

A Letter to a Friend

Dear John,

Thanks very much for your letter dated Nov. 22nd. Hope everything is fine. I do realize you are agitated by my late reply. Please take it easy on me, as I have been busy recently.

I am extremely delighted to have received your thoughtful letter in which you even shared with me your sorrow. Being your good friend, it is my pleasure to be your listener and give you some advice. I hope I can help you.

It is understandable that you were taken aback the moment when you heard that your very close friend, Tommy is homosexual. I am sorry to hear that you are vexed by such a complex sentiment and completely know how you feel about such a hard fact, which is surprising.

Little did I think Tommy should be a gay judging from his behaviour at ordinary times. It is very natural for anyone to feel ill at ease and low after he has been told that his close friend is a gay; a harsh reality which is unacceptable and seems abnormal to many people.

You ask me whether you should become estranged from him, as homosexuality means an evil to you. Considering your profound sentiments of friendship with him over many years, you are in a dilemma as to what to do.

Come on, John! Don't be so stubborn and shallow! It seems to me that you still dearly cherish the memories of all happy moments with Tommy. First, ask yourself whether it is worthwhile terminating your friendship with a close friend for many years? Don't you think that it is very unfair to judge your friend by saying he is

not quite an alright guy just because he is a gay? After all, as far as I am concerned, Tommy has been honest with you all along.

Have you tried to put yourself into Tommy's position and understand his innermost feeling? It has been said that many people are born to be homosexual or have homosexual tendency. Do you think all people who suffer from homosexuality want to be gay of their own accord? Do you want to help Tommy kick his homosexual habit? If you do, don't you think that it does no good at all for you to leave Tommy at this very time?

Though not an expert in homosexuality, I think some gay people have no choice but have to be gay — as maybe they are born that way. Moreover, I believe some of them feel helpless after they have struggled with this tendency all their lives, only to find that they fail in solving their problem.

To me, homosexual people, including both gay and lesbian, are just the same as us. They are human beings too. Their only difference from us is their sexual preference, which is a very personal thing that has nothing to do with a third party at all! Homosexual people also contribute to our society. It is totally unfair for them to be stereotyped by our society as "abnormal" or even "sick". Though some of them are promiscuous — a major reason for getting AIDS — not all of them behave that way. And there is no absolute truth or wrong in this world. John, we have got to learn to accept things that we cannot change and to judge things objectively.

John, try to ask yourself, "did Tommy make presumptuous demands on you?" and has Tommy regarded you as a very good friend all along?" In fact, he could have chosen not to tell you his big secret. However, why did he do so? You have always praised Tommy for being a good guy by nature in front of other people. Do you think homosexuality is really such a terrible thing which makes you have to keep such a great distance from him? Is it worthwhile doing so? It must be stressed that it is vital to have a very understanding, considerate friend!

I think the right thing for you to do now is to calm down a bit and look at the problem more objectively.

Being a person who thinks highly of friendship, you should seriously take into consideration my advice here. If I can be of any help to you, please don't hesitate to let me know. If possible, I would like to get together with you next Friday.

Always glad to hear from you!

With best wishes,
William

