



Homosexuals Attack The Institution of Marriage

TVC SPECIAL REPORT

THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE, a union between a man and a woman, has been the norm in all of human history. It is the basic unit of society, and it is the place where character, love, empathy, skills, and morality is taught.

As social researcher Amitai Etzioni has written, "There never was a society throughout all of history ... without a family as the central unit for launching the education of children, for character formation, and as the moral agent of society."

The family has universally been understood to be a joining of a man and a woman in marriage for the purpose of building a life together—and having children.

In order to develop properly, children need to be living in a stable home with a mother and father. Boys and girls need both a mom and dad in order to learn what it means to be male and female. When one of these parents is missing from the family unit, it can cause great devastation to children. David Blankenhorn, writing in *Fatherless America: Confronting Our Most Urgent Social Problem*, observes, "Fatherlessness—the absence of paternal transmission—contributes to a decline of character and competence in children." For boys, this frequently translates into drug abuse and criminal behavior; for girls, it typically means sexual promiscuity, abortion, and welfare.

Mothers are equally important in the development of a child's character. Dr. Brenda Hunter, a Christian psychologist, has written extensively on the importance of motherhood. In her latest book, *The Power of Mother Love*, she writes to moms: "Without our presence, our love, our empathy, many of our children will grow up emotionally handicapped, unable to say a timely word to a hurting friend or to reach out to the less fortunate. Others—and their number is increasing—may even become brutal, remorseless killers."

Don't Mess With God's Order

Homosexual activists, however, are determined to overturn the natural order of things, by subverting and redefining marriage. Homosexual activist Michelangelo Signorile, writing in *Out* magazine makes this clear. He says homosexuals should "fight for same-sex marriage and its benefits and then, once granted, redefine the institution of marriage completely. . . . to debunk a myth and radically alter an archaic institution. . . . The most subversive action lesbians and gays can undertake—and one that would perhaps benefit all of society—is to transform the notion of 'family' entirely."

Homosexuals won a significant victory against the God-ordained institution of marriage when the Vermont Supreme Court ordered the state legislature to grant homosexuals the same rights and benefits as given to traditional marriages. The Court issued its decision in response to a lawsuit brought by several homosexual "lovers" who claimed they were being denied the right to marry. The Vermont legislature passed a "civil union" law in April, 2000. The law went into effect on July 1, 2000.

The civil union law confers the same basic benefits upon homosexual couples as it does for husband and wife marriages. This includes the right to inherit property; to make life and death medical decisions; to share medical and insurance policies; and to file joint tax returns. The civil union law, however, is different than "Domestic Partnerships." The Domestic Partnership can either be a law or a corporate policy that extends health and insurance benefits to same-sex partners. It does not carry the same legal weight as the Vermont civil union law, but Domestic Partnership laws paved the way for the legalization of homosexual marriages.

Of the 1,000 or so homosexual couples who have received a civil union license since July 1, an estimated 75% of them are from out of state. These couples have returned to their states. Many of these activists plan on challenging their own state laws to have their "civil union" recognized as a legal marriage. The goal is to use their victory in Vermont, to force every other state to legalize same-sex "marriage."

The Battleground Widens

In early February, two Seattle lawmakers introduced legislation to allow homosexual couples to establish civil unions on the same basis as traditional marriage.

And in Texas, citizen activists are gearing up for an effort to pass a Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) that will maintain marriage in Texas between one man and one woman. The bill, which was introduced in the last session of the Texas legislature, says simply: "The state may not give effect to a public act, record, or judicial proceeding that recognizes or validates a marriage between persons of the same sex." Texas is currently one of 15 states that have not passed a DOMA law.

In 1996, Congress passed, and President Clinton signed a DOMA law. It permits state courts and legislatures to ignore homosexual marriages legalized in other states, but states are free to legalize homosexual marriages if they wish.

Some legal scholars are unclear how Vermont's civil union law will impact other states. Since DOMA laws prohibit same-sex "marriage," homosexual activists may be able to get around a DOMA by claiming that a "civil union" is really not marriage.

In Illinois, the state Attorney General James E. Ryan has issued a ruling that his state does not have to recognize Vermont's civil unions. According to Ryan, no state must recognize "same-sex marriage" if it violates the state's own public policies on this issue. Under Illinois' DOMA law, marriage is only reserved for one man and one woman. According to Ryan, Vermont's civil union law is equivalent to "homosexual marriage," and is thus prohibited in Illinois.

A state without a DOMA law will be open to litigation and may be forced to recognize Vermont's civil unions.

Sixteen states do not have DOMA laws. They are: Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming, New Jersey, and Nevada (this state passed a constitutional amendment to protect traditional marriage, but it must be passed twice before it is adopted. A second vote will take place in 2002.)

Homosexual Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) is currently trying to subvert the federal DOMA law that was passed in 1996. The federal DOMA law provides that no state will be forced to recognize "same-sex marriages" or any similar relationship (like a civil union) from other states. And for federal purposes, it defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

On February 2, 2001, Frank introduced legislation that will strike Section 7 of DOMA that defines marriage as a legal union between one man and woman, and defines spouse as the person of the opposite sex who is a husband or wife.

Rep. Frank claims that he only wants to make sure that the federal government is not in the business of defining marriage. The reality is that he wants to subvert federal law so that gay marriage can be pushed through in federal legislation. Pro-family groups must vigorously oppose any effort by Frank to subvert DOMA.

Homosexuals Favor Multiple Sex

Homosexuals are notoriously promiscuous. Even if allowed to marry, they will continue to seek multiple partnerships. Homosexual Andrew Sullivan is the senior editor at *The New Republic*. In his book, *Virtually Normal*, he says that straight society will learn a lot from homosexual marriages if they are legalized. He notes that straights will learn to have a greater "understanding of the need for extramarital outlets between two men than between a man and a woman." In other words, homosexuals have no intention of remaining monogamous to each other. Sullivan criticizes what he calls the "stifling model of heterosexual normality."

In short, homosexuals are seeking to destroy traditional marriage to normalize same-sex marriages (including multiple sex partners). If homosexual marriages are legalized, polygamy will not be far behind.

Traditional Values Coalition is an inter-denominational public policy organization comprising over 43,000 member churches. Contact TVC at: 202-547-8570 or access our web site at: www.traditionalvalues.org. TVC, 139 C Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.