Miranda Hall

Problems of Knowledge

Reaction Paper 3

Episode 22: Homosexuality

The first feelings I had with this was ones of skepticism as his book was titled “What’s Wrong With Homosexuality” and as someone who identifies as bisexual I had a hard time hearing this title. Because of this I was not sure if I was about to listen to a podcast speaking against homosexuality or one accepting it. The first point he brought up was that we need to define what unnatural and natural is, and if what is natural defines what is moral. I think this is a really important question to ask, what is natural, I mean homosexuality occurs in nature between almost every other species so when we question what is natural I think maybe it is more what is natural for humans. Going off of that though I do not think we should base morals off of “nature” murder is natural yet it is seen as immoral.

They then go into the discussion about religion. This as a point I am glad came up because we did not get to talk about it in class. When I was a freshman in high school my table at lunch was full of incredibly religious people and they were very against homosexuality, yet they were friends with an openly gay boy saying that he was “in a phase” and that’s why they could be friends. They used the bible as their reasoning behind it, so when I was forced to go to church with my grandmother I went through Leviticus and found the “rule” but I found a few others. The next time it was brought up I said well why can you break every other rule in that section and they were confused, and I said well you shave your beard and wear two mixed fabrics. They said that I was making it up and pulled out their bible apps to look up what I was saying. Since my point was counter to theirs using their own evidence they did not believe me and I think that really shows why laws and opinions should not be based off of this “book”.

Another point they briefly touched on was the issue of transgendered people using the bathroom. This was such a heated topic in our country last year and it still confuses me as to why. Transgender people just want to go to the bathroom, they still have normal bodily functions they were just born with the wrong physical form. They said that it is not transgender people we need to fear attacking people inside of bathrooms, the majority of the attack comes from straight males. The fact that we are so close minded and scared of those who are not the same as us that we won’t allow them to use the bathroom shocks and bewilders me.

I really appreciated the tactful way this subject was talked about because this can sometimes be a topic that is not handled or discussed well and it meant a lot to me that they were so insightful and not attacking either side.

I wanted to say thank you so much for this course, it was one of my absolute favorite courses I have taken so far while in school. I really appreciated how much you would try to get us involved and not just let us sit there in silence. I hope to be able to take more philosophy courses in the future. Thank you for opening my eyes to the world of philosophy!