

Why Heterosexual Marriage Should Be Uniquely Protected By Law

Marriage is a sacred union, designed by God to be a life-long, sexually exclusive relationship between one man and one woman. God's intention for marriage is that these two individuals come together to form a bond unlike any other relational exchange in the human experience. God has entrusted the expansion of society as well as the nurture and protection of children into the hands of dedicated and committed heterosexual partners. It is to the benefit of our culture to recognize and uniquely value the God-ordained nature of heterosexual marriage.

The Bible and Marriage

Marriage was the first institution ordained by *God*. That institution was defined as one man and one woman. Shortly after Adam was created, God declared that man was not complete without a partner (Genesis 2:18). For his completion, God created woman. God did not give him another man, nor an animal, nor an angel. God gave him woman. *Jesus* reiterated God's design when he spoke about the two who should become one flesh. "The Creator made them male and female" (Matthew 19:4-6). Further, the *Apostle Paul* taught that marriage between one man and one woman should be an on-going picture of sacrificial love (Ephesians 5:22-33). On the contrary, any sexual union between non-married or same-sex individuals is condemned by God as a perversion of His natural design (Romans 1:18-32).

Nature and Marriage

Men and women are uniquely designed to complement each other physically, emotionally, and spiritually.¹ Nature provides that children are conceived through heterosexual relations. The basic family unit is based on biology, not ideology. Cultural law should, without shame, uniquely value this irreducible minimum standard for the definition of family. Additionally, a comprehensive assessment of the results of child-rearing overwhelmingly support the fact that children raised in "non-traditional" families have a much lower likelihood of living a successful life. "On the evidence available such children tend to die earlier, to have more illness, to do less well in school, to exist at a lower level of nutrition... to suffer more unemployment, to be more prone to deviance and crime, and finally to repeat the cycle of unstable parenting from which they themselves have suffered."² Right nurturing emanates from a right understanding of nature. Children need both a male and a female role model. For a society to deliberately design family forms that will deprive large numbers of children basic familial nurturing sources (one man and one woman) is unconscionable.

History and Marriage

Regardless of religious heritage, all long-standing societies have embraced the institution of marriage as one man and one woman. Departure from this norm has always proved detrimental to the society as a whole.³

Religion and Marriage

Every main world religion has consistently viewed same-sex marriage as wrong. Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism have all mandated heterosexual marriage when marriage was chosen. Subgroups promoting homosexual marriage from a religious perspective within any one of these major religions represent a fringe minority.

Logic and Marriage

Proponents of same-sex marriage argue discrimination when denied the right to marry. But the right to marry is based on the God created, natural, biological designs of man and woman. To argue that a denial of same-sex marriage is discriminatory is to argue from desire, not design. The right to marry is not given based simply on a desire to marry, it is given based on appropriate design. Otherwise, our society would allow polygamy, child marriages, intergenerational marriages (eg child/adult), or marriages between inappropriate family relationships (eg. brother/sister).

Public and Marriage

A logical outcome of same-sex marriages in our society would be the diminishing privatization of sexual behavior. As a culture, in general, we value that displays of sexuality be kept private; hence, for example, the societal norm of sexually segregated restrooms. A man or a woman feels safe to visit a public restroom without the fear of witnessing sexual expressions. With the prevalence of same-sex marriages, that privacy would be hindered.

Intolerance and Marriage

“Marriage between one man and one woman is not intolerant. If so, then nature itself would be intolerant.”⁴ Marriage is a uniquely designed relationship between a man and a woman. Anything else is something else... not marriage. Opposing same-sex marriage is not about intolerance or discrimination; it is about our society choosing natural, nurturing definitions for the future of our children and our society.

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¹ Focus on the Family's Position Statement on Same-Sex Marriage and Civil Unions, January 16, 2004.

² A H Halsey, Professor of Social Policy, Nuffield College, Oxford).

³ J D Unwin, Sexual Regulations and Human Behavior, London.

⁴ Glenn Stanton, Will Same Sex Marriage Hurt Your Family?, 2004.