

INTRODUCTION:

Today, we are in the midst of a national debate on the question of gay marriage. This position paper is intended to contribute to this debate a reasoned response to the question,

“Should we change the legal institution of marriage to include same- sex couples?”

We begin with the premise that Marriage is an institution recognized by the state because it contributes to the general welfare, the peace and prosperity of a society. It has derived its definition from a universal natural law common to all major world religions and cultures, as the union of one adult male and one adult female unrelated by blood. So let’s take a look at seven reasons for preserving the traditional definition of marriage, that I hope will be debated on the merits of our argument instead of politics and demagoguery .

REASON #1

Including Same-Sex couples would redefine marriage and destabilize society in America.

Any reasonable person would agree that including objects with four corners in the definition of a circle is to change the nature of the circle. Marriage can never include same sex couples and maintain the essence and integrity of marriage as it has been defined throughout history. Marriage, as has been defined throughout history has served to help stabilize society in three important ways:

1. Control of men
2. Protection of women and children
3. Procreation, care and nurturing of children

Scandinavian countries have experimented with this idea to their detriment. Because marriage has been redefined, it has been devalued. The overall impact of accepting gay marriage and civil unions in these societies is that families have become more unsta-

ble. All the sociological evidence is in. Homosexual couples are 2 to 3 times more likely to divorce than heterosexual couples. Studies show that though the average traditional marriage in this country lasts only seven years, the average homosexual “permanent” relationship lasts only a year and a half. This contributes to the further destabilization of society, adversely affecting the peace and prosperity of a nation. Our intent must never be to deny anyone of rights, per se, but to uphold that special institution that provides the best social structure for the peace and prosperity of a people.

REASON #2

Same-Sex Marriage Would be Detrimental to our Public Health.

We are quick to issue warnings and pass “sin” taxes on behavior that is deemed to be detrimental to public health. For example, cigarettes are heavily taxed, and we require that cigarette packs carry written warnings, because smoking has been proven to cause cancer and shorten the lifespan of a consumer by 1-2 years.

Yet the average lifespan of a homosexual man is 42 years, a full 35 years shorter than his natural life should be. (Some studies show only a 20-year shortening of lifespan.) Where is the public outcry against those who promote this killer product that steals away the best of our citizens in the prime of their lives?

Just as tobacco companies are accountable for marketing a product that they know causes premature death, so should the Government be held accountable for sanctioning, and thus encouraging a destructive lifestyle.

We have a responsibility to protect our children from a lifestyle of drugs, and violence. We must also protect them from a lifestyle that will cause their premature death by unnatural sexual practices.

REASON #3

Same-Sex Marriage Would Hurt our Children

Children need stability and structure in their developing years. The average gay man has over 100 partners during his lifetime. That’s at least two per year, or more, because if you remember, chances are he’s only going to make it to age 42.

Though there are some cases where a same-sex couple may demonstrate loyalty to one another over a longer period of time, (These are the ones that are always showcased in TV specials), we must not make public policy based on the exceptions to the rule, but we must base our public policy on what is generally true in public society. I believe that any reasonable person would agree that 2 partners a year is not a healthy environment for any child. We must not sacrifice our children on the altar of gay rights.

REASON #4:

It’s not a Civil Rights issue

Albert J. Williams-Meyers, a professor of Black Studies at SUNY New Paltz, knows civil rights.

“In terms of the civil rights movement of the '60s and '70s, there isn't much parallel there at all,” he said. *“People from the African continent were brought to America as slaves because of their skin color. Such factors don't figure into the discrimination that affects gays and lesbians,”* Williams-Meyers said.

The Rev. Sylvester McClearn was part of the black civil rights era. He says,

“They are not deprived of anything. They are rich people. They are middle class. They are all kinds of people coming from all walks of life, not just poor people. They are a special interest group that is fighting for what they want.”

Civil rights movements are always characterized by the defense of an oppressed minority, a people who demonstrate disadvantage in three areas: economically, politically and socially.

In every area the homosexual community enjoys not only equality, but superiority. They earn more, they have greater political clout, and they are the only protected social class.

They simply are not an oppressed ethnic minority, and it is an offense to legitimate minorities to place a group characterized by deviant behavior in the same class.

REASON #5

Same-Sex Marriage is Immoral.

Civil rights issues have always been debated, on different interpretations of the Bible and our Judeo-Christian worldview. Our appeal to the Bible has always produced positive change.

Our inalienable rights are given to us, not by the generosity of the state, but by the hand of God as affirmed in our founding documents and reaffirmed by such leaders as Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy and others.

The desire to legalize same-sex marriage is an appeal to another standard of morality, as Jason West, mayor of New Paltz N.Y. said when he performed illegal same-sex marriage ceremonies, “Just the looks on their faces... That’s the highest moral calling I could possibly imagine.”

The “looks on their faces...” is not an acceptable standard of morality for a civilized nation. Our standard of morality, if we are to remain a civil and prosperous nation, must always be derived from our understanding of the Bible, knowing that as Noah Webster said,

“It is extremely important to our nation, in a political as well as religious view, that all possible authority

and influence should be given to the Scriptures; for these furnish the best principles of civil liberty, and the most effectual support of republican government. They teach the true principles of that equality of rights which belongs to every one of the human family, but only in consistency with a strict subordination to the magistrate and the law..."

Then comes the question: "Are we pushing our morality on others?"

If I was to say $2 + 2 = 5$. You would say, that's wrong. Not because it's immoral, but because it doesn't work. Homosexual marriages don't work as a matter of public policy to maintain a stable society. Look at Rome, The Greek Empire, Scandinavia today, and others who have tried it. Only a fool would think he could repeat history and expect a different result.

A reasonable person would agree that we need to move toward, not away from, the standard that works. Same-sex marriages are wrong because they simply won't work for America.

The irony is that the very people who have previous told us that "You can't legislate morality," are now demanding that we legislate their standard of morality.

REASON #6:.

Same Sex Marriage is the Roe v. Wade of the Gay Movement.

This is a watershed event for Gay Activists. They know if the courts legitimize homosexuality they way will be paved to legislate a new morality that is the antithesis to traditional morality. Those who continue to hold traditional views will be labeled as racists, bigots and homophobes, because they hold a different opinion.

The radical homosexual agenda won't be fulfilled until all of society is coerced into saying that gay is

OK, and we teach our children the same.

However, just as Roe v. Wade was never accepted by many Americans, and certainly most Christians, and has instead brought social tension and strife into our culture over the issue, so will the legitimization of gay marriage. This will further divide Americans, even more than the taking of innocent life in the womb, because the sanctity of marriage is so clearly presented in the Scriptures. Like abortion, same-sex marriage will never be accepted by American Christians, or by true Christians in any other part of the world.

REASON #7 :

Same-Sex Marriage will Result in Adverse Unintended Consequences

To discard our Judeo-Christian standard of moral authority is to place morality within the whims of human thought. Why shouldn't a 50-year-old man marry his twenty-year-old daughter if "love" is the sole criteria for the right to marry?

If we insist on allowing two people who love each other to marry, then we cannot discriminate by arbitrarily deciding who can, and who can't. We would have to allow a mother to marry her son, a father to marry all his daughters, and so on.

There is no rational basis for legislating against incest, polygamy or any other socially deviant relationship as long as "love" and "mutual consent" provide the only criteria.

These are unacceptable effects of a public policy that would sacrifice the public good for a special interest group.

Conclusion

I believe I've presented seven reasons that warrant serious consideration for preserving the integrity of

Biblical marriage as we have known it throughout our American history.

Because we are a government "of the people" I recognize that the people may choose to forego Biblical marriage to appease this special interest group, but it will not be without consequences to the generations that will follow.

The "Father of our country," George Washington reminds us that

"The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."

I think he was concerned that if we turn our backs on God, God will surely turn His back on us. That,

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A REASONED RESPONSE

TO THE ISSUE OF

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

IN AMERICA

-Reverend Bill Banuchi-



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