

## Same-Sex Marriage: Why Not?

“The question then is **why homosexual relationships should be treated as uniquely analogous to marriage**. The aspect that differentiates homosexual unions from other non-marital relationships of dependence and duration is their particular sexual nature, and it is not clear why this should single them out for governmental support.”<sup>1</sup>

1. A fundamental question to be answered, then, is not *why not* same-sex marriage, but *why* same-sex unions should be given the same status as marriage.

### A. Is there a reason to grant same-sex unions the same status as marriage between a man and a woman?

“Persons of the same sex cannot marry because they cannot do what married couples can do, i.e., to consummate their union by a bodily act in which they become the common subjects of an act that, precisely as human behavior, is eminently fit both for the communication of spousal love and for the generation of new human life.

The spousal union goes beyond biological union, but biology is an essential component. By their marital acts, husband and wife express in a profound way their whole married life together: two-in-one-flesh. When those acts bear the fruit of children, the latter literally *issue from* the marital union: they embody this union and extend it in space and time.

Genital coition is the *only* bodily act intrinsically capable of generating new human life. Kissing, holding hands, fondling, and anal/oral sex cannot generate children. They can be generated through acts of fornication and adultery, but it is not good for children to be begotten in this way. For millennia every human culture has recognized the bond linking sex, marriage, and the generation of human life, and has frowned upon begetting children out of wedlock. Although many today think it fitting to generate children outside of marriage, the tragic situations accompanying such phenomena, such as fatherless children, undisciplined youth, and abandoned women show the shallowness of such thinking.

Our society, as any society, can survive only if new human persons are generated. The marital union of a man and a woman who have given themselves unreservedly in marriage and who can consummate their union in a beautiful bodily act of conjugal intercourse is the best place to serve as a “home” for a new human life, as the “place” where this life can take root and grow in love and service to others. A marriage of this kind contributes uniquely to the common good. It merits legal protection. Same-sex unions are not the same and sadly merely mimic the real thing. They can in no way be regarded as marriages in the true sense.”<sup>2</sup>

**B. Why does the State have an interest in protecting traditional marriage?**

The purpose of marriage, as far as the State is concerned, is the bearing and raising of healthy children who can become productive members of society. The State supports marriage out of a legitimate self-interest in its future citizens.

The burden of proof should lie with proponents of same-sex marriage to demonstrate to the State that marriage between two people of the same sex could fulfill the same purpose that marriage between a man and a woman fulfills.

**C. Can same-sex marriage fulfill the same purpose for the State as marriage between a man and a woman?**

1. The effect of same-sex marriage upon children.

a. No data say that same-sex marriages are better or are healthy for children.

“What is known, from decades and decades of research on family structure, studying literally thousands of children, is that **every departure from the traditional, stable, mother-father family has severe detrimental effects upon children; and these effects persist not only into adulthood but into the next generation as well.**”<sup>3</sup>

b. Lack of complementarity denies normal development. Children need to have both a mother and a father

c. Same-sex unions permanently deprive children of either a father or a mother.

“The central problem with mother-mother or father-father families is that they deliberately institute, and intend to keep in place indefinitely, a family structure known to be deficient in being obligatorily and permanently either fatherless or motherless.”<sup>4</sup>

2. Even though the divorce rate is high, pointing to trouble within traditional marriages, giving same-sex couples the same status as married parents is not a solution. The State should work to *counteract* the failure of marriage, rather than *institutionalize* it.

“Through marital benefits the State **promotes** rather than **rewards** ideal conditions for procreation and socialization.”<sup>5</sup>

“[F]or the State to promote a homogenized version of ‘committed relationships’ amounts to the **decision to no longer encourage ideal conditions for procreation and socialization.**”<sup>6</sup>

**D. What would be the result of allowing same-sex marriage?**

In a recent letter, Dr. James Dobson outlined 10 main points to answer the question, “Gay marriage: Why would it affect me?”<sup>7</sup>

1. **The implications for children in a world of decaying families are profound.**

Gay unions are legally sanctioned in Scandinavian countries where now “half of today’s children are born out of wedlock.”

- 2. The introduction of legalized gay marriages will lead inexorably to polygamy and other alternatives to one-man, one-woman unions.**

The Supreme Court decision to strike down sodomy laws in the case of *Lawrence vs. Texas* has already been cited in lawsuits and appeals to legalize polygamy.

- 3. An even greater objective of the homosexual movement is to end the state's compelling interest in marital relationships altogether.**

Increased ease in obtaining divorce, and rights and privileges of marriage are gained without "legal entanglements and commitments heretofore associated with it."

- 4. With the legalization of homosexual marriage, every public school in the nation will be required to teach that this perversion is the moral equivalent of traditional marriage between a man and a woman.**

- 5. From that point forward, courts will not be able to favor a traditional family involving one man and one woman over a homosexual couple in matters of adoption.**

"The prospect of fatherless and motherless children will not be considered in the evaluation of eligibility. It will be the law."

- 6. Foster-care parents will be required to undergo "sensitivity training" to rid themselves of bias in favor of traditional marriage, and will have to affirm homosexuality in children and teens.**

- 7. How about the impact on Social Security if there are millions of new dependents that will be entitled to survivor benefits?**

This already overburdened system will be required to pay billions of dollars in additional benefits.

- 8. Marriage among homosexuals will spread throughout the world, just as pornography did after the Nixon Commission declared obscene material "beneficial" to mankind.**

"Almost instantly, the English-speaking countries liberalized their laws against smut... [America's] influence is global...If we take this step off a cliff, the family on every continent will splinter at an accelerated rate."

- 9. Perhaps most importantly, the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be severely curtailed.**

"The family has been God's primary vehicle for evangelism since the beginning. Its most important assignment has been the propagation of the human race and the handing down of the faith to our children...That responsibility to teach the next generation will never recover from the loss of committed, God-fearing families."

10. **The culture war will be over, and I fear, the world may soon become “as it was in the days of Noah” (Matthew 24:37, NIV).**

**E. What about marriages which bear no children? How is that union fundamentally different than a homosexual union?**

The spousal union of a man and a woman is fundamentally different from a same-sex union:

“In short, marriage, considered as a two-in-one-flesh communion of persons consummated and actualized by the marital act, which is an act open to the *blessings* or *goods* of marriage—faithful conjugal love and the gift of children—is an intrinsic or basic human good and as such provides a noninstrumental reason for spouses to engage in the marital act.

This act is and remains a *procreative* or *reproductive* kind of act even if the spouses, because of nonbehavioral factors over which they have no control, for example, the temporary or permanent sterility of one of the spouses, are not able to generate human life in a freely chosen marital act. Their act remains the kind of bodily act that alone is ‘apt’ for generating human life. As Robert George and Gerard V. Bradley note in an answer to a homosexual apologist’s question regarding the point of sex in an infertile marriage:

‘the intrinsic point of sex in any marriage, fertile or not, is...the basic good of marriage itself, considered as a two-in-one-flesh communion of persons that is consummated and actualized by acts of the reproductive type. Such acts alone among sexual acts can be truly unitive, and thus marital; and marital acts, thus understood, have their intelligibility and value intrinsically, and not merely by virtue of their capacity to facilitate the realization of other goods.’”<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Schmid, R. 2004. “Is Marriage Just Discrimination?” *L’Osservatore Romano*. N. 20 – 19 May 2004.

<sup>2</sup> May, W. 2004. “On the Impossibility of Same-Sex Marriage: A Review of Catholic Teaching.” *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. P. 316.

<sup>3</sup> Satinover, J. 2004. Testimony Before Massachusetts Senate Committee Studying Gay Marriage. NARTH: National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality.

<http://www.narth.com/docs/senatecommittee.html>

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Schmid. 2004.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Dobson, J. 2004. *Family News*. April 2004.

<sup>8</sup> May. 2004. P. 312.

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Other Resources:

“Gay Marriage.” Catholic Answers Library.  
[http://www.catholic.com/library/gay\\_marriage.asp](http://www.catholic.com/library/gay_marriage.asp)

“More on Marriage.” George Weigel. 10 Reasons to support a Federal Marriage Amendment. [http://www.eppc.org/publications/pubID.2085/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.eppc.org/publications/pubID.2085/pub_detail.asp)

“Comparing the Lifestyles of Homosexual Couples to Married Couples.” Virtuosity: The Voice for Global Orthodox Anglicanism.  
<http://www.virtuosityonline.org/portal/modules/news/article.php?storyid=650>

“Between Man and Woman: Questions and Answers about Marriage and Same-Sex Unions.” US Council of Catholic Bishops.  
<http://www.usccb.org/flwy/manandwoman.htm>

“The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality.” The Pontifical Council for the Family.  
[www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/family/documents/rc\\_pc\\_family\\_doc\\_08121995\\_human-sexuality\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/family/documents/rc_pc_family_doc_08121995_human-sexuality_en.html)

Good News about Sex and Marriage. Christopher West. Servant Books, Published by St. Anthony Messenger Press: Cincinnati, OH.  
<http://catalog.americancatholic.org/>