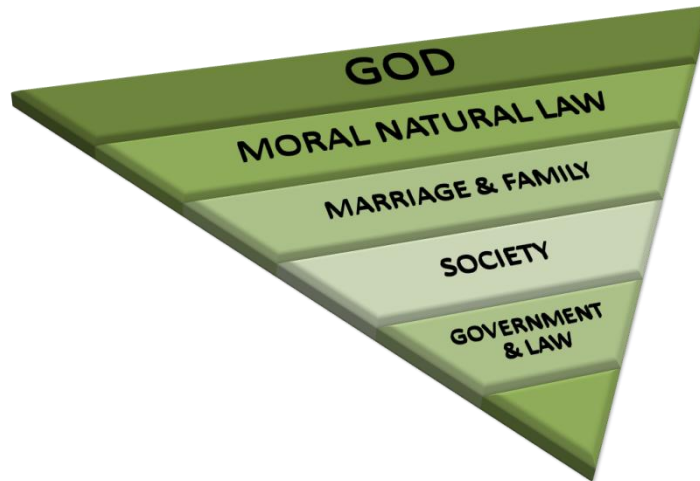


NOTES AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: GAY MARRIAGE

JUNE 15, 2009



HEIRARACHY OF GOD TO GOVERNMENT: EACH LAYER OF MORAL AUTHORITY TRANSCENDS AND INFORMS THE LAYERS BELOW

What is the difference between the Church's positions on homosexual persons and so-called same sex "marriage?"

The Church teaches emphatically that discrimination of homosexual persons is to be avoided; they are to be "accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity." [CCC 2358] However, all homosexual acts are disordered to the moral law. They "do not proceed from genuine affective and sexual complementarity." [CCC 2357] In other words, persons with same-sex attraction were created with the same human dignity from God as any one, and discrimination against them *for who they are* is not acceptable. However, we are to condemn intrinsically evil *acts*, no matter who commits them.

In a similar way, it is *not the people* involved whom the Church rejects in the battle over legal recognition of certain same sex unions as "marriage." It is the *act* of radically re-defining marriage from its traditional definition, and the associated attack on the essential building blocks of society, marriage & the family. The Suggested Reading section below contains some of the profound and beautiful teachings of the Magisterium on this topic.

Why should we care whether a man (or woman) who is in love with another man (or another woman), wants to be recognized as "married?"

Many proponents of gay "marriage" sincerely feel that this is a civil rights issue, plain and simple. But it's neither plain nor simple. Legal recognition is not the end, but merely a means to continue to portray homosexual behavior, and families constructed from gay surrogate parents, as simply one of many possible and equally acceptable choices. Sadly, we have already given up many battles for traditional values in most of western society, including the United States. Giving up this battle will result in further negative consequences, including:

1. Gay "marriage" will be given legitimacy in our public school system—this is already happening!
2. The public airwaves will become saturated with homosexual behavior as socially normal—this is already happening!
3. Discrimination of counter-cultural viewpoints against the homosexual agenda will be punished—this is already happening!

So, the question: have we already lost??

Other thought starters for discussion:

1. **What other effects do you feel might be created as same sex marriage is made legal?**
2. **If a gay couple wants to adopt a disabled or troubled child that can't be placed into a traditional home, what do we do?**
3. **Is the argument about gay civil rights, particularly same sex marriage, the same as interracial marriage?**
4. **How do we "accept with respect, compassion and sensitivity" homosexual persons but deny them what they want?**
5. **Are you willing to write your local, state and federal representatives to express your opposition to legalizing gay marriage?**

Suggested Reading:

Catechism of the Catholic Church

2357-2359 (The Sixth Commandment)

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s2c2a6.htm>

Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, 2003

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20030731_homosexual-unions_en.html

Declaration of the Pontifical Council for the Family Regarding the Resolution of the European Parliament Dated March 16, 2000, Making De Facto Unions, Including Same Sex Unions, Equal to the Family

Alfonso Cardinal López Trujillo, 2000

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/family/documents/rc_pc_family_doc_20000317_declaration-homosexual-unions_en.html

Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, 1986

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19861001_homosexual-persons_en.html

Persona Humana: Declaration on Certain Questions Concerning Sexual Ethics

Franjo Cardinal Seper, 1975

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19751229_persona-humana_en.html

NOTES: