

# 77 Non-Religious Reasons To Support Man/Woman Marriage

## THE ESSENTIAL PUBLIC PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

- 1 The essential public purpose of marriage is to attach mothers and fathers to their children and to one another.
- 2 Man/woman marriage allows children to know and be known by their biological parents. Same sex marriage separates children from at least one parent.
- 3 Man/woman marriage sets the foundation for children to have the same biological, legal and care-giving parents. Same sex marriage separates these functions among different people.
- 4 Man/woman marriage provides children with access to their genetic, cultural and social heritage.
- 5 Even though it is not always possible, children have the best life chances when they are raised by their biological married parents.

## SOME PEOPLE SAY RESEARCH SHOWS THAT CHILDREN OF SAME SEX COUPLES DO JUST AS WELL AS THE CHILDREN OF OPPOSITE SEX COUPLES

- 6 The research in this area is preliminary. We don't have studies that last long enough to show the long-term impact of being raised in a same sex household.
- 7 Much of the research in this area does not use a representative sample of same sex couples. People volunteer to be in the study. Volunteers are often more affluent, more educated, and more likely to be better parents regardless of sexual orientation.
- 8 Each member of the same sex couple may be a fine parent. But two good mothers do not add up to a father.

## BUT NOT ALL MARRIED COUPLES HAVE CHILDREN. HOW CAN YOU SAY MARRIAGE IS ABOUT THE BENEFITS TO CHILDREN?

- 9 This looks at marriage from the adult point of view. It reveals just how deeply same sex marriage inverts the purpose of marriage.
- 10 Look at marriage from the child's point of view. Not every marriage produces children. But every child has parents.
- 11 Every child is entitled to a relationship with both parents.
- 12 Every child is entitled to know and be known by both parents.
- 13 No child can possibly protect these entitlements on his or her own.
- 14 Adult society must protect the child's right to affiliation with both parents.
- 15 Adult society must protect these rights through prevention of harm, not through restitution after the fact.
- 16 Man/woman marriage is the institution adult society uses to pro-actively protect the rights of all children to affiliation with both parents.
- 17 Same sex marriage changes marriage from a child-centered institution to an adult-centered institution.
- 18 Without man/woman marriage, there will be no institution specifically protecting the rights of children to be in relationship with both parents.
- 19 Adopted and foster children tell us that they long for relationship with their biological parents.

- 20 The law in most states helps adopted children find their birth parents.
- 21 Deliberately conceiving a child with the life plan that he or she will never have a relationship with his or her father is unjust and cruel to the child.

## SOME PEOPLE SAY CHILDREN ONLY NEED TWO ADULTS WHO LOVE EACH OTHER AND THAT LOVE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN BIOLOGY

- 22 If the love between adults were the only important factor, we would expect stepparents to be interchangeable with biological parents. But this is not generally the case.
- 23 Children in stepparent households, on average, have more emotional problems and lower school achievement than children of married parents.
- 24 Discipline can be complicated in stepparent households compared with households with married biological parents. Some biological parents exclude the stepparent from discipline, saying "they are my kids, not yours."
- 25 Some children in stepparent homes expertly pit the parents against each other.
- 26 Loyalties in stepparent households can be complicated. The biological parent can feel torn between commitment to the child and commitment to the spouse. Intact biological families are more likely to feel that loving their child is also an act of love for the child's other parent.
- 27 Research shows that stepfathers spend less time with their spouses' children than do biological fathers. Remarried mothers, on average, spend less time with their own children. The child and the spouse become competitors for the mother's attention.
- 28 Same sex parenting means that one of the adults will have no biological relationship to the child, and may be more like a stepparent than a biological parent. We can't assume the adults' love for each other will resolve the complications inherent in stepparent families.

## MEN AND WOMEN ARE NOT INTERCHANGEABLE

- 29 Same sex marriage makes an implicit statement that mothers and fathers are interchangeable, and that sex is irrelevant to parenting. The burden of proof should be on those who make this strong, non-intuitive claim.
- 30 Even same sex couples believe sex is relevant: the sex of their partners. A gay man insists on a male sex partner. He is not satisfied with a female sex partner, no matter how masculine she may be. A lesbian insists on a female sex partner. Even a very feminine man will not do.
- 31 It is unjust for the law to decree that adults are entitled to have what they want, namely, partners of the same sex, while children have to accept whatever we give them.
- 32 Mothers and fathers each make unique contributions to the child's development. Father absence creates risks in children that mother absence does not create.
- 33 Teenaged girls without fathers are at risk for early sexual activity, multiple sex partners, out of wedlock pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases.
- 34 Teenaged boys without fathers are at risk for juvenile delinquency, violence, criminal activity, gang membership and incarceration.
- 35 Pre-teen girls not living with their biological fathers get their menstrual periods earlier than girls who live with their fathers. Getting an early period is associated with a host of health problems including unhealthy weight gain, breast cancer, cancer of the reproductive system, and emotional problems (such as body image disorders, depression, anxiety, aggression and substance abuse) not to mention early sexual activity.
- 36 Children need help and guidance in developing their sexual identities. Same sex marriage will make this task more difficult, if not legally forbidden.

## REDEFINING MARRIAGE MARGINALIZES FATHERS

- 37 The claim that mothers and fathers are interchangeable will affect men and women differently.
- 38 When a child is born a mother is always somewhere close by. Fathers are intrinsically less connected to children than mothers. The essential purpose of man/woman marriage is to attach mothers and fathers to their children and to each other. Same sex marriage implies that the attachment of fathers to their children is irrelevant.
- 39 Countries with same sex marriage symbolically diminish fatherhood. The Province of British Columbia, Canada changed its birth certificates. They have a place for the mother's name and a check-off box for the "other parent/father."
- 40 The United Kingdom used to have a requirement that unmarried women could not use artificial reproductive technology unless they could show that the child's need for a father would be met. They dropped this requirement after instituting same sex marriage, for fear of offending lesbian couples.
- 41 Once same sex marriage becomes legally and socially acceptable, more women will decide to raise children together. They will view this as easier than putting forth the effort of crossing the gender divide and cooperating with a man through marriage.
- 42 In today's climate, we can imagine people looking at two women raising children together and saying, "See, it is just as I have always thought: women don't need a man. Children don't really need fathers." It is almost inconceivable that people would look at two men raising children together and conclude that children don't need mothers.
- 43 Same sex marriage will further marginalize gendered language and gender roles. In Scotland, schools stopped celebrating Fathers Day. Montgomery County, Maryland,

removed all references to gender in the county code. The words “father” and “mother,” “husband” and “wife” are becoming suspect.

#### THE PANDORA'S BOX OF ARTIFICIAL REPRODUCTION

- 44 No one has a right to have a child. Children are not objects, to which other people have rights. Children are persons, with rights of their own.
- 45 We will not be able to maintain a free society if some people come into being as objects, created by other people for their own purposes.
- 46 Artificial reproductive technology violates the dignity of the child.
- 47 Using donated sperm or eggs necessarily involves the alienation of the child from one or both parents.
- 48 Children who were conceived by artificial insemination with donor sperm often experience a sense of loss from not knowing their fathers.
- 49 Advocates of the unlimited use of artificial reproductive technology argue “our children will be fine, because we wanted these children so badly.” Turn this statement around: “We got to manufacture another human being, because we wanted to.” It no longer sounds so appealing.
- 50 Same sex marriage creates an entitlement to the use of artificial reproductive technology.
- 51 An “entitlement” to the use of artificial reproductive technology means that anyone with money gets to do anything they want. This cannot be correct, from any moral or religious perspective. Yet same sex marriage advocacy is driving the law in this direction.

#### SAME SEX MARRIAGE REDEFINES MARRIAGE

- 52 The state creates same sex marriage by saying that marriage is the union of any two persons, instead of the union of a man and a woman. Same sex marriage affects everyone because the new legal definition applies to everyone.

53 Genderless marriage will drive out gendered marriage. Same sex marriage transforms marriage from a gender-based institution to a gender-neutral institution.

54 Judges who have imposed same sex marriage have made statements that appear superficially plausible in the context of same sex marriage, but which are certainly false as general statements.

55 The judges who imposed same sex marriage in Iowa stated, “The research ... suggests that the traditional notion that children need a mother and a father to be raised into healthy, well-adjusted adults is based more on stereotype than anything else.” This is not true as a general statement.

56 The judge who overturned California’s Proposition 8 stated, “Gender no longer forms an essential part of marriage; marriage under the law is a union of equals.” The first statement assumes what needs to be proven. The second statement creates a false dichotomy, suggesting that unless gender is irrelevant, marriage is necessarily something other than a union of equals.

57 If enough judges say enough implausible things, people will lose respect for the law.

58 Creating one legal institution for both same and opposite sex couples requires the law to strip away all the essential public purposes of marriage and leaves only the inessential private purposes of marriage.

59 The judge who overturned California’s Proposition 8 stated, “Marriage is the state recognition and approval of a couple’s choice to live with each other, to remain committed to one another and to form a household based on their own feelings about one another and to join in an economic partnership and support one another and any dependents.” By this definition, college roommates or members of clubs count as “married.”

60 By the time the activists are finished, there will be nothing left of marriage but a government registry of friendships.

#### REDEFINING MARRIAGE REDEFINES PARENTHOOD

61 Man/woman marriage is the institution that attaches mothers and fathers to their children. Same sex marriage transforms marriage into an institution that separates children from at least one of their parents.

62 Same sex marriage opens the door to children having more than 2 legal parents, as it has in Canada.

63 Same sex marriage routinely places biological parents on the same legal footing with adults who have no genetic relationship to the child.

64 Same sex marriage eliminates the legal principle that biology is the primary means of establishing parental rights and responsibilities.

65 Some other principle must take the place of the biological principle. That principle will be the state assignment of parental rights and responsibilities.

66 Judges in Washington State created a four-part test to determine whether an unrelated adult counts as a child’s “de facto parent.” These determinations require family courts to examine the most private parts of the family’s life.

67 Same sex marriage undermines the legal principle that children are entitled to a relationship with both parents.

68 Same sex marriage separates children from at least one of their parents, not due to extraordinary circumstances, as arise in adoption, but as a routine procedure.

69 Adoption currently exists to give children the parents they need, not to give adults the children they want.

#### SAME SEX MARRIAGE EMPOWERS THE STATE AT THE EXPENSE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

70 Same sex marriage is a creation of the state. Man/woman marriage is an organic institution arising spontaneously from society.

71 The state will have to protect its creation of same sex marriage. Man/woman marriage can sustain itself.

72 Governments will enforce the belief that same sex marriage is the equivalent of man/woman marriage.

73 Religious organizations of all kinds, potentially including schools, adoption agencies and marriage prep programs, may be subject to government regulation. Catholic adoption agencies have closed in Massachusetts and the District of Columbia. The Catholic Archdiocese of the District of Columbia stopped providing health insurance to all spouses, once same sex marriage was created by the city council.

74 Governments will enforce the belief that mothers and fathers are interchangeable.

75 In Massachusetts, a father objected to his kindergartner being read a picture book that featured two men as the romantic couple. The father was taken away in handcuffs from a public meeting. The state declared parents do not have a right to remove their children from lessons they find objectionable.

76 The government of Quebec insisted the Mennonites teach that homosexuality is normal to the handful of children in their little country school. The Mennonites refused, and at last notice, were considering leaving Quebec, rather than surrender the teaching of their children to the Provincial authorities.

77 Same sex marriage amounts to a hostile takeover of civil society by the state.



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