

## The case against homosexual marriage

The Australian Marriage Act as amended in 2004 states that, 'marriage means the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life'. An additional amendment refuses to recognise as marriage in Australia any same-sex unions solemnised in a foreign country. Homosexual activists are not satisfied with equal rights granted under civil union legislation but want what they call 'marriage equality'. Some political parties have bound members to support homosexual marriage. They assert that the majority of Australians want homosexual marriage and that those who oppose it do so for religious reasons only.

The Federal Marriage Act is not a religious document and we strongly oppose any changes to the Act on the following grounds:

1. From the beginning of history, and in every culture around the world, a man and a woman have come together in a life-long union for the purpose of companionship, and the bearing and nurturing of children.

This union is called marriage. One reason for this is the biological impossibility of a same-sex couple producing children. To this we would add that this is the design of our Creator: 'in the beginning God made them male and female' (Matthew 19:4).

2. Therefore a homosexual or lesbian couple are dependent upon a third party if they want children. A surrogate mother is open to exploitation, as is a sperm donor. In either case, the child is torn away from one biological parent in a legally sanctioned act, if homosexual marriage is legalised.

3. Every child has a biological mother and father. It is their expectation, and right, to know their mother and father, and be raised by them under normal circumstances. Many children are deprived of a mother and/or father, but the State does not sanction such situations or arrangements for the raising of children as would be done in legalising homosexual marriage. Indeed, the State has said 'Sorry' for such State-sanctioned removal of children from their biological parents in the recent past.

4. Homosexual couples have all the legal rights of heterosexual couples by way of civil unions and *de facto* relationships- apart from that of adopting children in some jurisdictions.

5. The term 'marriage equality' is emotive but misleading. Marriage is not a right for everyone in our society. Our laws do not allow children to marry, do not allow a person to marry a brother or sister (incest), do not allow marriage to more than one man or woman at a time (bigamy and polygamy), and do not allow marriage to animals (bestiality).

6. The desire to legalise homosexual marriage is about 'normalizing' homosexual behaviour. Many homosexual couples are not interested in getting married. In the Netherlands only 20% of homosexual couples are married, compared to 80% for heterosexual couples. In New Zealand only 12% of homosexual couples got married in the two years after legalisation of homosexual marriage.

7. Children growing up in a legally-sanctioned homosexual marriage face confusion and a high risk of emotional instability. They face the inevitable question of why they have 'two daddies' or 'two mummies'.

A little girl should not have to see two men posing as her parents. A teenage boy should not have to ask his dad, 'Where did I come from' and be told, 'Ask your other dad'. Children will have difficulty relating to members of the opposite sex in a whole new way, unrelated to single parenting.

8. Every child has a right to a mother and a father. While adult homosexuals seek their rights under the banner of 'marriage equality', the rights of the child are being denied. Homosexual marriage will legally sanction the denial of the rights of the child.

9. It is our desire that the State assist every child born in Australia to grow up with their birth mother and father, while making provisions for those denied this basic human right. 'Bless the little children!' (Mark 10:16).

#### Affirmation of Marriage from the Bible

- The PCEA continues to uphold Biblical teaching on marriage as stated in the Westminster Confession of Faith (chapter 24), that 'Marriage is between one man and one woman...ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind with legitimate issue'. Marriage is a covenant commitment for life.
- As a creation ordinance it is right that marriage be a legal institution as it is in present/current Federal legislation. The family unit, consisting of a mother and a father, and the progeny of this union called marriage, is ordained by God for the good of adult companionship and the nurture of children in all societies, and for the glory of God.
- In the Bible the marriage relationship is so special that it is compared to the relationship between Christ and church (Ephesians 5:22-33).
- Breaking God's holy law in the matter of marriage, as in any other matter, will result in God's judgment upon individuals and societies- for instance the city of Sodom (Genesis 19) - unless there is repentance.
- We believe all people are made in the image of God, and it is out of love for them, and love for innocent little ones as expressed by Jesus (Mark10:16) that we warn/protest against any re-definition of the institution of marriage as ordained by God, affirmed by Jesus, by the Reformers, and by all faithful churches down through the ages.

We urge ministers and members of our church to continue in urgent prayer over this matter (Luke 18:1-8). Again we say, God is all powerful; "He removes kings and raises up kings" (Daniel 2:21). We pray that there will be wise and God-fearing people whom God can raise up. We pray that God will work in the hearts of those in the parliaments of our land. It is also our duty to communicate with our elected representative; a letter or email to encourage the godly in their views and encourage the ungodly to change their views.

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