

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE ISSUES

(This essay, written by Rev. Thomas Soltis, was printed in the online Opinion Section of the Cleveland Plain Dealer on May 3, 2015)

Not the Intent of the Constitution

During his second inaugural address, six weeks before his death on April 15, 1865, President Lincoln advised government and society with sound direction for the future: "...with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right ...". He did not have in mind the right of same-sex marriage. Neither did the 14th Amendment, Section 1, ratified on July 28, 1868, which states: "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." No current law forbids same-sex relationships. Homosexuals and lesbians are free to engage their lifestyle. However, to regard same-sex marriage as a privilege of liberty, was not the intent of the 14th Amendment.

Universal World View

God never approved of homosexual and lesbian relationships, let alone same-sex marriage. It has been the historical religious tenet of major religious denominations of the world (Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Nature Religions, etc.) that marriage, defined, is the union of one man and one woman. Only recently, have some Christian denominations endorsed the practice of same-sex behavior and marriage. They did so on the basis of a new theology, "The Historical Critical Method of Biblical Interpretation", which challenges the historical veracity of the Bible, claiming the Holy Scriptures contain "religious myth". However, the Scriptures still stand immovable upon the definition of male-female marriage. When government endeavors to change this definition by endorsing same-sex marriage, it is guilty of trespassing into the realm of religion. It is crossing the definitive line of separation of church and state. It is violating the Constitution.

Anthropological Issues

Biologically, the human body has fascinating systems - pulmonary, cardiovascular, skeletal, etc. The only biological system that is incomplete is the reproductive system which is whole and functional only in the union of one man and woman. Every child has a biological mother and father, the foundations of family. Marriage between male and female is an institution which takes this truth seriously.

Societal Issues

Men and women are equal, yet different. Thank God. They complement each other physically, emotionally, psychologically and sexually. Social scientists have demonstrated that, together, a man and woman provide the best possible environment for child upbringing. Father-Mother Images to emulate are very important for child stability. The time honored definition of family is the basis for societal stability. When the family fails, society falls.

Legal & Economical Considerations

Issues relating to economic benefits for males, females and children involved in same-sex relationships (birth and death certificates, inheritance, medical decisions, insurance, taxes, etc.) could be obtained by legally establishing a new status called "Civil Union". To call same-sex union marriage, however, is an illogical travesty regarding historical, religious, societal, biological, anthropological and philosophical definitions.

Not a Human Prerogative

To redefine marriage for the sake of political correctness or as an accommodation to cultural influences in the face of long lasting historical tenets is not wise. Cultural and economic pressures once influenced the United States Supreme Court to affirm slavery. May the Court carefully consider the issue of marriage so that it does not end up on the wrong side of history again.

(In June, 2015, the US Supreme Court will rule on same-sex marriage)