

I wish to submit that I am wholeheartedly opposed to same sex marriage.

First of all, I wish to make it clear that I do not hate homosexuals. In fact two of them I know are amongst a handful of my favourite people and I love them dearly. However, I know right from wrong and if you love someone you won't just roll over and tell them what they want to hear. If any people I come across don't agree with me when it comes to my beliefs I don't take it personally. I don't need to have a nasty, violent reaction and call them 'hateful bigots' or 'red necks', because I am secure in my beliefs.

However, I would like to point out that the volatile reactions and vitriol of the gay activists directed toward people who have a difference of opinion with them (even if it is expressed respectfully and lovingly by the ones who disagree – just look at the way they treated Wendy Francis and Carrie Prejean), is the type of reaction that gives me no choice but to believe that deep down (or not so deep down), they are in fact **not secure** in their convictions, if they have to try to control and bully those who disagree with them. If what the gay activists were doing was right, they would not be so hypersensitive and would be secure in letting other people have their own opinions. Surely they would respect them and leave marriage as the institution ordained for one man and one woman exclusively – as it always has been in this country. Yes, if they were really confident in what they believed in they would be able to take it on the chin. But they can't. And they don't. Anyone who disagrees with them is seen as a threat and becomes a target. Then comes the dirt-digging.

Secondly, I respectfully state that I cannot believe the activists and their supporters are taking this idea seriously. It is an utterly ridiculous concept – destructive and undermining of the family in general. I cannot believe the ones who promote it can take themselves seriously either.

Children have a right to a father and a mother and should not be treated as 'pawns' in a dangerous game by people who are trying to prove a point and get in other people's faces who do not agree with them. There is a common theme of self-centredness and victim mentality attached to the homosexual lifestyle. Children should not be subjected to this – they would most likely turn out to be neurotic and insecure, wouldn't have any say in the matter and would be disadvantaged from the outset of their lives. Life can be tough enough without adding this to the mix. Not to say that all normal, heterosexual relationships are perfect either, but two wrongs don't make a right.

I believe that if someone chooses to live the gay lifestyle then it's quite simple: marriage is not for them. The activists are trying to eclipse everything including morality, using the key words and concepts of 'rights' and 'equality'. Rights and equality are good if they are in balance and not taken to extremes, but in this issue they are undeniably taken to extremes, to the exclusion of morality and the common good of society, completely disregarding the toxicity of environment it would cause for innocent children who should have the law to protect them. The 'rights' and 'equality' arguments should not be considered seriously when used by gay activists, who want to blanket every other factor with these arguments to suit their cause.

'Discrimination' has been propagated time and time again as a negative thing in our society, but sometimes discrimination is a good thing. There needs to be balance and some things should be discriminated against for the good of humankind on the whole. I believe same-sex marriage is one of those things. That said, I do not condone people getting beaten up or brutally murdered because they are homosexual; I think it is heartbreaking when that sort of thing happens. But allowing the marriage of gay couples is not going to fix it and besides, it would be taking things too far by going to extremes.

There is so much propaganda pushing this immorality in schools and especially in universities. Who gave these people the right to say that it's 'right' or 'okay'? Dysfunctional Hollywood stars and starlets? The media? Can't we remember that it actually used to be a criminal offence? How can something that used to be a criminal offence not all that long ago be so vigorously pushed at our children, into the schools, into the universities (and from the media to us) at a hundred miles an hour under the guise of 'enlightenment' and with the not so subtle message that you get a pat on the back for being accepting and tolerant (at the expense of conscience)? Hasn't society declined as our morality has declined?

I wish to bring your attention to the fact that homosexual marriage was around in the days of ancient Rome and things didn't bode well for them from that point on. That, along with other sexual perversions actually led to its downfall, as it imploded from all the corruption within.

A fundamental characteristic of a family is the ability to procreate between the husband and wife. Now I know that not all heterosexual couples can have children for various reasons, however, what I am referring to is, that with a man and a woman, at least they have the sexual organs that have the right 'fit' to be able to procreate. Homosexual couples cannot procreate by having sexual relations together and they never will be able to. The concept of gay marriage is an insult to nature and the way we have been biologically formed.

Thank you for your time and for reading my submission. Please give due consideration to my comments as I am so concerned about the way our society is going and the traumas and tortures our children are exposed to as it is. And who is looking after the children's rights in all this?

Yours faithfully,

R Vaughan