

In addition, churches and individuals who verbally object to same-sex "marriage" and homosexual behavior could find themselves subject to so-called "hate crime" laws or other sanctions. For instance, in Canada, merely running an ad in a newspaper with Scripture condemning homosexual behavior resulted in a fine.

 What are my children being taught in public school about same-sex "marriage"?

Unfortunately, homosexual activists and their allies have been very aggressive in many public schools in advancing their agenda with school-age children.

A 2001 Zogby International poll of high school seniors found that 68 percent said homosexual couples should be allowed to adopt children; 88 percent supported so-called "hate crimes" legislation, and two-thirds thought same-sex "marriage" should be allowed. Eighty percent of Catholic students also supported same-sex "marriage."

Organizations such as GLSEN (The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Educational Network) have specifically targeted the public schools to push the homosexual agenda. Their elementary school lesson plans include titles such as "What is Boy/Girl?" and "Freedom to Marry."

GLSEN also circulates promotional materials that advise students to regard those who have "shown intolerance" of homosexual behavior as "your opponents." Among potential opponents are "relatives."

GLSEN also encourages schools and teachers to read books such as *Heather Has Two Mommies* and *One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dads, Blue Dads* to children.

Same-sex "marriage," "civil unions," or "domestic partner arrangements" all accomplish one thing: the weakening of traditional marriage and the family. If allowed to continue, the societal costs for children and grandchildren would be profound. Once same-sex "marriages" are legally recognized, activist organizations will no longer have to "encourage" schools to teach that homosexual behavior is acceptable, it could be law to do so.

The good news is that while it appeared a few years ago that same-sex "marriage" was inevitable, in fact, it is not. Thirty-eight states now have Defense of Marriage Acts or DOMA's. In 2004, thirteen states passed constitutional amendments that affirm marriage as between one man and one woman. ADF is actively defending many of these amendments from legal attack by advocates of homosexual behavior and we are winning!

There are many misconceptions about

the issue of same-sex "marriage" and

its ramifications, not only for Christians

but for society as a whole. The following

are commonly asked questions and

answers related to the issue.

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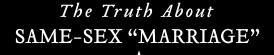


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 All homosexual couples want are the legal benefits of marriage. They are not looking for anything else.

On the contrary, consider what homosexual activists say:

"We can win the freedom to marry. We can seize the terms of the debate, tell our diverse stories, engage the non-gay persuadable public, enlist allies, work the courts and the legislatures in several states, and achieve a legal breakthrough within five years. This won't just be a change in the law either; it will be a change in society. For if we do it right, the struggle to win the freedom to marry will bring much more along the way."

—Homosexual Activist Evan Wolfson, quoted in "All Together Now," The Advocate, September 11, 2001

"[You should] fight for same-sex marriage and its benefits, and then, once granted, redefine the institution of marriage entirely. The most subversive action lesbians and gay men can undertake is to transform the notion of 'family' entirely."

—Homosexual Activist Michelangelo Signorile, "Bridal Wave," OUT, December 1993 - January 1994

"[We] will dethrone the traditional family based on blood relationships in favor of the families we choose."

-Homosexual Activist William Eskridge, "The Case for Same-Sex Marriage," 1996

Openly homosexual author Andrew Sullivan has admitted that most homosexual men's "understanding of the sexual commitment in a marriage is considerably broader than what nearly all heterosexual couples would tolerate." He adds that homosexual men have a need for "extramarital outlets" and same-sex "marriage" will make adultery more acceptable for all married couples. (See Andrew Sullivan, "Virtually Normal: An Argument About Homosexuality," 1995.)

 My state passed a Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), so aren't we protected from being forced to recognize same-sex "marriages" in our state?

Homosexual activists have pointed out that they will continue to wed in Massachusetts (where same-sex "marriage" has been legalized)—or any other place where same-sex "marriage" is allowed—and come home and file a constitutional challenge to state and federal DOMA laws, stating these laws violate the Equal Protection clause of the United States Constitution. The matter could most likely reach the United States Supreme Court which might strike down all of the state defense of marriage laws.

• I have heard many politicians state that they are against same-sex "marriage," but they are against a federal marriage amendment that would define marriage as being between one man and one woman. They believe this issue should be left up to the states to decide.

The problem here is that the issue will not be left to the states to decide. Same-sex "marriage" proponents claim that the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the Constitution

compels states to legally recognize marriages formed in other states. While states have never been compelled to recognize marriages that violate their own public policy, lawsuits have been filed in several states demanding recognition of same-sex "marriage" licenses. There is a strong likelihood a federal judge will eventually rule that states must recognize same-sex "marriages" from another state. Unless such a decision is overturned by the Supreme Court, same-sex "marriage" would then become the law of the land.

• Can't we find a compromise like "civil unions" that will provide same-sex couples with the legal benefits they desire and protect traditional marriage as well?

"Civil unions" or "domestic partner" legislation—granting all the legal benefits of marriage—weaken the institution of marriage. In France, Denmark, and Germany—and other countries that have developed versions of "civil unions" or "civil solidarity pacts" for same-sex couples—heterosexual couples have taken advantage of these arrangements to forgo the legal responsibilities of traditional marriage and enter into temporary arrangements. (See David Frum, "The Fall of France," *National Review*, November 8, 1999, and Chris Crain, "Gays May Ruin Traditional Marriage," *New York Blade*, August 3, 2001.)

In Scandinavia, the traditional family has been radically redefined and the number of children born out of wedlock has skyrocketed. This is important because those who seek to enjoy the legal benefits of marriage, without the commitment of marriage, can come and go as they please—resulting in family instability and increasing illegitimacy rates and other problems.

Children are the big losers when the traditional family is radically redefined.

Finally, in a study done by the University of Vermont—and funded by a homosexual activist foundation—79 percent of married heterosexuals felt that monogamy was right, compared to 50 percent of homosexuals in "civil unions" (which provide almost all of the legal privileges of marriage). Both of these statistics are troubling but highlight the illusion that same-sex unions will provide stable homes.

If the door is opened to same-sex "marriage," other groups—such as polygamists—will demand that their unions be legally recognized as well. Such challenges are already in court.

Therefore, while the "civil union" compromise would seem to protect the institution of marriage, in practice it would only weaken the it.

• Isn't a person born homosexual?

After decades of claims, there is no credible evidence based

on scientific research, that in any way proves homosexuality is an innate characteristic. To date no one has been able to duplicate studies that have claimed to find a genetic component to homosexuality. Regardless, the Bible is clear on its teaching related to homosexual behavior. To act on such an impulse is sinful and both socially and personally destructive.

Exodus International is one ministry that has played an instrumental role in helping thousands of individuals stop homosexual behavior. For more information, go to www.exodus-international.org.

• Won't churches be protected from having to perform same-sex "marriages"?

If same-sex "marriage" is legalized, churches could find themselves in a difficult position. While some homosexual activist groups deny that churches would be pressured to perform same-sex "marriages," antidiscrimination laws that include "sexual orientation" could force churches to make a choice between their tax-exempt status, denial of equal access to public property, and violating their Biblical beliefs.

Raymond Flynn, a former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, furthers this concern:

"The issue of legalizing same-sex marriage raises the question: Does this mean there will be cases brought against the Catholic Church for discrimination? I think it is the next step. I don't think people will stop until the whole sacred institution of marriage crumbles."



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