



Why do something about the redefinition of marriage?

Dear brothers and sisters,

The possibility of “same-sex marriage” in Australia is big news just now. Lots of Christians wonder what we should do about it.

The biblical view is that sex is for marriage and marriage is for a man and a woman, so homosexual sex and “same-sex marriage” are wrong. Although biblical Christians agree on this, there is disagreement on how we should respond. We encourage you to protest against the attempt to redefine marriage.

It is not that we consider it our job, as Christians, to force people to comply with God’s way. God cares about how people live and everyone is accountable to him (1 Cor 5:13 cf Ro 2:16; 2Ti 4:1; 1Pe 4:5). But that is God’s task, not ours. Paul says that the church should deal with sin in the church. When a professing Christian in our church is committed to a sinful pattern and will not repent we should not associate with them (1 Cor 5:5,9). That is what we call church discipline. But, Paul says, that is not how we think about those outside the church. We don’t discipline them (1 Cor 5:9-10). We are called and sent to live in the world and to know and love our neighbours.

If that is not the reason to campaign against the redefinition of marriage, what is? Here are three good reasons.

First, we’ll do it because we love our fellow citizens and we want the best for them. Changing marriage will affect society, families and children. It will embed and promote a rejection of God’s design. It will further validate the production and procurement of children who are separated from their biological parents. Children have a right to be raised by their biological parents, where this is possible and repeated studies show that children fare best in stable families with a mother and a father.

Second, we should oppose the redefinition as a witness to our society, and even as a witness against it. We should tell our society that it is wrong. Homosexuality is not the only sin, but we should not ignore the issue.

Third, the redefinition of marriage will threaten religious freedom. It may lead to pressure on Christians, churches and ministers to provide and conduct weddings for same sex couples. More certainly, it will make it harder for Christians to explain that God considers homosexuality to be sin. Already negative comments about homosexuality are accused of being ‘hate speech’ and bigoted. Once it is legitimised by marriage, the pressure to silence any criticism will be stronger.

So we should speak out against the redefinition of marriage and insist that it is possible for us to express the Christian view, without it being ruled unacceptable. The very way in which we participate in the debate can show that disagreement over such a sensitive topic can still be done with respect.

Write to your local MP and politely and graciously express your point of view. Write to them whatever view they have expressed about the redefinition of marriage. If you go to <http://preservingmarriage.acl.org.au/> you will find a simple way of emailing your MP about the issue. Keep praying for the federal parliament, your local MP and the nation. We hope that every Presbyterian Church in NSW will pray about this regularly over the next few months.

You can find a longer discussion of this issue under “Redefining Marriage” at <http://www.gsandc.org.au/resources/marriage.html>. (Check out the other resources there as well).

Yours in Christ,

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