



Gay Marriage?

Richard Yen

Now that gays want their relationships to be recognized as marriage, there is no way Christians can avoid the debate.

And there are right ways and wrong ways to handle this issue.

One wrong way is to present this as a religious matter. There are two main reasons. First, non-religious people can get married too (and more often than religious people.) Secondly, the mass media had often portrayed Christians as oppressors ("imposing their morality on other people".) To the neutral party (if there is any left) we are already the "bad guys." Therefore, we really should not reinforce that prejudice in a debate.

Christian Innocence

Most Christians take their religion seriously. So they almost always start with "But the Bible said so." They fail to note that non-Christians do not care about your Bible. Do we really want to hear them say it out-loud to us, "That is why we do not believe in the Bible."?

Other Christians think that faith will bring victory. If we only tell people we love them or that we are really sincere, they will be moved. They fail to see even heterosexual people want to hear a good reason or two from us about our position. Not just any reason, but logical, non-religious reasons. And no one

wants to discriminate.

Remember, in a debate, it is not enough to be able to silence your opponent. Our job is to win over the "silent majority."

To do so, you need facts and you need skills.

Not The Same

So let us start with some reasons why we cannot consider gay unions as marriage.

First, if two things are not the same, calling them the same name will cause confusion (especially if legal protection is involved.)

Traditional marriages typically result in children. Childless marriages are the exception. Homo-

sexual unions, without exception, do not produce children. So how can the two be the same?

Sure, gays can adopt. But so can singles. Therefore, the fact that some people can adopt children had nothing to do with marriage.

No Discrimination

By now, most states have passed laws protecting gays and giving them inheritance rights and hospital visitation rights. These relationships are called civil unions or domestic partnerships. So we are no longer talking about discrimination.

But gays want more. They want identical recognition.

If every group that demands something gets it because the rest of society is hesitant to say no, then all kinds of people will learn to make similar demands. That will only lead to social chaos.

Life Style

The second reason is that homosexuality is a life style. They cannot claim equality with race or skin color which are genetic traits. So the argument that in the past, interracial marriages were not allowed (but now accepted) had nothing to do with gays.

How can we be sure that homosexuality is not genetic?

Well, if a gay person says that he gets his genes from his parents, then his parents must also be homosexual. One wonders how he can get born if his parents are both male (or both female.)

Even if a gay person can con-

vince someone that he is the exception, that he somehow got his gay genes (if there are such genes) from his parents, those genes will soon be gone. That gay person, if he insists on and persists in the gay life-style, is not going to produce children of his own. Any gene(s) that he claims to have come from his parents will be lost in one generation.

Darwin told us there is something called "Survival of the Fittest." Any gene that will cause itself to be eliminated in one generation cannot survive.

This, of course, does not mean that homosexuals cannot produce children. But to have children, homosexuals must find a partner of the right (the opposite) sex. If so, they are not truly homosexuals and their genes (if so-called "homosexual genes" exist) will be diluted every generation.

Twin Studies

Twin studies also showed that gays cannot have inherited this orientation.

When identical twins are born, if one is a boy, the other at all times (100%) must also be a boy. It does not look very good on the doctor if one is a boy and the other is a girl, that the doctor thinks they have the same genes.

This is what surprised geneticists. When male homosexuals were recruited into studies and asked if they had identical twins, it was found that about 50% of the twin brothers were actually very actively heterosexual.

The same was true for female homosexuals.

As to why such a high number of twin brothers or sisters were also homosexual, the answer lies in a similar upbringing.

The fact that identical twins shared similar features does not by itself indicate a genetic basis. Proper twin studies require comparison of identical twins who grew up together with identical twins who grew up in different environments.

So if this environment had already successfully produced a gay person, and his identical twin brother (who shared identical genes) also grew up there (same environmental factors), it should not be surprising that the twin is more likely to adopt the same life style compared with someone from the general population.

Therefore, if only 50% of the other twin, who shared the identical genetic makeup and the same environment (which favored homosexuality) is also gay, it indicated that environmental factors are the more dominant influence in deciding sexual orientation.

Who Cares?

Most people in this day and age are not persuaded by facts. They think the highest ideal of life is "live and let live."

So the next step Christians have to do is to explain what will happen when gay marriage becomes law. There will be at least two important new developments.

I am not sure if everybody

knows that sex education starts in the 5th grade in many public schools. When gay marriage becomes official, all students will be instructed on gay sex. Sure, the emphasis will be how to do it safely. Sure, religious parents can perhaps still sign their kids out of those classes. But then, students from religious families will become the odd-balls.

A tax dollar is still a tax dollar. So you still have to pay. By then it will go to "educate" all the other kids about homosexual (and heterosexual) sex.

Social Security

The other major issue involves money. The Canadian government, for example, discovered retroactive social-security survivor benefits alone will cost it hundreds of million of dollars.

Society allowed widows and widowers certain benefits because of their contribution in raising up children. There are lots of people who care for the elderly or disabled relatives whom they cannot claim as family members for tax or insurance purposes.

Even among family members, if a younger brother took care of his sick and elderly brother till death, the government will not let the younger one claim "survivor" benefits. Why? Because there are certain things in life that people should just do without expecting a legal reward. Society does not owe you money just because you have done a loving deed.

If and when gay marriage becomes official, a class of people without children or who do not need to care for the elderly all of a sudden will get ahead of the line to receive legally protected benefits. How is that for fairness?

Skills

So finally, if you are faced with someone who sill thinks that you are wrong to deny gays their rights, what do you do?

Christians who think that mere talk will win the argument will need to learn new skills.

In order for the audience ("the silence majority" which is our target) to be convinced, sometimes we need to makè our opponent talk (to show their silliness.)

If someone asks me why I oppose gay marriage, I will say, "There are many reasons, but they have nothing to do with religion."

You need to first isolate the bias against Christianity from this debate. (Otherwise it will soon lead to an open attack on Christianity and any excitement on your part will only confirm that Christians are bigots.)

I will very nicely ask, "Do you support the rights of men who want to marry 10 wives?"

(Why not? The men obviously could provide food for these wives. Women are not stupid these days.)

And if they say "Yes," I will say, "Do you support the rights of 40 year-olds to marry 8-year olds?" (Why not? Why do you want to discriminate against people who happen to be different from you?)

And if they say "Yes," I will ask, again very innocently, "Do you support the rights of people to marry animals?" (Why not? I thought marriage was all about love and commitment? Surely, a dog can be a man's best friend?)

That is known as the "slippery slope" argument. But it does not sound right if it comes from the Christian.

Better have them say "No" and let the Christian deploy all the same arguments the gays now use on us.

And if they still do not get it, just ask, "How would these new marriages hurt you personally? Why do you impose your moral values on other people who happen to be different from you?"

After all, we are not bigots. We just want to have a society that is fair and productive.

So it may not be a fun topic. But who is to say that we cannot poke some fun at it?

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