

Stand for Marriage - Action Steps

Action Step 1: PRAY: We need to *pray* for God's mercy on a culture that is moving away from God's design (See Genesis 18-19; 2 Chronicles 7:14). Specifically, we need to pray for the members of the State Legislature. Visit MinnesotaforMarriage.com.

Action Step 2: PRACTICE: We need to *practice* biblical principles for healthy marriage as a positive witness (See Ephesians 5:22-33).

Action Step 3: PARTICIPATE: We need to *participate* in our government as the Salt and the Light (See Matthew 5:13-16; 22:21).

- **Make Phone Calls:** Visit MinnesotaforMarriage.com and click on "Contact Your Legislator." Call and tell your State House Representative and your State Senator that you are against House 1054 and Senate 925 respectively.
- **Spread the Word:** Write an editorial for your local paper about marriage. Do a Facebook post on the importance of God's plan for marriage. You can even tweet on Twitter for marriage. Call in to a local radio talk show and support marriage. Comment on online news stories about the legislature's pending decision on marriage.
- **Enlist your Friends:** Try to persuade your family, friends, and acquaintances to take an active role in standing for marriage. We need a groundswell of public opinion!
- **Make a Donation:** At MinnesotaforMarriage.com or MFC.org

Action Step 4: PROCLAIM: We need to graciously *proclaim* the promise found in 1 Corinthians 6:9b-11: "Do not be deceived: no sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy people, drunkards, revilers, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom. Some of you were like this. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." That is Good News!



Stand for Marriage

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Marriage is the first institution created by God in the book of Genesis. One man and one woman in a marriage covenant relationship for life is the divine pattern expressed throughout the Bible. Quoting from Genesis 1 and 2, Jesus declared:



Have you not read that at the beginning, the Creator made them male and female, and said: 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh?'

So they are no longer two but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no man separate (Matthew 19:4-6).

A good marriage enables people to be happier, live longer, and build more economic security. But it is not just about the individual. Marriage is an exclusive union that takes its distinctive character from being founded, unlike other friendships, on this bodily unity that sometimes generates new life. Certainly, marriage has value in itself and not just as a means to procreation. Yet marriage is the form of relationship that is uniquely suited for childrearing, which is why it is a matter of vital public concern and not just a "private matter." In fact, marriage is a public, social contract for which the law requires witnesses. Why? It has profound implications for the common good, for the health of society.

Marriage impacts children. Wherever possible, children should be reared in the context of the bond between the two parents whose marital union gave them life. Research shows that when both dad and mom are included in the parenting role, children have the best opportunity for health, wellbeing, development, and success in life. Every civilization has been built upon the institution of marriage. It is the foundation. The happiness and success of individuals, the welfare and security of children, and the soundness of society, are all largely dependent upon the stability of marriage according to the divine pattern.

Research on Traditional Marriage

According to the Family Research Council's Marriage and Religion Research Institute (Visit www.MARRI.us), federal surveys clearly demonstrate that the always-intact married family that worships frequently (weekly or at least monthly) yields the most favorable social outcomes. Compared to the non-intact family that worships less than monthly or never, national data illustrates the superiority in:

Benefits for the Individual:

- Happiness: 50% more likely to be happy in a general sense.
- Performance: More than a third more likely to take pride in their work (34%).
- Health: Nearly a third more likely to rate their health excellent or very good (30%).



Benefits for the Couple:

- Marital Satisfaction: 25% happier in their relationship.
- Divorce or Separation: 50% less likely.
- Adultery: More than 4 times less likely (7.7% vs. 33.8%).
- Earned Income: Avg. as much as 5 times more (\$54K vs. \$9.4K).

Benefits for their Children:

- Average High School GPA (English and Math): Almost half a grade point higher (2.94 vs. 2.48).
- Expulsion or Suspension from School: Nearly 3 times less likely.
- Repeating a Grade: Nearly 6 times less likely (6% vs. 34%).
- Hard Drug Use: Nearly 2.5 less likely (8.5% vs. 20.1%).
- Drunkenness: Nearly 2 times less likely (22.4% vs. 41.2%).
- Homosexual Activity: 3 times less likely (2.5% vs. 7.5%).
- Running Away from Home: Over 2.5 times less likely.
- Average Number of Sex Partners (Females): Over 3 times less (0.47 vs. 1.55).

Research on Children of Same-Sex Couples

Then there are the statistics comparing how children do in an intact biological family (IBF) with both mom and dad with that of children who have two moms (LM) or two dads (GF). According to a recent study, children in lesbian and gay households:

- Are much more likely to have received welfare growing up (LM 306%; GF 235% more)
- Have lower educational attainment (IBF 3.19; LM 2.39; GF 2.64 GPA)
- Report less safety and security in their family of origin (LM 24%; GF 21% less)
- Report more ongoing "negative impact" from their family of origin (LM 36%; GF 26% more)
- Are more likely to suffer from depression (LM 20%; GF 19% more)
- Have been arrested more often (LM 42%; GF 48% more)
- If they are female, have had more sexual partners-both male (IBF 2.79; LM 4.02; GF 5.92) and female (IBF 0.22; LM 1.04; GF 1.47)¹



Emotional arguments sound convincing, but the facts prove otherwise. Children suffer if they don't have both a father and a mother. Children have a much better chance to thrive if they do have both. Same-sex "marriage" will result in damaged children, which results in an unstable society. Let's stand for marriage!

¹ Mark Regnerus, "How different are the adult children of parents who have same-sex relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study," *Social Science Research* Vol 41, Issue 4 (July 2012), pp. 752-770; online at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0049089X12000610>

