

Is There a Place for Gay People in Conservatism and Conservative Politics? : Dispatches from the Culture Wars

That is the title of a [panel discussion](#) held at the Cato Institute last week, a discussion that featured Andrew Sullivan, Nick Herbert (a member of the British parliament from the Conservative Party) and the vile Maggie Gallagher of the National Organization for Marriage. And it was quite an interesting discussion.

Friend of Dispatches Jason Kuznicki, who works at Cato, was at the event and got to ask Maggie Gallagher a question at the end (it's at about 73 minutes in to the video I'll post below the fold). And he [described it](#) the day it happened at Positive Liberty:

I got to ask Maggie Gallagher the question I've always wanted to ask her: *What do you think that am I supposed to do with my life?*

Suppose I found myself in agreement with her. Suppose I concluded that same-sex marriage was corrosive to society. Do I leave my husband? Do I send my adopted daughter back to the state? Enter ex-gay therapy, which isn't likely to work? Tell my whole family that I'm single now, and that Scott shouldn't be welcome at family events? Live my whole life alone, and loveless? Hide? Where is the life I'm supposed to live?

I probably wasn't so articulate at the Cato event, but I do recall Gallagher's very simple answer: "I don't know."

She certainly doesn't, and that's the whole problem with gay conservatism -- there's hardly a life to be lived within it. There's no breathing room. Until social conservatives offer us a better answer than "I don't know," until they offer us a way to be gay, and conservative, and respectable in their eyes, they're not going to find many gay conservatives.

A very good and very powerful point. Here's the video of the whole event: