

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

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MARRIAGE IS ABOUT PROMOTING STABLE PARTNERSHIPS



The public institution of civil marriage is primarily about promoting stable relationships in order to help bind adult partners together for their mutual benefit, which naturally helps any children these partners care for.

Criticism of same-sex marriage has centered around the proposition that marriage is primarily about helping ensure that children have both a mother and a father, and that marriages involving same-sex partners must not be allowed as this undermines this goal; but same-sex partners have a right to live together and raise children, so the prohibition of same-sex marriage serves no useful purpose as it is in the best interests of their children to ensure that these partners stay together. Thus stopping same-sex partners getting married is an irrational form of discrimination that serves no useful purpose and validates other forms of discrimination against same-sex partners that harm them and their children.

Likewise, two closely related adults like two brothers have a right to live together and raise children, as do three or more adults; so banning marriages involving closely related adults or polygamous marriages involving three or more adults are irrational forms of discrimination that serve no useful purpose and validate other forms of discrimination against these partners that harm them and their children.

If an unrelated man and woman convicted of raping three women have a right to marry, do you think it fair that the three law-abiding lesbian mothers they raped are deprived of their right to marry each other so these three sisters and their children are deprived of the protection of marriage? Or do you think the love these two rapists have for each other is morally superior to the love these three law-abiding rape victims have for each other? If so, what does that say about you?

I don't much like the idea of marriages involving same-sex couples, close relatives, or three or more partners, but I have no right to deprive other adults of their right to marry the adult or adults they love.

If we believe in liberty, equality, cultural diversity and tolerance it follows that we must support all marriage formats involving consenting adults even if we find them morally abhorrent. It would be intellectually incoherent for us not to support them.

Life is short, so lets not spend it treating our neighbors like second-class citizens merely because their relationships do not measure up to our utopian ideal.

"Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves... Do not now seek the answers... Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer."

- Rainer Maria Rilke

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Marriage is primarily about helping bind adult partners together for their mutual benefit, not child rearing.

RECOMMENDATION

Legalize all marriage formats involving consenting adults, including marriages involving same-sex couples, close relatives, and three or more partners.

LIBERAL VALUES

Liberalism essentially means that adults should be allowed to do what they like so long as they do not harm others.

Australian Labor Party leader Bill Shorten said failing to legalize same-sex marriage says to same-sex partners: "your relationships are not equally valued by the State, your love is less equal before the law".

Thus it follows that if we fail to legalize close relative marriages and group marriages we say to closely related partners and polygamous partners: "your relationships are not equally valued by the State, your love is less equal before the law".

