking about your relationship, or what projects, vacations, and family planning you and your lover/partner are creating
- When I talk about my heterosexuality (such as in a joke or talking about my relationships), I will not be accused of pushing my sexual orientation onto others
- Expressing pain when a relationship ends from death or separation, and having other people notice and tend to your pain
- Receiving social acceptance by neighbors, colleagues, and good friends
- Noting having to hide and lie about women/men-only social activities
- Dating the person of your desire in your teen years
- Working without being identified by your sexuality/culture (eg, you get to be a farmer, bricklayer, artist, etc, without being labeled the heterosexual farmer, etc)

Institutional acceptance:

- Employment opportunity - increased possibilities of getting a job, receiving on-the-job training and promotion
- Receiving validation from your religious community, being able to be a member of the clergy/religious leadership
- Being employed as a teacher in pre-school through high school without fear of being fired any day because you are assumed to corrupt children
- Adopting children, foster-parenting children
- Raising children without threats of state intervention, without children having to worry which of their friends might reject them because of their parent's sexuality
- Being able to serve in the military
- When I am told about our national heritage or about "civilization," I am shown that people of my sexuality made it what it is
- I can be sure that children will be given curricular materials that testify to the existence of my sexuality
- I can remain oblivious of the culture and customs of homosexuals and bisexuals without feeling in my culture any penalty for such oblivion
- I can remain oblivious to the culture and customs of homosexuals and bisexuals and be congratulated by my culture for such oblivion

Personal Health

- I do not have closet anxiety
- I can publicly display affection to my loved one without fear of harrassment or attack
- I needn't hide my sexuality in certain situations for personal safety
- I can leave a nightclub consisting mostly of people of my sexuality knowing I will not get harrassed or attacked for my sexuality
- I can go home from most meetings of organizations I belong to feeling somewhat tied in, rather than isolated, out-of-place, outnumbered, unheard, held at a distance, or feared
- I need not fear financial and emotional truncation from my family simply due to my sexuality
- I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help, my sexuality will not work against me
- I did not grow up with games that attack my sexual orientation (IE fag tag or smear the queer) I can count on finding a therapist or doctor willing and able to talk about my sexuality

http://wwwglccsforg/library/coming_out/hetero_privilegehtm

<http://wwwncfcarletonca/ip/sigs/life/gay/oppres/het>