

# HOW TO DEFEND TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

## The Beginner's Guide to What Marriage is, Why It's Important And How to Defend It

Do you want to learn how to defend traditional marriage using reason, not emotion and promote the dignity of marriage and the traditional family by using arguments from the natural law tradition?

Here are some arguments from reason that show the dignity and value of traditional marriage and why this idea of "same sex marriage" is both wrong and harmful for society.



### WHAT MAKES SOMETHING RIGHT OR WRONG IN THE FIRST PLACE?



1 Before we get in to saying why traditional marriage is a good thing and why "same sex" marriage is not, we have to first answer this question: What makes something right or wrong in the first place? If you first don't answer that question, all moral debates are doomed to failure.

2 The idea of natural law is that there is a universal moral law that is unwritten, but a law in which everyone can know and should respect as the standard for human behavior.

3 Natural law holds that there are objective common moral truths binding on everyone and deep down everyone is aware of it.

4 The natural law is natural as known and "written on our hearts" meaning that we all have a conscience that tells us we should do good and avoid evil, that killing innocent people is wrong, and so on. It's not that our conscience is always right or clear, but still our conscience is very important. Many times it's our first "go to point" when making moral decisions.

5 Secondly, the natural law is natural in things. Here we say the law is natural because purpose is written in to nature itself. Things have a certain nature and should be treated accordingly. Treating things in accord with their nature means you treat them in a way that helps them flourish and be healthy.

■ For morality, this means that human beings have a certain nature; by nature they desire to live, to learn, they are by nature able to make free choices, and so on. And so when you treat humans according to their nature you respect these natural goals. You do a good thing by helping a man live, helping him get an education, respecting his freedom and so on. You do a man wrong if you unjustly take away his life or his freedom. So the natural law in things means that human nature itself is a standard for morality.

Human laws are right or wrong depending on if they correspond to the natural law. If human laws contradict the natural law, then those human laws are unjust.

### WHAT MARRIAGE IS AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT



Looking at human nature can tell us a lot about marriage. In fact, historically speaking, there is a near universal agreement across different cultures about what marriage is.



There is a natural instinct implanted in humans by nature, to seek the companionship of the opposite sex and to come together in a union that produces offspring.



Man and woman are different but complementary in the sense that they are naturally fitted to come together and produce offspring.

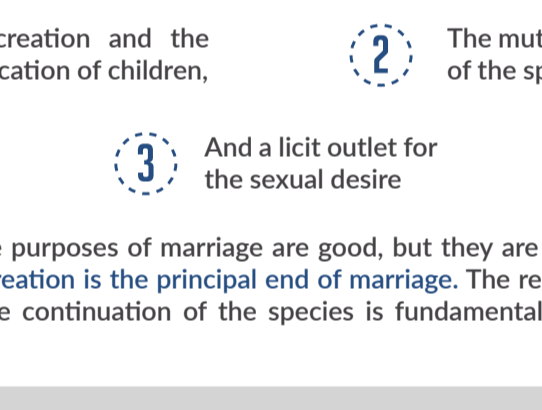


This natural union of man and woman is indispensable for the common good. We couldn't have a good society without it. The reason why is because in order to have a flourishing human society, you have to have new people and proper formation. And marriage is where this all happens in the best way.



This act of human sexuality is very important. It's not some private act that the public shouldn't worry about. What people do in their bedrooms has a huge effect on the common good.

### SO REASON LOOKING AT NATURE SHOWS US THAT MARRIAGE IS A NATURAL UNION BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN FOR THE PURPOSES OF



1 Procreation and the education of children,

2 The mutual comfort of the spouses,

3 And a licit outlet for the sexual desire

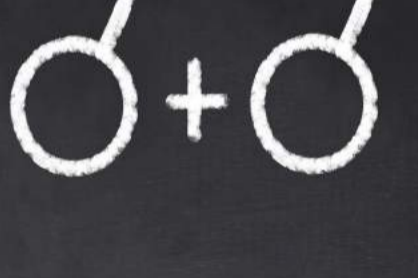
All of these purposes of marriage are good, but they are not equally good. Procreation is the principal end of marriage. The reason why is because the continuation of the species is fundamental for human happiness.

### MARRIAGE IS A NATURAL INSTITUTION THAT IS CRITICAL FOR THE HEALTH OF THE FAMILY AND THEREFORE SOCIETY. THIS IS WHY MARRIAGE DESERVES SPECIAL TREATMENT.



This understanding of marriage and the family is that it is a NATURAL institution prior to the state. Since marriage, and the family are the critically important ways that traditional marriages do and so legal recognition here is entirely unwarranted. On the contrary, the state has a DUTY to protect and promote marriage and the family because these things are so important for the common good.

### WHY "SAME SEX MARRIAGE" IS WRONG AND SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN LEGAL RECOGNITION



1 Since traditional marriage provides for the common good like nothing else can it deserves the recognition and promotion that nothing else does.

2 SAME SEX MARRIAGES CANNOT FULFILL THE PRINCIPAL END OF MARRIAGE and for this reason do not deserve the name "marriage" at all.

3 Same sex relationships cannot fulfill the secondary aspects of marriage either when it comes to giving children what they naturally deserve, a mother and a father.

### BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT EQUAL IN VALUE THEY ARE NOT DESERVING OF EQUAL LEGAL RECOGNITION

#### SAME SEX MARRIAGES:

Are Legally Unwarranted – Same sex relations do not serve the public interest and the common good in the critically important ways that traditional marriages do and so legal recognition here is entirely unwarranted.

Deprive Children of Their Natural Rights Children - have a natural right to a dual gender influence. But if same sex marriage has the same legal status, they too can adopt, and in such cases the natural rights of a child to the influence of both father and mother would be violated.

Violate The Social Order – Redefining marriage to include same sex relationships harms the common good because marriages don't flourish in a vacuum. They need strong cultural support and the accompanying societal pressures to thrive. Since laws about marriage shape our beliefs about what is right and wrong, laws stating that gender and children do not matter to marriage creates a culture in which the social pressures and support needed for traditional marriage are undermined. This devalues the whole institution and thus violates the social order.



### ANSWERING SOME COMMON OBJECTIONS

#### Objection:

"People are free and have a right to marry whoever they want."

#### Response:

In any civilized society, freedom is always limited by justice. No one should be given the freedom to do what harms the common good

#### Objection:

"Being against same sex marriage is discrimination!"

#### Response:

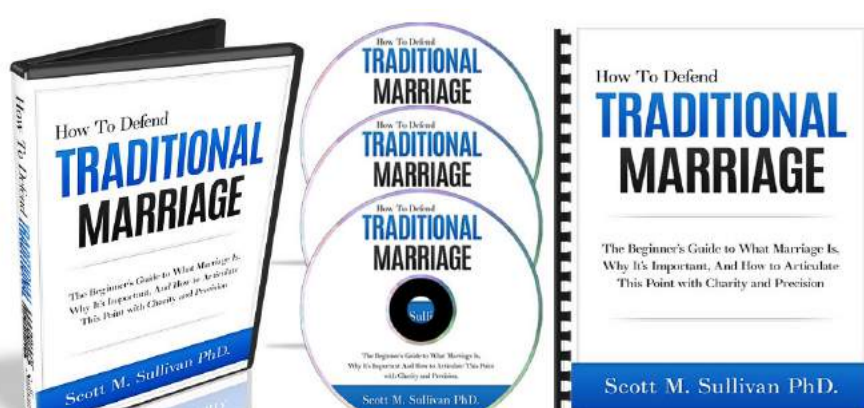
Discrimination is only wrong when it is unjust. We rightly discriminate all the time. We don't allow 12 years to buy guns and beer (discrimination based on age). We don't allow drunks to drive (discrimination based on behavior). In order to have an unjust discrimination, someone would have to be deprived of what is rightly their due. But since same sex relations do not benefit society like traditional marriage does it does not deserve the same recognition.

#### Objection:

"You are intolerant!"

#### Response:

Same sex couples are free to do whatever they want in their private lives. This much is tolerated. But no civilized society should tolerate unjust laws and it is unjust to give same sex marriage the same legal status as traditional marriage.



Learn even more about how to defend traditional marriage by getting the full course on How To Defend Traditional Marriage.