



## Family Policy Brief

### **Eight Reasons to Defend Man/Woman Marriage**

*“One can believe in same-sex marriage. One can believe that every child deserves a mother and a father. One cannot believe both.”*

David Blankenhorn, Institute for American Values<sup>1</sup>

#### **1. Legalizing same-sex marriage severs children from their right to know and be raised by their biological parents.**

Whatever you legalize, you encourage, and therefore get more of. If same-sex marriage is legalized, more children will be raised without a mother or a father. Social science research overwhelmingly proves that children do best on all measures of health and wellbeing when they are raised by their married biological parents. Man/woman marriage optimizes the chances of children being raised and cared for by both biological parents while same-sex marriages establish unions that will always deny the child the right to be raised by either a mother or a father.

Research also shows that mothers and fathers, by nature of their genders, make unique contributions to the development of their children and that these contributions cannot be replaced by two “parents” of the same sex. If society sanctions marriages that make it impossible for children to be raised by either their mother or father, children suffer.

To use an analogy: You could pass a law that says oranges now are apples. But oranges will never look like apples or taste like apples or be apples no matter how many laws we pass, nor will they ever produce the same seeds as apples. Just because we recognize this reality does not mean we have animosity toward oranges. In fact, we can like both oranges and apples and still hold an opinion that they are different. While this example may seem silly, it illustrates that the proposed radical experiment with same-sex marriage attempts to achieve the impossible. Same-sex marriage will never bear the same fruit as man/woman marriage – no matter how many laws are passed because it is radically different.

#### **2. Legalizing same-sex marriage encourages the creation of children through reproductive arrangements that are not in their best interest.**

By the laws of nature, same-sex couples cannot have children naturally. Recognizing same-sex marriages encourages increasing use of sperm banks, surrogate mothers and a number of other artificial reproductive technologies. The “products” of these technologies (i.e., children) too often find themselves at the center of court battles to determine who are their legally recognized parents. In addition, troubling testimonies have begun to emerge from children created through sperm donation regarding the negative impact this has had on them. For example, a woman who was raised by two lesbian parents from birth stated, “... I have still felt an empty space in my life, the lack of a father, and no matter the love that I have had from both of my mothers and the rarity of

their compassion for me, there is a balance that comes from a mother and a father that can create the most stable and lasting family. I would not keep the blessings a father can give from any child.”<sup>2</sup>

### **3. More children will be taught against their parents’ wishes that homosexuality is healthy and normal.**

Wherever same-sex marriage is legalized, parents will have no legal basis to object to curriculum and books read in schools promoting homosexuality, like *Heather Has Two Mommies*.

This is what David Parker found out after same-sex marriage was legalized in Massachusetts. He was arrested and banned indefinitely from all school property for refusing to leave an elementary school because school staff would not agree to opt out his 6-year-old child from being exposed to homosexual “education.” His arrest led to a night in jail.

Mr. Parker and his wife, along with another couple, the Wirthlins, then filed a lawsuit in U.S. federal district court in Massachusetts to try to stop the indoctrination of their children on homosexuality in their school. They lost. When they challenged the lower court decision, the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit ruled that parents cannot prohibit the promotion of homosexuality in the schools of Massachusetts. The federal appellate court reasoned that since “*Massachusetts has recognized gay marriage under its state constitution*,” the state’s schools have the right to “*educate their students regarding that recognition*.”<sup>3</sup> The U.S. Supreme Court has just turned down their appeal. You can view a short video of the Parker’s story [here](http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1815825713) (<http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1815825713>). Other parents will experience their nightmare story everywhere that same-sex marriage is legalized.

### **4. When rights for same-sex couples are expanded, freedom of speech and religion are threatened as citizens are coerced to act against conscience and belief.**

We can already see examples of this happening in the U.S. and around the world:

- After same-sex marriage was legalized in Massachusetts, Catholic Charities, a major facilitator of adoptions, had to drop their adoption program because they knew they would be required by law to facilitate adoption of children to same-sex couples and did not want to face lawsuits.
- A photographer in New Mexico was fined \$6,500 for politely declining to photograph a “commitment ceremony” of two lesbians because same-sex relationships violated her religious beliefs.
- A church in New Jersey lost its tax-exempt status for some of its property for refusing to rent out its pavilion for a lesbian “commitment ceremony.”
- Because they refused to advertise homosexual California couples as potential adoptive parents, the largest adoption advertising company on the Internet can no longer advertise *any* couples from California as potential adoptive parents.
- Pastors in Sweden and Canada were prosecuted for speaking out publicly against same-sex marriage based on their reading of biblical scripture. Two Bible publishers in the U.S. have been sued over biblical teachings against homosexuality.

- Doctors in California were sued for declining to artificially inseminate a lesbian woman because it was against their religious beliefs. The court ruled that the doctors discriminated against the lesbian and ordered them to pay damages.

### **5. Wherever same-sex marriage is legalized, promoting motherhood and fatherhood could legally be considered discriminatory.**

In some countries, it is already considered discriminatory to honor mothers and fathers due to the fear of embarrassing children who have single parents, lesbian mothers or homosexual fathers. For this reason, a ban on making Father's Day cards has been imposed in some schools in Scotland and elsewhere.

In Massachusetts and Spain, parents can no longer be referred to as mother and father on birth certificates. They must be designated as "Party A and B" and "Progenitor A and B," respectively. (The latter example totally ignores the biological fact that only one member of a same-sex couple can possibly be the "progenitor.")

Since legalizing same-sex marriage will create more officially sanctioned families without mothers or fathers, it is certain to fuel the current effort to eliminate all references to mothers and fathers in our society under the guise of discrimination.

### **6. Promiscuity in marriage will become more generally accepted.**

Some homosexual activists claim "monogamous" same-sex couples behave like monogamous heterosexual couples. The data refute this claim. The homosexual lifestyle is generally highly promiscuous. A study of homosexual and bisexual men published in the *Journal of Sex Research* found that the average number of sexual partners was 755.2. Some had thousands of partners.<sup>4</sup>

Another study of 2,583 homosexuals also published in the *Journal of Sex Research*, found that among the older men, "the modal range for number of male sexual partners in a lifetime was 101-500." Between 10.2 percent and 15.7 percent had greater than 1,000 sexual partners.<sup>5</sup>

Many male homosexuals readily admit that monogamy and fidelity for them can mean something entirely different than what most accept the term to mean. Monogamy, especially for male partners (as lesbians are generally more faithful), can mean remaining "emotionally monogamous" as a couple while still having multiple sexual relations with other men, including casual encounters with complete strangers.

An article in the *New York Times* four years after same-sex marriage was legalized in Massachusetts highlighted the widely accepted promiscuous nature of many "monogamous" same-sex marriages:

*While many [homosexual] couples want conventional marriages, some are drawing on a creative definition of family forged while living "outside mainstream society," said Joyce Kauffman, a family lawyer and gay activist.... Eric Erbelding and his husband, Michael Peck, both 44, see each other only every other weekend because Mr. Peck works in Pittsburgh. So, Mr. Erbelding said, "Our rule is you can play around because, you know, you have to be practical." Still, Mr. Erbelding said, most married gay couples he knows are "for the most part monogamous, but for maybe a casual three-way."<sup>6</sup>*

## **7. There already are disturbing social impacts where same-sex marriage has been legalized.**

The Netherlands was the first country to legalize same-sex marriage in 2001. Several years later, a group of Dutch professors warned in an open letter “about the wisdom of the efforts [in the Netherlands] to deconstruct marriage in its traditional form.”<sup>7</sup> The Dutch “increasingly regard marriage as no longer relevant” because they have been persuaded that “marriage is not connected to parenthood and that marriage and cohabitation are equally valid ‘lifestyle choices. ...’”<sup>8</sup>

## **8. Legalizing same-sex marriage may not even be good for homosexuals.**

Polls show that many well-intentioned people support legalizing same-sex marriage because they mistakenly believe homosexuality is genetic, fixed and immutable. Research clearly proves that it is not.<sup>9</sup> (The National Association for the Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, [www.nARTH.org](http://www.nARTH.org), is an excellent source of factual information about the true nature of homosexuality and how thousands have changed their same sex orientation.) These well-meaning people believe that by giving homosexuals marriage “rights,” they will be less marginalized by society. In other words, they see legalizing same-sex marriage as the compassionate response. However, by legalizing same-sex marriage, we may actually be exacerbating the very problems we are seeking to solve for adults, and at the same time creating new ones for children.

Researchers studying homosexuality agree that homosexuals as a group experience a disproportionate amount of negative outcomes in their lives. These well-documented outcomes include high rates of domestic violence and sexual coercion,<sup>10</sup> suicidal tendencies,<sup>11</sup> lower life expectancy,<sup>12</sup> high AIDS rates,<sup>13</sup> drug and alcohol problems,<sup>14</sup> promiscuity and infidelity,<sup>15</sup> involvement with pedophilia,<sup>16</sup> mental and emotional disorders/illnesses,<sup>17</sup> deliberate self-harm and other problems.<sup>18</sup> These negative outcomes associated with the homosexual lifestyle are well-recognized by the gay community and are not in dispute. What is being disputed, however, is how to best help homosexuals avoid these negative outcomes.

Some claim these negative outcomes are the result of society’s refusal to accept homosexuality as healthy and normal, and these outcomes would largely disappear if we legalize same-sex marriage and otherwise mainstream homosexuality. However, in European countries where same-sex relations have been more accepted than in the U.S. and in some places have been legalized, there is no measurable difference in these negative statistics. This indicates that societal attitudes toward same-sex relations are not likely the cause of these negative outcomes.

The compassionate response is to not affirm a lifestyle that carries with it multiple negative outcomes for the individuals, but rather to offer help and support to ameliorate these outcomes. Suppose a good friend had a serious drug addiction. A true friend would encourage him to discontinue his self-destructive behavior and get help. Just because you believe taking drugs is unhealthy and harmful does not mean you hate drug users. You can genuinely care for your friend, and at the same time (1) work to ensure that drug use remains illegal, and (2) encourage him to change his lifestyle. So it is with opposing same-sex marriage. If you are concerned about those with same-sex attraction, you would seek to help them and not officially affirm them in an unhealthy lifestyle.

In other words, legalizing same-sex marriage may not help the very group it is intended to help, and at the same time, it will hurt some children by denying them the right to be raised by both of their parents.

## Conclusions

Legalizing same-sex marriage will do much more than simply allow same gender individuals to marry. By putting an official governmental stamp of approval on homosexuality, it will mainstream homosexuality into all aspects of society, including our schools and churches, and back it up with the force of law.

Working to protect marriage is not mean-spirited. It is the legitimate response of the majority of people who want what is best for individuals (including homosexuals), children and our society, and therefore want to preserve the proven and essential institution of marriage. The many negative consequences that would result from legalizing same-sex marriage clearly provide strong reasons for preserving man/woman marriage.

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<sup>1</sup> Blankenhorn, D. (2007). *The Future of Marriage*. New York: Encounter Books.

<sup>2</sup> *The World Unites to Protect the Family*, the Doha International Conference for the Family and the Brigham Young University World Family Policy Center. (2004). 38.

<sup>3</sup> *Parker v. Hurley*, 2008 U.S. App. LEXIS 2070 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. Mass., Jan. 31, 2008).

<sup>4</sup> Meyer-Bahlburg, H. F. L., Exner, T. M., Lorenz, G., Gruen, R. S., Gorman, J. M., Ehrhardt, A. A. (1991). Sexual risk behavior, sexual functioning, and HIV disease progression in gay men. *Journal of Sex Research*, 28, 3-27. This was the average number of partners for HIV-positive men. The average number of sexual partners for HIV-negative men was 921.9. The highest number of sexual partners recorded for an individual in this study was 23,000.

<sup>5</sup> Van de Ven, P., Rodden, P., Crawford, J., Kippax, S. (1997). A comparative demographic and sexual profile of older homosexually active men. *Journal of Sex Research*, 34, 349-360.

<sup>6</sup> Belluck, P. (June 15, 2008). Gay Couples Find Marriage Is a Mixed Bag. *The New York Times*.

<sup>7</sup> An unofficial translation of this letter can be found at [http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/netherlands\\_statement.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/netherlands_statement.cfm)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Although it was widely reported that researcher Simon LeVay proved that homosexuality is genetic by finding a difference between homosexual and heterosexual brains, Dr. LeVay himself stated, “I did not prove that homosexuality is genetic, or find a genetic cause for being gay. I didn’t show that gay men are born that way, the most common mistake people make in interpreting my work.” (Nimmons, D., (March, 1994). Sex and the Brain. *Discover*, 15, 64. LeVay maintains a Web site in which he discusses the strengths and weaknesses of related research. See <http://members.aol.com/slevay/>). Researcher, Dr. Dean Hamer, announced he had found a “gay gene” which causes homosexuality. (Hamer, D. H., Hu, S., Magnuson, V.L., Hu, N., Pattatucci, A.M. (1993). A Linkage Between DNA Markers on the X Chromosome and Male Sexual Orientation. *Science* 261, 321-327.) But Hamer eventually admitted that his study did not support a genetic cause for homosexuality and that female homosexuality was “culturally transmitted, not inherited.” (Hamer, D. & Copeland, P., (1998). *Living with Our Genes: Why They Matter More Than You Think*. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group.) If homosexuals were indeed “born that way,” there should be a 100 percent correlation of homosexuality in identical twins because each inherits the exact same genes. However, studies of thousands of sets of homosexual twins find that only 11 to 30 percent of twins are both homosexual. (Bailey, J., Pillard, R. (1991). A genetic study of male sexual orientation. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 48, 1089-1096; Bailey, J., Benishay, D. (1993). Familial Aggregation of Female Sexual Orientation. *American Journal of Psychiatry* 150, 272-277. Of the findings in this study, William Byne, M.D., Ph.D. stated in a May 1994 article in *Scientific American* entitled “The Biological Evidence Challenged,” “Bailey and Pillard found that the incidence of

homosexuality in the adopted brothers of homosexuals (11%) was much higher than recent estimates for the rate of homosexuality in the population (1 to 5%). In fact, it was equal to the rate for non-twin biological brothers. This study clearly challenges a simple genetic hypothesis and strongly suggests that environment contributes significantly to sexual

orientation...”) Finally, research shows that a high percentage of children abused by a person of the same sex end up acting out homosexual tendencies when they are older. (Lisak, D. (1994). The psychological impact of sexual abuse: Content analysis of interviews with male survivors. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 7, 525-548; Gilgun, J. & Reiser, E. (1990). The development of sexual identity among men sexually abused as children. *Families in Society*, 71, 515-521.) This would indicate an environmental causation. While it is not clear what all the causes of same-sex attraction might be, research has identified a variety of common factors that may contribute to the development of a homosexual orientation, such as physical and/or sexual abuse as a child, hostile, detached or absent father, overprotective or controlling mother, and the feeling like they were not accepted by peers of their own gender.

<sup>10</sup> Brand, P. A., & Kidd, A. H. (1986). Frequency of physical aggression in heterosexual and female homosexual dyads. *Psychological Reports*, 59, 1307-1313; Waterman, C. K., Dawson, L. J., & Bologna, M. (1989). Sexual coercion in gay male and lesbian relationships: Predictors and implications and support services. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 26, 118-124; Owen, S., & Burke, T. W. (2004). An exploration of the prevalence of domestic violence in same-sex relationships. *Psychological Reports*, 95, 129-132.

<sup>11</sup> Saunders, J. M., & Valente, S. M. (1987). Suicide risk among gay men and lesbians: A review. *Death Studies*, 11, 1-23; Saghir, M. T., Robins, E., Walbran, B., & Gentry, K. A. (1970). Homosexuality. IV. Psychiatric disorders and disability in the female homosexuals. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 127, 147-154; King, M., et al., (2008). A systematic review of mental disorder, suicide, and deliberate self harm in lesbian, gay and bisexual people. *BMC Psychiatry*, 18, 70.

<sup>12</sup> Cameron, P., Cameron, K., and Playfair, W. (1998). Does Homosexual Activity Shorten Life? *Psychological Reports* 83 (3 Pt 1), 847-866.

<sup>13</sup> Odets, W. (1994a, Oct.) in the report to the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights. In E.L. Goldman (Ed.), Psychological factors that generate HIV resurgence in young gay men. *Clinical Psychiatry News*, 5.

<sup>14</sup> Lewis, C. E., Saghir, M. T., & Robins, E. (1982). Drinking patterns in homosexual and heterosexual women. *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, 43, 277-279; Craig, R. J. (1987). MMPI-derived prevalence estimates of homosexuality among drug dependent patients. *The International Journal of Addictions*, 22, 1139-1145; Fifield, L., Latham, J. D., & Phillips, C. (1977). *Alcoholism in the gay community: The price of alienation, isolation, and oppression*. Los Angeles: The Gay Community Services Center; Fenwick, R. D. & Pillard, R. C. (1978). *Advocate guide to gay health*. New York: E. P. Dutton.

<sup>15</sup> Rothblum, E., Solomon, S. (2003). Civil Unions in the State of Vermont: A Report on the First Year, University of Vermont Department of Psychology; McWhirter, D. P., & Mattison, A. M., (1984). *The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall 1984.

<sup>16</sup> Freund, K., & Watson, R. J. (1992). The proportions of heterosexual and homosexual pedophiles among sex offenders against children: An exploratory study. *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy*, 18, 34-43; Erickson, W. D., Walbek, N. H., & Sely, R. K. (1988). Behavior patterns of child molesters. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 17, 77-86.

<sup>17</sup> Sandfort, T. G. M., de Graaf, R., Bijl, R. V., & Schnabel, P. (2001). Same-sex sexual behavior and psychiatric disorders. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 58, 85-91; see also <http://www.narth.com/docs/studyconfirms.html>; Cochran, S. D., Mays, V. M., Sullivan, J. G. (2003). Prevalence of Mental Disorders, Psychological Distress, and Mental Health Services Use Among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adults in the United States. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 71, 53-61.

<sup>18</sup> King, M. et al., (2008). A systematic review of mental disorder, suicide, and deliberate self harm in lesbian, gay and bisexual people. *BMC Psychiatry*, 18, 70.