

Preserving Traditional Marriage

Age 17

Tradition, whether specifically in families, or in general, is necessary for a society to function and prosper. Traditions provide security, a characteristic the United States is known to possess. Imagine though, if America had created its original guiding philosophies with an anything-goes attitude. It would never have grown to be the respected global power it is today. How can a country, or even an individual, stand strong with wavering convictions? If the traditional morals of the United States are thrown by the way-side, it's only a matter of time before our society crumbles. The stability in America needs to be protected; traditional marriages and families need to be preserved.

In America, the First Amendment states that there must be a separation of government and religious institutions. However, in California, the line that separates church and state has been erased. On March 7, 2000, 61% of California voters passed Proposition 22, to keep marriage between a man and a woman. On May 15, 2008, four judges overturned the will of voters, stating same-sex marriage was a "right." Marriage, to most, represents a religious union between a man and a woman. In fact, many religions believe homosexuality to be a sin. Civil unions on the other hand, have no relation to religion, allow very similar rights, and are recognized by the state. In the United States, all people have the right to relationships, but marriage represents more than just a relationship. Those who wish to engage in same-sex partnerships should be allowed to be

together. No one should deny them of civil unions. Marriage though, is not a “right,” and it is not a concept that should be thrown around loosely.

If four judges were allowed to overlook the First Amendment, what else is America’s legal system going to overlook? If gays have a right to get married, then how can they say a man doesn't have the right to marry his daughter, or a minor, or three women? Traditional marriage between a man and a woman must be protected for society’s sake. For centuries, marriage has been a legal foundation providing stability and growth in Western culture. Why change that now? The more exceptions that are made, whether it be a marriage between two men or two women, the more the strength of America’s legal system deteriorates. If homosexual marriages are condoned, marriage will become less meaningful, therefore leading to less marriage, creating a weak, unstable society.

Growing up, children idolize their parents, observing every aspect of their actions and attempting to emulate them. Whether it’s a little girl playing house, or young boy pretending to shave, the impact parents have on their children is endless. This is why parents must teach their children to live proper, healthy lives so they can succeed in the future. Children must be given the stability a traditional family provides and the security it creates.

Facts and statistics have proven, the best environment for raising children is in a family with a traditional marriage. There are many studies that document the vast advantages children experience when raised by committed and loving moms and dads. Children that come from stable homes, with married, traditional parents, are highly unlikely to live in poverty. They are much less likely to commit crimes and six times less

likely to commit suicide. Children from traditional married homes live physically and emotionally healthier lives than children from broken, untraditional homes. It has been proven through endless research that children benefit the most in life when they have both a mother and a father. "America's future will be determined by the home and the school. The child becomes largely what he is taught; hence we must watch what we teach, and how we live."- Jane Addams

In March 2007, freshman at Deerfield High School in Illinois were told by school officials not to tell their parents about a pro-gay seminar the school held. The students were required to sign a confidentiality agreement. In March 2007, a high school in Massachusetts conducted a seminar for students on how they could know whether or not they were homosexual, and the school banned parents from attending. But the most shocking occurrence of all took place on February 23, 2007. A Massachusetts judge ordered the teaching of the homosexual lifestyle to children in public schools. States which choose to redefine marriage are making a mistake, and to enforce the teaching of the "redefined family concept" is going to harm students and society as a whole.

Currently, marriage is legal for same-sex couples in many European countries. In 2003 though, the Vatican launched a global campaign against gay marriages, warning that same-sex unions are immoral. Obviously, many citizens of Europe are strongly opposed to homosexual marriage. The twelve page guidelines, approved by Pope John Paul II, stated "legal recognition of homosexual unions or placing them on the same level as marriage would mean not only the approval of deviant behavior ... but would also obscure basic values which belong to the common inheritance of humanity."

As other countries allow gay marriage, the moral and social standards in the world

are crumbling. In 2001, Holland legalized same-sex marriage. Soon after, prostitution, drugs, polygamy, and incest became legal as well. Children as young as twelve years old can have sex legally in the country, and STDs are rampant. Sweden, which legalized same-sex unions in 1994, also allows brothers and sisters to marry each other.

Fifty-percent of babies born in Sweden are born without married parents; traditional marriage is no longer valued. Norway embraced same-sex marriage in 1993, and 80% of first born babies born in Norway have no married parents. The negative effects of gay-marriages are unending. In Portugal homosexual unions are accepted, and the age of consent in the country is 14 years old. In 2002, more than 100 boys and girls living in a Portuguese childrens' home were molested. Most of the sexual abuse was committed by prominent homosexual politicians and celebrities, but the allegations were dropped and the pedophiles were freed.

Currently in the United States, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and California allow same-sex marriage. However, in California, voters will be given the opportunity in the 2008 election to vote to eliminate the "right" of same-sex couples to marry. If Proposition 8 is passed, traditional marriage will be preserved and restored as the only legal type of marriage in the state. In America, the majority of states are against gay-marriage. In 1996, the United States Congress passed a federal law, the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman amongst other arrangements. As of May 2007, twenty-six states have passed constitutional amendments explicitly barring the recognition of same-sex marriage, eighteen of which prohibit the legal recognition of any same-sex union.

The United States of America is country built on the strength of it's morals.

Family life is a major aspect of American culture, and this traditional way of life is something that must be protected. Marriage between one man and one woman is more than just the morally correct way to live, but it is the way people have lived since the creation of man. Children are the future of America, and they must be given then opportunity to live healthy, functional, and prosperous lives. Society must continue to live by, and never forget, the original ideals of this great country. As Americans surge forward in years to come, change is inevitable. However, the building blocks of our country must remain strong. American values must always be remembered, and above all, traditional marriages and families must be preserved.

Sources

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