

# What is Marriage?

## And What is the Purpose of Marriage

- Marriage is a social institution separate from and superior to a relationship of love between any two people.
- Marriage is a sexual complementarity union of body & soul of one man and one woman that is *inherently designed* for procreation, from which come its distinctive norms of family life and lifelong fidelity.
- Marriage is inherently designed to provide children with families comprised of a mother and a father.
- Government did not create marriage but has a compelling interest to regulate it because the state has a vested interest in the health, welfare, and inherent rights of children — the next generation.
- Marriage requirements protect the common good of society and have no hostility toward any individual:
  - Gender requirement – promotes procreation and its resulting distinctive norms noted above;
  - Age requirement – protects the vulnerable from exploitation;
  - Blood-relation requirement – prevents breakdown of family relationships;
  - Number of partners requirement – fosters healthy social relationships.

## Effects of Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage

### *FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS & RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE*

- This bill violates the U. S. Constitution, which grants the “free exercise” of religion *beyond the four walls of a religious institution*.

### *ASSAULT ON CHILDREN, SCHOOLS, PARENTAL RIGHTS, BUSINESSES, AND SOCIAL & CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS*

- **Children**, who have an inherent right to a mother and father, should be of paramount importance in considering public policy.
  - No child should be deliberately deprived of the opportunity to be raised by a mother and father.
- **SCHOOLS, public and private**, will be forced to teach homosexuality as normal behavior, which many parents believe is unnatural, unhealthy, and/or immoral.
  - If homosexuality is normalized, all sexual boundaries begin to come down. Homosexual acts, bisexual conduct, and cross-dressing will be legitimized behaviors and taught to the youngest and most innocent of school children.

-Within months after Massachusetts legalized SSM, homosexuality-affirming literature was given to children in school-wide assemblies. Schools celebrated teachers who announced their marriages. A lesbian teacher in Brookline, MA told National Public Radio that SSM has opened the door to teach homosexuality and she now discusses gay sex with her 8th grade students.

- **PARENTS** have the right and responsibility to teach sexual conduct to their own children which would be trumped by the school's duty to normalize homosexual behavior.

-David Parker, a father of a Massachusetts' kindergartner, was jailed overnight because he insisted his child be removed from class during discussions about homosexuality. The courts ruled that **BECAUSE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IS LEGAL** schools have no obligation to notify parents.

- **BUSINESSES** will be tested for "compliance" in greater force.

-An Illinois bed & breakfast was sued because they refused to accommodate a civil union ceremony in 2011.

-Catholic Charities dropped their adoption care services rather than place children in homosexual households.

- **SOCIAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS**, county clerks, and justices-of-the-peace who have both faith and non-faith convictions to uphold natural marriage will be forced to violate those convictions.

## **False Arguments Supporters of Same-Sex Marriage Use:**

### **"DISCRIMINATION"**

#### **The Truth is:**

- We discriminate every day. We discriminate between right/wrong, healthy/unhealthy, wise/foolish, etc.
- Laws properly discriminate based on voluntary behavior, such as sexual behavior. Homosexuality is a volitional act and is correctly an object of moral assessment.
- If same-sex marriage is legalized, are we not engaging in discrimination when we prohibit polygamists and bisexuals from marrying the people they love?

### **"EQUALITY" & "LOVE"**

#### **The Truth is:**

- "Love-makes-a-marriage" logic establishes a basis for any number or combination of partners.
- All relationships are NOT equal because they do not have the same *purpose* or produce the same *result*.

- The central defining feature of marriage is sexual complementarity.
- Marriage is a comprehensive union of one man and one woman that is *inherently designed* for procreation, from which come its distinctive norms of family life and lifelong fidelity.
- Marriage has an inherent connection to reproductive potential.
- The only reason government is involved in recognizing and regulating marriage is that the union of one man and one woman is the type of relationship that naturally produces children.
- The government has a vested interest in protecting the needs and rights of children.
- Marriage is not designed to protect the love between two people.
- Society benefits most when a child is given the best possible environment to develop. Research shows that environment is one mother and one father.

## “CIVIL RIGHT”

### The Truth is:

- Civil rights are based on objective characteristics (the only exception is religion, which holds a special place in our founding, Constitution, and laws). In contrast, homosexuality is based on subjective feelings and voluntary sexual acts. Therefore, it is not a civil right.
- Civil rights are a class of rights given to individuals—not couples or groups. As individuals, those who self-identify as homosexual have the right to participate in the sexually complementary institution of marriage. They choose not to. Instead, they seek to eliminate the central defining feature of marriage: sexual complementarity. Yet other groups, such as bisexuals, are not entitled to do so.
- Homosexual behavior is not comparable to race. Race is 100% inherited and, so, is a civil right. Sexual-attractions are subjective and volitional and, so, are not a civil right.
- Each individual has equal moral dignity and equal basic rights under the law. But individual moral dignity requires no right to legal recognition of same-sex relationships. ■

