

People Not Heard

More people should be heard in Goshen because so many things are unfair to people who are “different” from others. Have you ever felt like you haven’t been treated the same as everyone else because you were “different?” One thing that isn’t talked about enough as it should be is how people are all treated in different ways. In Goshen that is one of the problems: people should all be treated the same and feel the same; Goshen should work on that more. The people who don’t fit up to society’s expectations should be heard more often than they are. Goshen should listen to diverse voices.

Have you ever been treated differently because you weren’t who people wanted you to be? If so take my cousin for example. He has been treated very differently for a few years by so many different people. He has taught me to not listen to people who treat everyone differently just because they aren’t the type of person they wanted everyone to be. When my cousin first told people that he was gay, they treated him differently, leaving him out, not talking to him anymore, and calling him names, and overall treated him like an outsider. But he has never let that stop him. He may not let it show that it bothers him, but it very much did.

One day in June of 2021 there is always a big garage sale in his neighborhood, and the church down the road from it always sells strawberry shortcake. But they didn’t like him for being gay so he wasn’t liked at the church very much. But he went to go get the strawberry shortcake because everyone wanted it, not caring if they said anything or if they looked at him weirdly.

“You cannot be in this church because you are not the way God wanted you to be.” Some of the people in the church told him, making sure other people didn’t hear their conversation.

“Ok if that’s how you want it, it’s fine,” he told them as he left the church over the summer.

Even now when he felt upset by people treating him differently, he didn’t ever let that stop him. In Goshen people who don’t get heard enough have it harder than other sometimes. For my cousin, coming out was hard because he didn’t know what people were going to do, or what they were going to say. He has talked with groups of people about how to change this, and how to get Goshen to change how they are. He and the people that were in that group were some of the diverse voices Goshen needed. If others were to join it could help everyone feel equal and not different in the way they feel it.

Now you can understand that Goshen has the ability to change, to become more welcoming to everyone. The more diverse voices we have the better, it can be the thing we need to help Goshen change. Everyone in Goshen has the power to help Goshen become better to hear the people, to help everyone feel the same and not feel like an outsider. As long as the people of Goshen start to realize people who are “different” aren’t bad people, maybe things could change for the better, and maybe more people would get their voices to be heard.