

## Protecting Marriage

*One Man...One Woman*

1 MAN + 1 WOMAN



*Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. - Genesis 2:24*

It seems fitting to be gathered at this historic site to rally for something as important as the protection of marriage. One of the largest battles of the American Revolution was fought and won in these fields almost 230 years ago. It was in this very place that our forefathers shed precious blood fighting to establish a form of government which would properly represent the people and ensure that their voices would be heard and their will enacted. Today we are here to exercise those hard-won freedoms and to let our voices be heard once again.

As New Jersey residents, we find ourselves on the front line of a political and moral battle where the traditional definition of marriage is being undermined by our own courts. We are hoping and praying that the people in this state will understand what is at stake in our society if our voices are not heard. Our state legislature -- which quickly acquiesced to the State Supreme Court's demands last fall to require all the rights and privileges of marriage be extended to same-sex couples -- is even now again being pressured by a small but politically-motivated and powerful group of individuals to redefine marriage itself.

That is why I am so grateful for the opportunity we have to freely and openly participate in this forum and let our voices be heard on this issue. And although a previous commitment, did not permit me to be with you in person, please know that I am right now speaking at a Strengthening Marriage Conference in New York, and that my heart is knit together with all who are fighting to uphold marriage the way that God created it -- one man and one woman.

I speak to you today as a Christian...as a pastor...as a husband...as a father...as a grandfather...and as an American citizen. I am concerned with the impact that the decisions our government officials are proposing today will have on the church, our families, and the next generation. Certainly, no person's basic human rights should ever be denied. Yet marriage is not a right but an institution of God predating human government. Even without the argument from Scripture (which is clear on marriage being between one man and one woman), numerous studies have clearly shown that when marriage and the traditional family lose ground, society is adversely affected.

The stabilizing effect that traditional families have had on our society and others throughout history is what led lawmakers to bestow certain benefits upon married couples in the first place. To change the definition of marriage simply because others want to receive those same privileges outside of the traditional structure and without offering any proof that these alternative unions have the same beneficial effect upon society, is both shortsighted and extremely problematic.

For instance, a commonly expressed sentiment voiced in the media on the issue of same-sex marriage asks that we consider whether we want the government telling us who we can and cannot love. A statement like that is nothing more than an emotional plea, having no basis in research. The sole concern of our legislature should be the impact of change on our society, and not the feelings of a small but persistent minority. To implement a change in our laws -- laws which have been the norm for all of human history -- to suit the whim of a few without knowing the true cost to our society, not just today but in the future, is far too high a risk to take.

Dr. Paul Cameron of the Family Research Institute in Colorado Springs, CO writes<sup>1</sup>:

*A large body of scientific evidence suggests that homosexual marriage is a defective counterfeit of traditional marriage and that it poses a clear and present danger to the health of the community. ... When one examines homosexual behavior patterns, it becomes clear that the plea for legal homosexual marriage is less about marriage than the push for legitimacy.*

*It would be foolish to tamper with something as vital to personal and social health as traditional marriage in order to placate [a few] troubled souls.*

<sup>1</sup> Family Research Institute website article, [http://www.familyresearchinst.org/FRI\\_EduPamphlet7.html](http://www.familyresearchinst.org/FRI_EduPamphlet7.html), by Dr. Paul Cameron, Chairman: Same Sex Marriage, Til Death Do Us Part?

Foolish indeed. In Denmark, where same-sex marriage has been legal for over a decade, a large study was recently conducted that revealed same-sex marriage unleashes a variety of negative consequences upon society. Statistics show that the traditional family structure has a stabilizing effect upon our culture. Marriage lessens health risks and extends the lifespan of those who are involved in committed relationships; is beneficial to raising children; reduces crime; lowers the rate of alcohol and drug abuse; and much more. The benefits of having both a mother and a father raising children in the home are incalculable.

Statistics also show that same-sex marriage is detrimental to society. Those participating in such unions are seldom monogamous and face higher rates of disease, early death, and domestic violence. In addition, statistics show that when a mother and father raise a child, in a stable environment, that child is less likely to turn to a homosexual lifestyle than children who are raised by two parents of the same sex. The legalization of homosexual civil unions will no doubt lead to an increase of young people embracing such a lifestyle.

It's also important to note that statistics demonstrate that simply changing the cultural perspective towards gay relationships alters the incidence of homosexuality within the population. This strongly supports the view that homosexuality is a learned behavior and not something, that is innate, chromosomal, or hereditary. In other words, a person is not born gay; they choose that lifestyle. This choice puts them in the same category as others who chose to live together such as roommates or siblings, etc. However, the Equal Benefits Plan, which proposed giving all cohabitants the same rights while taking gender out of the equation, was not given serious consideration. That is because, ultimately, the goal of those who are behind proposals to change these laws is not actually equality but a wholesale revision of our culture's view toward gay couples and an increase in the number of young men and women involved in such relationships.

I'm not a statistician or a politician, but by looking at the evidence, I can easily see that the notion of "homosexual marriage" is simply a sham. It is not the same as traditional marriage, not by a long shot. You don't need to know the Bible or even believe in God to see that same-sex marriage in New Jersey would be a flimsy counterfeit, and one that has the potential to undermine the foundation of our society. Is this what "we the people" really want for our nation: More disease and higher crime, leading to more services thus requiring higher taxes? Are those in the government truly representing WE the people? We have a right, and obligation, to let our elected officials know how we feel on this and other important issues of our day.

As Christians, we need to remember that the Lord is on the throne; our citizenship is in heaven. Our hope, ultimately, is not in the political system, but in the Lord. Nevertheless, we need to do our part as believers living in this land. We need to urge those who represent us, whether they share our faith or not, to consider all the evidence and do all they can to protect the institution of marriage.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lloyd".

Lloyd Pulley  
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