

2-3-2012

Dear Committee,

I would like to make submission on the issue of redefining who, the term "marriage", covers.

Our Pastor could not have said it better, *"If they (homosexuals) want to make a commitment to each other, let them. But like you would not call AFL football, soccer, without an outrage, do not call a commitment between same-sex relationships, marriage. Let them come up with another word for it."*

I think that perfectly defines how most people I know see it. We are not homosexual haters, and we see that they want to make a commitment. But when I chose to get married to my husband, marriage meant something. It was between a man and a woman. It would disjoint a lot of people's view of the solemnity of their vows, before people, and before God.

Marriage is very important to many people's cultures and religions. It is a deeply woven covenant between a man and woman, and the God they serve. To change it to something that is either foreign, or defiling that would tear at the heart of that. And while the submission is only looking at the changing of the sex of the couple, if that were allowed, would it be such a big step to suggest more than 2 people in a marriage...maybe 3 or 4 or more? There has got to be a place where we say enough is enough. Where we make decisions as a nation that is not majority rules, but what is best for the children of this nation.

Are then the terms husband and wife to be redefined? What would I call myself if it were to change? It just spirals to where those who are truly opposing the family, and seeking self first, wish it to go.

Research indeed has proven time and again, that a father and mother are the best ones to raise their children. There is a balance in natures and tendencies that both posses that are definitely unique to each sex. Why would there be so many books on understanding the opposite sex, if that were not true? If the union between a man and a man were allowed and accepted by society, how are those children going to turn out? I know even the most gentlest and kindest of men are still men! Which is great when paired with a woman who sees things that men do not, and vice-versa. Who is going to teach that little girl raised by two men about being a great mother, her changing body, and how to relate to a man (a child viewing a mother relate to a father positively in her everyday life, is certainly the best model)?

And are our mothers groups going to be forced to take in the "mother" that is a male, into their groups? And how are they going to fare when menstruation, sagging breasts, and other female problems etc. are discussed? How would the other mothers feel about this? It surely opens up so many other issues that is going to destroy the family as we know it to be best.

I am a mother of 6 beautiful children. My husband and I have been married for 18 years. Please, for our sakes, my children and grand children's sakes, and many others like ours, protect marriage as it is. One man. One woman. For life. Don't let the slippery slide go down-hill any further, or indeed, our country will no longer be known as the lucky country, but the anything goes country at the expense of a quality life.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Mrs Helene Cohen