

## Gay Marriage is like Straight Marriage: Really?

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For my comments, I am not going to document things with exact references because of the audience not being academics, but everything I will say has that sort of back-up.

While I won't press details now, we are in a very difficult situation in terms of research integrity, especially for controversial issues. Many scholars will do what meets their political or legal needs rather than doing honest research. This means we have to be cautious about accepting what seems popular in the media or by researchers.

You've probably been told that gay marriage is the same as traditional marriage. Any relationship between two humans will have some things in common, like communication. Yet where there are differences, I suggest that they cut to the heart of what traditional marriage is all about.

First of all, most heterosexual marriages will eventually involve the element of having children who are biologically connected with both parents. Some scoff at that fact as if it was old-fashioned, but biology matters. In general, traditional parents parent better than step families and traditional parents tend to have more children for the future of society than do same-sex parents.

The U.S. Supreme Court relied on a dignity argument for same-sex parenting, on the idea that marriage would give children of same-sex parents more dignity. Well, that overlooks, among other issues, that many gay scholars want to deliberately destroy traditional marriage by, as they say, *queering* it. What does that mean? Basically, they want traditional couples to feel free to engage in sex (adultery) with other people. Ultimately, this would harm young mothers with their children when men feel safer trying out more such "diversity".

A second issue is how marriage impacts children. Almost all scholars agree that children are harmed by multiple caretaker transitions (e.g., divorce). Although we have been told that gay parenting relationships are just as stable, or more stable, than traditional parenting, that is false. Not only is it false (that gay parents have less stable relationships), but the situation appears orthogonal in that when gay parents have children, their stability decreases but when traditional parents have children their stability increases. If stability is good for children, which situation would, on average, be the best for children?

Furthermore, the meaning of marriage itself is at stake, with huge implications for what children learn or are taught by example or directly. In my book I discuss Canadian research in which lesbian women were eager to get married so they could have more security for having sex with other women while married. Just imagine if a man did that – "Hey, honey, I am so glad we are getting married because once we are married I can have sex with lots of other women!" For gay men, their relationships often only survive if they allow each other sexual variety outside their relationship. Marriage would not be the same under such rules.

Traditional marriage involves a risky life-long commitment to sexual faithfulness. Gay persons often want their cake and eat it too – to have the benefits of marriage without the risks, without children, without commitment, or without sexual fidelity. It is a situation that creates inequality rather than creating equality.

Furthermore, stability rates are lower for gay parents. One study has followed lesbian mothers over 25 years. At five, ten, seventeen, and 25 years the instability rates were 31%, 48%, 56%, and over 62%, higher than their sisters, for example, at least at ten years. Many other studies have found the same pattern, with some instances of gay men having more stable relationships than lesbian women. At least one study found that lesbian women who adopted children were less stable than gay men or heterosexuals as parents.

It is often argued that gay relationships are better because they have more equal sharing of household tasks. While that may seem good on the surface, what is one person is better at something? What if one person is working 60 hours a week at a job? We can't make equality of chores the ultimate criteria for success. We also see that children of gay parents are less likely to assume traditional gender roles themselves.

Furthermore, while it has been vehemently denied in courts and over 90% of literature reviews since 2001 have denied it, children of gay parents are more likely to funnel themselves into being gay themselves. There are many ways this could occur but almost no one has studied it because nearly everyone has assumed there was nothing different to study. This could lead some children to try becoming transgender. One study of the daughters of lesbian mothers and 30% of sons had engaged in same-sex sexual behavior, which was found to be significantly higher than for the children of a matched group of heterosexual families. Furthermore, at least one study in the UK found that the daughters of lesbian mothers were involved in a greater variety of sexual behavior before marriage, even if they remained heterosexual.

Although in the book I started with this, here it's last. For decades, from 1975 onward in the USA, we were told and courts were told that there were tens of millions of children living with intact, stable gay couples, who also numbered in the millions. One study implied there were 28 million children in the USA living with 14 million gay parents. One study claimed that there were 14 million adopted or foster children living with gay parents. However, although in the book I argued for a number closer to 200,000 intact stable gay parents with perhaps 400,000 children, the Williams Institute of UCLA Law School, a pro-LGBT research institute, in 2018 argued that there were only 114,000 intact, stable same-sex parent families in the USA, a far cry from what courts had been told for decades in the rush to same-sex marriage.

I am reminded that someone told me that Winston Churchill once said that a lie will be halfway around the world before truth gets its pants on. We have a similar situation here. Courts have been sold a false bill of goods to get us to same-sex marriage and because courts seldom reverse their findings, even if the evidence provided was false, same-sex marriage may be here to stay. But at least, I can help truth get its pants on and go a few steps in the right direction.

Lastly, I will note that most of what was presented in my book has since been confirmed by LGBT scholars, not that most will ever admit their research did that.

Are there any questions?

Thank you.