

# Why Traditional Family Matters in America

When your child turns on the television to watch a family show, he or she usually watches a mom, a dad, and one or more children. This may not be the case much longer in America. Lately in America there has been much deviation to the word marriage. Same-sex marriage has been gaining popularity. A recent study reports that same-sex couples live in 99.3 percent of counties in the United States (Hill). A national census in 1900 showed that there were 145,130 same-sex cohabiting couples in the United States (Hill). In 2000 the national census showed that there were 600,000 same-sex cohabiting couples (Hill). That is a magnificent increase in only a ten year period.

In my personal opinion, gay marriage is wrong. The foundation of my beliefs is Biblically based. In the book of Genesis, God saw that man was lonely and he made him a female companion. Noah Webster defined marriage as the ceremony between a man and a woman so as to live together as husband and wife. Biologically speaking, male and female bodies are created uniquely for the purpose of reproduction through sexual intercourse.

The battle for same-sex marriage has been raging for at least the past three decades (Hill). There was a rise in the gay-rights activist in the 1990's (Hill). In 1993 the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that it could not deny same-sex couples the right to marriage unless it had a compelling reason to do so (Hill). In 1996 the state of Hawaii married its first three same-sex couples (Hill). The Defense of Marriage Act was passed in 1996

defines marriage as a “legal union between one man and one woman” (Hill). This bill was proposed by Senator Bob Dole and signed by former President Bill Clinton (Hill). Some of the states in America that allow same-sex couples to marry are California, New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts (Hill).

One of the major arguing points for same-sex marriage is that individuals are born that way. Others claim that there is no difference between children raised by heterosexual or homosexual parents. Others argue that it is a personal decision made by the individuals and that if there are not children involved, then it should not make a difference. Those with that belief point out that America is about freedom of choices. All three of these points have strong opposing arguments.

In the United States, the research journal *Science* published an article claiming that they were on the verge of proving homosexuality is genetic (Jen). This however is not true. Early in the 1950s, hormones were first suggested as the cause of homosexuality (Parry). For experimental purposes, hormones forcefully were injected into gay male prisoners (Parry). This theory was proven invalid (Parry). Researchers working with monkeys came to the conclusion that monkeys mated with the same-sex simply for pleasure (Parry). A study was done in 1991 with the intent of proving homosexuality occurs more often in identical twins than in fraternal twins (Jen). The study not only did not help prove that homosexuality is genetic, but it also provided further proof for environmental influences (Jen). Another study tried to find brain differences in the hypothalamus of heterosexual and homosexual men (Jen). The study failed to find any evidence of genetic differences (Jen). A “gay gene” has never been found (Parry). People are not born gay.

Many reports have bluntly stated that there is no evidence of differences between children raised by homosexual parents versus heterosexual parents. However, multiple studies show that children do best when raised by two biological parents (Stanton). When living with two moms or two dads, they obviously cannot both be your biological parents. Children living in homes with both biological parents have on average better test scores and grade averages, have fewer absences, and have greater expectations of attending college than children who do not live with biological parents (Stanton). The Journal of Marriage and the Family published a study that showed that boys and girls living with both biological parents had the lowest risk of becoming sexually active (Stanton).

Research says that children residing in same-sex couple homes are more likely to be sexually abused (Stanton). It is reported that children raised by two homosexuals are more dissatisfied with their own gender and have more homosexual experiences themselves (Benne and McDermott). When daughters of heterosexual and homosexual mothers were compared, the most defined difference is that the daughters of the homosexual mothers are more likely to value and exhibit male sex-typed traits than the daughters of heterosexual mothers (Sullivan). Sons of heterosexual mothers are less likely to have female-valued traits than sons with lesbian mothers (Sullivan). Based on the research, there are significant differences between children raised with heterosexual couples and homosexual couples.

Children from broken homes can suffer serious emotional and relationship problems (Stanton). A broken home is defined as any home not consisting of a biological mother and father. In 2002 the journal *Pediatrics* stated that children living with both parents are eight times less likely to suffer maltreatment (Stanton). Children who do not

live with married biological parents are more idle, more prone to engage in violence, and more likely to become a substance abuser (Stanton). Children of these situations are reported to have more behavioral problems at school and suffer instability (Tracy). Many family members report being embarrassed when another family member decides to engage in a homosexual lifestyle (Tracy).

A third argument in favor of gay marriage is that America is about freedom of choices. To an extent this is a valid argument. However, the line of individual liberty is drawn when that individual's actions hurts others around them and society as a whole, and that is exactly what it does. Gay marriage aids in the damage to our economy. Research indicates that gay men earn 20-25 percent less than their heterosexual counterparts (Hill). Male homosexuals have a greatest risk for STD's (Barlow). Type-b viral hepatitis and syphilis appear to be largely the preserve of male homosexuality (Barlow). Homosexuality is associated with higher rates of promiscuity, mental illness, substance abuse, child sexual abuse, physical disease, and domestic violence (Sprigg).

Expanding marriage's definition would obviously change people's concept of what marriage is and what the expectations from a marriage are (Sprigg). A study of homosexual men in the Netherlands found that the average length for a steady partnership was less than two and a fourth years (Sprigg). The study also found that homosexual men had an average of eight casual sex partners a year (Sprigg). In 1994 a Dutch study reported that infidelity was more common among homosexuals than heterosexuals (Sprigg). Only 4.5 percent of homosexual couples had reported to being faithful while at least 75 percent of the heterosexual couples claimed to be faithful (Sprigg).

We should look at other countries that have allowed same-sex marriages and learn from their mistakes. Denmark began allowing gay marriage in 1989 (1 man 1 woman). Now the schools are teaching that same-sex marriage is normal and that the children should accept it. Sweden first allowed gay marriage and now it allows siblings to marry as long as they only share one biological parent (1 man 1 woman). Presently 50% of Sweden's babies are born without fathers (1 man 1 woman). Holland allows same-sex marriage and now is infested with STDs (1 man 1 woman). Norway allows gay marriage and now 60% of the babies are born without fathers (1 man 1 woman). Children from homosexual homes have 4 to 10 times more likelihood of becoming a homosexual (1 man 1 woman)

Heterosexual marriages help our welfare system by reducing the number of sexually active teens, which would result in fewer teens getting pregnant out-of wedlock (Stanton). Teen pregnancy and high school drop out rates have a negative correlation; meaning that if fewer teens got pregnant then more would graduate from high school (Stanton). If more teens graduated and fewer teens got pregnant, the economy would reap positive consequences. For example, people could become less dependent on welfare (Benne and McDermott). In addition to all the harm permitting gay marriage causes to traditional marriage of one woman and one man and to the children involved, it could "exacerbate social conflict and division in our nation, a division that is already bitter and possibly dangerous" (Benne and McDermott).

America wants children to be protected and our economy to be strengthened, yet is allowing gay marriage which threatens both. America was founded on good morals. Those morals have seemed to dwindle lately. The traditional marriage of one man and

one woman should be treasured because it is better for the children involved and society as a whole.

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