

Submission: Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010

Marriage is Special & Designed for a Man & a Woman

*If "Gay Rights" Need Strengthening, Find Another Way
(that doesn't break society's foundation)*

Laws exist I believe for the betterment of society. We have road laws so that the majority can use the roads in safety and so that the majority have access to the roads and can use them for enjoyment, safely. Sure, some people would like to have no speed limits. Sure, some people would like to park their cars or caravans or trucks or bikes wherever they like. The point is – everyone is a different individual and, given unfettered "rights" to do as they please, many might just do so.

Now marriage is no different in most respects. (Except one "biggie". I as a Christian believe that God created marriage - for our benefit and pleasure, not because He's a spoil-sport or wants to deny us the "fun" of raising children with dozens of different partners. Or having a sexual relationship with every new person we meet.) Marriage *works*. It does so because it's a system that benefits most people most of the time. It benefits couples to push through hard times and stick together because in any walk of life achievers never give up the first sign of trouble. Champions in business and sport know that. Kids of parents who gave up their relationship know this and live this. Look at the research that now confirms the disadvantages of kids of separated or divorced parents. If we put religion aside, there's the most compelling case for leaving marriage as it is because, simply, it works for most people.

So what has changed? Nothing other than we (society) have got like lazy parents dealing with a screaming toddler in the supermarket who wants everything they can see. The screaming toddler is the gay rights movement. Not mature, selfish, wanting everything because they can see it and just know that they want it. If others are enjoying it then it must be good for them too. They have a right to every lolly, every biscuit and every soft-drink in the supermarket, don't they? Why? Well, because it's their right. It's discrimination not to let them have access. Have they earned the right to everything (in the supermarket) - no. Were these things designed for them – no. Could giving access (making it a right) do them harm – definitely. Could giving them automatic rights make life harder for their parents – definitely. Could it make life harder for society as these kids grow up (think spoilt kids, diabetes, obesity, teenage kids leaving home at the first argument with mum and dad).

Gay people do not have a *right* to marriage. It is not theirs to define or own or modify or reduce others' enjoyment of. It is not their right to reduce others' rights just because they feel generally aggrieved or less than fully accepted. There are better ways to help there and do less damage to what binds us together.

Marriage, defined as between a man and a woman, was never intended for same-sex couples. Let's not ruin marriage for the majority to appease a noisy, self-focused minority. Homosexuals represent somewhere between 4-8% of the population. And many are not "coupled" and don't want to be. Look at the numbers! We are talking here about a very well-organized, very noisy, tiny minority. It's like people with a fear of heights wanting to sit in planes on the ground and denying others' rights to fly. Planes and birds are made to fly. Marriage is for a man and a woman.

It seems to many that rather than celebrate their "differentness", homosexual couples want the law to treat them the same as heterosexuals to help them *feel* the same. Well, they *are* different. Same-sex couples cannot, from their own seed, reproduce. That is not a small difference. That is why we are made male – and – female. Homosexuals do not have the greater societal good in mind when they say they want to raise kids. They do not have the kids in mind either. It is all about "*me*", "*us*" and *my* rights.

We elect politicians to govern for us. The majority of people expect politicians to represent those who elected them. The overwhelming majority of society are not homosexual. We understand that some politicians will get elected based on a single issue like pursuing gay rights (over all other issues). We expect them to push their cause and even pay money to have dinner with and try to influence our (unmarried but apparently pro-marriage) Prime Minister. What we do not expect is that the majority of politicians or our Prime Minister will abandon a proven system and way of life to appease a radical, noisy, self-focused minority.

A good parent knows when to say "no" to a spoilt, noisy child. We can say "no" to this Bill, still love our children and teach them that others' rights are just as important as theirs.

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