

HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE -

Does it matter?

Marriage for Everyone

Marriage equality is a matter of fundamental fairness. Denying a right to full and equal marriage is a serious form of minority discrimination.

How can same-sex marriage hurt you? Civil marriage for same-sex couples does not affect religious institutions or religious marriages in any way. No religion would be forced to marry same sex couples.

Marriage for Everyone

Without the freedom to marry, gay and lesbian couples do not receive the same recognition or protections for their families as other couples. Studies have proven that children of gay and lesbian parents are as well adjusted as children of heterosexual parents.

Propaganda War

You Christians are so judgmental and intolerant.
You are always trying to impose your religion on others.

You are responsible for the bullying of lesbian, gay and transgender people who were made that way by God. Your hatred for homosexuals makes you an American Taliban.

How do you respond?

What is your source of truth? Is there absolute truth?

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My starting points: (1) There is a God who created all things. (2) He has revealed Himself.

Conflicting Worldview Principles on God, man, morality, State

Materialism

No God, universe self created.

Man evolved from dead matter.
Nothing higher than man.

Man is autonomous without
suppression of moral code.

State as savior. Socialist one
world government.

Christianity

God created and rules all things.

Man created by God in His
image.

Moral absolutes; otherwise
slavery to sin.

Unrestrained power corrupts.
Only Jesus is capable of one
world government.

Is there a neutral position?

1. All worldviews are equally religious and faith based.
2. In asking you to leave God out of it, your opponent is asking you to accept his worldview and faith.

Jesus: There is no Neutrality.

He who is not with Me is against Me,
and he who does not gather with Me
scatters abroad. Matt. 12:30

No one can serve two masters; for
either he will hate the one and love the
other, or else he will be loyal to the
one and despise the other. You
cannot serve God and mammon.
Matt. 6:24

What does God's Word say about marriage?

And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” Gen. 2:18

And Jesus answered and said to them, “But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two but one flesh.” Mark 10:5-9

What does God's Word say about Marriage?

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.” Gen. 1:27-28, 9:1,7

But did he not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. Malachi 2:15

The secular response

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But....Isn't all law legislated morality? The only question is which morality.

Why has every nation, including pagan nations, given special protection to heterosexual marriage? Why has no nation before the current time ever treated homosexual marriage as equivalent to traditional marriage?

**God's moral laws are fixed and
inexorable.**

God is not mocked.

What a man or nation sows, that shall they also
reap.

Failing to obey and protect God's plan for
marriage and child rearing imposes serious
social harms on a nation. In other words, there
are also practical, pragmatic reasons for
protecting one-man one-woman marriage.

Why have nations legally regulated marriage?

1. Sexual intercourse makes babies.
2. No society can survive without babies to take the place of those who die.
3. Married mothers and fathers are the best environment to raise babies. Children need the nurture of both mothers and fathers in a committed, stable relationship to have the best chance to become well-adjusted, responsible citizens.
4. If marriage did not produce children, the state would not have much reason to regulate people's social unions.
5. As marriage breaks down, dependence on government programs and the criminal justice system increases.

Traditional marriage prevents abuse of women and children.

1. Never-married mothers experience nearly 3X as much domestic violence as married mothers. (148 violent crimes per 1000 mothers vs.53/1000)
2. Compared to living with their married parents, violence against children is:
 - 6X higher in a step family
 - 14X higher living with a single mother
 - 20X higher living with cohabiting parents
 - 33X higher living with mother and boyfriend

Traditional Marriage vs. Cohabitation

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. Heb.13:4

2003 analysis of scientific literature by David Popenoe & Barbara Defoe:

1. Rates of depression among cohabiting couples are 3X higher than married couples.
2. Infidelity among cohabiting men is 4X higher.
3. $\frac{3}{4}$ of cohabiting parents separate before their children reach age 16.

Traditional Marriage vs Cohabitation

4. Those cohabiting before marriage have a divorce rate 2X higher.

Chicago sociologist Linda Waite:

5. Married men and women are likely to live longer, be physically and mentally healthier, be happier, recover more quickly from illness, take better care of themselves, and avoid risky behavior.

III Effects of Homosexuality

1. Homosexuals have a reduced life expectancy because of the disease and violence associated with that life choice. The median age of

Gay men dying of aids is 39 yrs,

Gay men dying of other causes is 42 yrs,

Lesbian women at death is 45 yrs.

Only 1% of homosexuals die of old age, and only 3% reach age 65.

2. Homosexual relationships tend to be promiscuous and short-lived. A 2003 Dutch study found an average relationship of 1 ½ yrs and an average of 8 partners/ yr, even in a “committed” relationship.

Effects of Homosexuality

3. Homosexuals' insistence on the right to adopt abandons the best interests of children as the decision making criterion, and makes children commodities.

4. Homosexuality is a lifestyle choice. There is no gay gene. People are homosexuals by choice, not by nature. The Bible clearly states in Romans 1:26-27 that homosexuality is unnatural or “against nature.”

Disadvantages of Children Raised in Same-sex Households

New Family Structures study by Mark Regnerus of the U. of Texas:

Children raised by homosexual parents are more likely than children raised by their married father and mother to suffer a host of social problems:

- Less impulse control & more criminal conduct,
- More depression & thoughts of suicide,
- More sexually transmitted diseases,
- More sexual touching by parent,
- More cohabitation,
- More unfaithful to partners,
- More drinking to get drunk,
- More use of tobacco and marijuana.

Adopting same-sex marriage can't hurt anyone else.

What does the evidence with same-sex marriage show – where it has already been adopted?

Has it been benign? Has there been any impact on parental rights, on religious and economic freedoms, or on freedom of speech?

See, for example, *What same-sex “marriage” has done to Massachusetts*, by Brian Camenker

Loss of Parental Rights & Authority

1. Your children will be indoctrinated at taxpayer expense. Homosexuality is treated as normal and good and included in the school curriculum and library, in special assemblies for “tolerance,” and in gay celebration days.

2. Judges have ruled that, because the school has a duty to teach homosexuality as normal, parents have no right to opt their children out of objectionable teachings.

3. Dept. of public health describes and promotes “safe” homosexual sex practices.

Loss of Religious Freedom

1. Sexual freedom trumps religious freedom. Because same-sex marriage is law, no moral objection to homosexuality will be tolerated.
2. Faith-based ministries which do not approve homosexuality – e.g. Catholic adoption agencies – are shut down.
3. All businesses must deal with homosexuals' requests without moral objections or face a civil rights complaint and fines. For example, wedding photographers, cake bakers, bed and breakfast operators.

Loss of Freedom of Speech

1. News media are propagandists for homosexual causes and censors of those who speak the Biblical point of view.
2. Homosexual advocates bully and intimidate religious objectors, and slander them as bigots and homophobes. In some cases, there are vandalism and death threats.
3. Keeping your job and advancing in government and large corporate employment depends on your keeping quiet about any moral objections to homosexual practices.

Loss of Freedom of Speech

4. Avoiding discipline in the government licensed professions depends on your being silent about moral objections to this behavior. E.g. social workers.

5. Merely publishing Biblical passages condemning homosexual practices can result in civil rights complaints and fines.

Socialism and Scarcity

Socialist-Progressives view the world as one of scarcity and their job as the transfer of wealth to even out disparities. Because resources are scarce, overpopulation is a problem.

The culture of death being spread by Progressive governments includes several practices that reduce population:

- Contraception to prevent conception,
- Promoting homosexuality to prevent conception,
- Abortion – 50 million babies killed in the US,
 - More babies aborted than born alive in Russia, one child policy in China,
- Euthanasia and assisted suicide, and
- Rationing medical care

Conclusion – Another Social Experiment Defying God

1. American Christians have largely tolerated a series of failed social experiments in defiance of God's moral prescriptions for which we are now suffering the consequences:
 - No-fault divorce,
 - Welfare and dispossessed fathers,
 - Replacing abstinence with safe-sex practice,
 - Cohabitation,
 - Unrestricted abortion
2. Christians have adopted these practices themselves, becoming more like the world.

Conclusion – Another Social Experiment Defying God

3. What makes homosexual marriage particularly bad is that God says in Romans 1:24-32 the spreading of homosexuality is a mark of God's judgment on and abandonment of a nation.

4. Will we stand against this latest social experiment as an attack on the best interests of children (and our moral convictions), or will we be silent again?

A Christian Response

1. All people (and therefore all Christians) are sinners in need of Jesus' salvation.
2. Homosexual activity is one of those sins with which some in the church have struggled and from which Jesus can redeem us. 1 Cor. 6:9-11
3. It is not loving to approve or tolerate sin. It is loving to humbly show the sinner his need for Christ.
4. We should not reply to gay bullying with anger, but with patient humility, confident in the Word and sovereignty of God.