

We The People
Program 39
Homosexual Same Sex Marriage



These days I think the fabric of society is somewhat thread bare in places. We're developing a patch work quilt of social ideas that do not stitch together as a cohesive force to provide direction and to reflect our combined majority values. As we set aside common sense society suffers as we trade away these values. It is in this context I would like to share some thoughts about homosexual or same sex marriage with you.

Marriage between a man and a woman is the foundation of the basic human union in society and through it contains the cultural and social values attached to procreation and new life. The basic unit across all levels of society is the 'family' so marriage establishes the values that govern the ongoing transmission of life. The family unit that creates and nurtures that life is a fundamental component of society and has been for millennia. In our society marriage identifies the relationship of a man and a woman who together hold the promise of new life in that union. Marriage also reflects the value two people hold in each other and the depth of their affection and in this sense homosexual couples have a right to protection in the law and the right to enjoy a peaceful and caring place in society even though many of us do not accept homosexuality as correct behavior or normal.

Those who advocate that gay marriage is their right because it measures their love for each other is in principle understandable but if marriage is to measure love and for reproduction, then they do not have a claim at all because it marginalizes the majority who are responsible for the next generation as a natural human function. Marriage therefore is a nucleus for culture and society which supports attitudes, values and beliefs which encompass child bearing. We need a culture connected to birth even in a secular society where the recognition of marriage enshrines the possibility and sanctity of new life and this is one reason why the legal recognition of marriage is important as it symbolises the reproductive promise that exists. The union of two men or two women does not hold the promise of new life and therefore is different from marriage as we uphold it for an array of personal reasons. A civil union would however recognise their affection and bond for each other if that's important to them. This is one reason why the legal recognition of marriage as we know it is important and even if a man and a woman cannot or choose not to have children it still does not take away from marriage as the fundamental symbolism where procreation is enshrined. Marriage between same sex couples damages this symbolism and takes away a very important element of society. We have the right to say no if we wish but I believe homosexuals have the right to a civil union but not marriage.

Children have an intrinsic right to be raised by their biological parents as the natural pairing of a man and a woman provides the complex mix of male and female role models and the values fundamental in raising a child. Surely a new baby has a basic right to have a mother and a father and to remove this fundamental right would be a loss to society and to the child. This does not mean that a person who adopts a child and raises it, is in some way less a person, rather that devotion may be extraordinary but it is not the natural product of marriage. Don't forget we are not discussing the worth of an individual here rather the institution of marriage. Respect for each other is very important but it works both ways and it seems to me that's missing in the people who demand gay marriage.

When homosexuals claim a right to marriage by trying to point out why another view is wrong or by finding fault with another person, it's an argument which tries to make a point through derision. This is called an "ad hominem" argument, that debases the other party who disagree with homosexual marriage. This bully tactic lacks respect. Society needs marriage to create cultural relevance, symbolism and moral values around the inherently procreative relationship between a man and a woman, and so protect that union and the children who come from it. Changing marriage to include same-sex couples will adversely affect its cultural meaning and function and in doing so, damage its ability and society's capacity, to protect the inherently procreative relationship and the children who come from it. Think on this very carefully before we lose yet another vital component of our society.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley
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