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Social ethics

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Gays & Lesbians Adopting Children

In America, many children that go into and orphanage are either not wanted by their parents or they are taken away because they are in an unsuitable environment. Almost 60% of children spend two to five years waiting to be adopted and 15% are practically trapped in foster care for five or more years before they are adopted (Children’s Rights). There are a lot a children out there in need of homes and families that can care for them. Some are not being adopted because of one main reason, gays and lesbians are not being allowed to adopt in some cases. Sure we have the heterosexual parents that adopt children here and there, but they have a means to have their own children themselves. Gays and lesbians do not have this option and are being held back from loving children because of their sexual orientation. In my opinion, gays and lesbians should be allowed to adopt children and there are many reasons why.

One of the many theories that this problem could relate to is the Consequentialist theory. This theory states that we base our moral judgments on consequences. According to Debate.org, people are claiming that gays and lesbians should not be allowed to adopt because the children themselves could become gay. The thing is though, gay and lesbians can come from a straight family as well. So this argument really falls right through the cracks. Another theory that could relate would be Naturalistic ethical theories. These theories are moral theories that stress human nature as the source of what is right and what is wrong. Basically this is two sided. Those who are against gays and lesbians doing, well anything, see gays and lesbians adopting as a very wrong act. Then you have those who see gays and lesbians adopting as the best thing to happen for kids. So when these theories come into play, it is always going to drive a wedge and dived people by what they believe to be wrong and right.

Now we have the Nonconsequentialist theories which are moral theories that hold that actions can be right or wrong regardless of their consequences. Like it was discussed before, there is a huge right and wrong divide for this topic. For these theories though, it focuses more on the children and them having a good home. Basically it is seen like gays and lesbians adopting children because then that child does not have to be in an orphanage and can walk away knowing that they have a family. But it is also seen as gays and lesbians not being able to adopt and forcing more children to stay in an orphanage. There is a huge divide for these theories, and many do not care about the consequences. Last we have the Normative theory. This is a theory about how people ought to behave. Those that are against gays say that they should just stay behind closed doors and not get themselves involved in straight peoples business. But gays and lesbians are standing up for themselves by saying that they do have the right to do as they please and behave as they wish.

What I have learned from my research is that many people do not want gays and lesbians involved in anything that is outside the normal. Going back to the theories I have research though, the Consequentialist theory restated is a moral theory that bases moral judgment on consequences. I believe that this is a good theory to use in stating my point that gays and lesbians should be able to adopt because it is not a proven fact having gay or lesbian parents will turn the child gay or that they will have a bad childhood. Then the Naturalistic ethical theories is again, moral theories that stress human nature as the source of what is right and wrong. I believe this is a good theory to use in my research because it basically shows that this is a huge debated topic because of the two sides. One side believes that gays and lesbians adopting children is pretty much the most hated thing they could do in society. Then the other side is more focused on the children themselves because it is less that have to sit in an orphanage hoping to be adopted one day.

Reverting back to the theories I used,