

Inquiry on Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010

As a pastor I would like to raise my concern along with others in my congregation regarding the issue of same-sex marriage.

I would like to express our total opposition to the redefining of the age-old institution of marriage as defined by a man and a woman joined together for life for **the main purpose of procreating and raising a family**.

This is not just a religious institution that God instituted from the beginning of creation, but it is also a proven institution that has always been the foundation of a successful society like ours.

Please do not take my call to not support same-sex marriage as some expression of equality or inequality. And please don't allow others to try and make this into an equality issue. Marriage is far more important than trying to lower its meaning and purpose to a question of rights and equality, which it is wrongly being presented as.

It is particularly disturbing to only hear about the 'rights' of same-sex couples in regard to marriage but NOTHING is being mentioned about the PURPOSE of marriage in procreating and raising children, and nothing is mentioned about the welfare of children. Especially as it is a proven fact as well as an observed reality from my experience, that every child is FAR better off and more balanced in life if they are brought up by a mother and a father in their distinctive roles and as role models. I believe it to be a monumental derelict of duty for any Government to be compromising the value of marriage and family for the sake of appeasing a minority group.

Are we really willing to risk the cornerstone of what has so successfully built our society because of the outcry of less than 2% of Australian homosexuals who are crying out for their equal status? In saying this you need to understand that I am in no way 'homophobic' as I have had a lot to do with homosexuals and have helped homosexuals who have given up their homosexuality to now live in a heterosexual marriage with children, and I have great respect and admiration for them.

But homosexuals are not the only minority group who are denied the right to marry the person of their choice and it would be naive to think that they will be the only ones to challenge the right to marry once a precedent was set to change the definition of marriage. There are blood relatives, under age people who can't get permission from their parents, those holding to different cultural customs and laws as well as others of 'different sexually orientation' waiting in the wings for such a precedent to be set in relation to 'marriage'.

Marriage should never be treated as a universal right in these cases and if you go down the track of decision making purely on the basis of the rights of a minority group, then the welfare of the majority will inevitably suffer. When we start placing the rights of a few people over the welfare of society as a whole it will inevitably result in repercussions that may never be able to be rectified.

Please be careful about this issue, and others like it that are making a concerted assault on our values system, as once we start moving any of the key boundary lines of our society, such as marriage and family, (as with the progress of abortion) you will have set a precedence for many other calls for 'rights and equality' which may have catastrophic repercussions on our society.

I respectfully ask that would you reject same-sex marriage, not on the grounds of equality vs. Inequality (as same-sex couples already enjoy equality), but on the grounds that it would definitely compromise the existing foundation of marriage. Call it anything you want BUT PLEASE DON'T CALL IT 'MARRIAGE'.

Whatever gains same-sex couples (the minority) feel they will have achieve in this, will take away something from heterosexual couples (the majority) to the same degree and discriminate against them by reducing the sanctity of marriage to something other than what it was when they entered into it. No longer will the wearing of a wedding ring and using the title 'Mr' mean that I am married to a woman. I do not want to have to explain to anybody 'what sort of marriage' I have and I am deeply grieved and offended at the prospect of having to do this in the future if this proposed change becomes law.

Can I encourage you to please continue to put the welfare of Australian FAMILIES and CHILDREN first in Government policy and to protect marriage between a man and a woman who can procreate and raise balanced children by their distinctive roles as mother and father.

I respectfully ask that you would reject any move toward same-sex marriage in Australia.

Warm regards

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(Senior Pastor of River City Church)