



10 Things You Can Do to Be a Straight Ally in Your Faith Community

Looking for simple ways to start being a more engaged and active straight ally in your faith community? Try using a few of these suggestions to build your ally skills and start creating change.

1. **Speak up.** When people speak negatively about gay, lesbian, bi, or transgender individuals, be the one who raises an objection. It doesn't have to be about debating religious texts – it should just be about reminding people that everyone should be treated with kindness.
2. **Have a discussion.** Meet with the head of your congregation and talk about why you think your community needs to be more welcoming and affirming.
3. **Encourage participation.** Personally invite GLBT people to services and/or events.
4. **Become a resource.** Provide affirming GLBT books or movies for the congregation library.
5. **Have an event.** Such as a movie night to show a film like [For the Bible Tells Me So](#) or [Through My Eyes](#) and follow it with a group discussion.
6. **Invite a speaker.** Ask them to come and do a presentation on GLBT people and faith to get a new perspective.
7. **Consider change.** Support church policies that promote equality and encourage others to do the same.
8. **Make the ask.** Request that your clergy person perform commitment ceremonies for gay couples.
9. **Educate others.** Let your church know about which companies, community groups and organizations are inclusive, and which ones aren't.
10. **Give a sermon.** About acceptance and love for all people – and directly mention GLBTs – as a way to start a congregation-wide conversation.

Don't forget to visit www.straightforequality.org and read *the guide to being a straight ally* and look for the Straight for Equality in Faith Communities guide in 2012!

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