

Kirk, 18 years

I first knew about my sexual feelings when I was 13. It took me about three years to deal with them honestly. I came to the conclusion I was homosexual after I had been exclusively attracted to males for at least three years, but crucially, when I fell in love with another male. After that I dealt with it honestly and openly and came out. My mother initially thought I should try out girls before making a 'big decision' - I rejected this because this would presuppose an attraction to females that was simply not present. My father, who had instilled in me fairly liberal values, was surprisingly conservative and talked about biblical condemnation of homosexuality. I addressed his biblical references respectfully but told him it was not a consideration in me coming to terms with who I was.

Once I told him of how I had come to fall in love with another male and was exclusively attracted to them he supported me. I am somewhat critical of gay culture in as much as it is hedonistic and superficial. Additionally, the promiscuity of gays generally speaking is not something I feel greatly about. However, my biggest hope is for the relative normalisation of homosexuality. I don't believe homophobia can be eradicated. People will always have various fears or hatred, and to be honest, I'm not worried at all about this. So long as I don't have to associate with homophobic people I am happy. But what I mean by normalisation is increased tolerance and at the very least legal equality. This I believe is about nothing short of the integrity of liberal democracy. My greatest hope, is of course, for a life long partnership with someone very special.