

## ***“Back to Basics on Marriage”<sup>1</sup>***

The battle raging over the definition of marriage will be long and hard, but it's not new. The worldwide phenomenon of homosexual “rights” being forced on people appalled by the destructive effects of same-sex attraction has gone virtually unabated for many years. In California, the overturning of Proposition 22 by activist judges and the placing of Proposition 8 on the November ballot has resulted in a classic showdown between two competing worldviews and value systems. The stakes are high, with expenditures of 50 to 100 million dollars expected on advertising alone to determine whether: “Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid and recognized in California” will be a State Constitutional law or not.

To help provide perspective, I encourage you to consider the following points relating to Proposition 8 as you engage family, friends, neighbors and your church.

1. Don't allow yourself to be intimidated by same-sex marriage supporters. As an evangelical for 30 years, I've yet to meet a “homophobe”. Those who stand for traditional marriage are consistently painted as extremists, intolerant, right-wing fanatics, and worse. This couldn't be farther from the truth. Every major religion acknowledges traditional marriage and the importance to protect not radicalize it. Christians especially have shown extraordinary compassion and concern towards those trapped in the bondage of same-sex attraction.
2. By passing Proposition 8, the judicial tyranny of the California Supreme Court will be repudiated and shown for what it is – moral and legal incompetence usurping legislative authority to destroy the clear will of the people. Remember, voters spoke loudly for traditional marriage in passing Proposition 22 with over 61% of the vote.
3. Proposition 8 doesn't take any other rights away from homosexuals they have already by law. Virtually all privileges enjoyed by heterosexual marriages are granted to same-sex couples under the state's domestic partnerships laws. Remember also, homosexuals have the same right to marry those of the opposite sex like everyone else. What they demand, however, are “special rights” by legally defining their life-style as a marriage. By any historical standard, the vast majority of people find this definition repugnant.
4. The current legalizing of same-sex marriages opens the door to all manner of false, abnormal and harmful marriage unions since clear standards no longer exist. If Proposition 8 fails, not only will same-sex counterfeit marriages remain legal, but any combination of men and women (polygyny, polyandry), adults with boys or girls, even incestuous relationships, will have no legal basis to be denied. As a matter of fact, the dissenting opinion on the California Supreme Court indicated this was a distinct and straightforward possibility.
5. If Proposition 8 fails, every public school child in California, starting from Kindergarten, will be taught that same-sex marriages are equal to normal, traditional, universally understood marriages. In addition, equal time will be used to describe these destructive unions as is given to healthy marriage relationships. This normalizes and mainstreams

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an aberration that will have major deleterious effects on our children and the next generation.

6. If Proposition 8 fails, every church in California faces a clear legal threat to perform same-sex marriages or face revoking of their 501(c)3 status. If chapels are not allowed to host same-sex marriages – be prepared to be sued over discriminatory practices. If you have a Christian school or a credentialed counseling service and don't treat same-sex marriages as equally valid with normal, traditional marriage – be prepared to legally fight to save your license status. Access to public schools or other government facilities for churches to meet could be denied because of perceived discriminatory practices. Also, preaching against homosexuality and same-sex marriages will open pastors up to "hate speech" lawsuits.

7. If Proposition 8 fails; the consequences for the rest of the nation are irreversible. Because California is so large and influential, It has often been said that as California goes, so goes the nation. Even though 27 other states passed constitutional amendments to protect marriage, those as well as other states with no clear constitutional protections will face enormous legal challenges to recognize aberrant marriages performed in California that have moved to those states. The impact this will have for the nation is difficult to estimate – but it will be massive, persistent, and devastating.

8. Proposition 8 clearly states what every nation and culture throughout human history has understood as the most critical relationship for social stability. Thousands of research studies have consistently shown what common sense knows to be right – that marriage between a man and a woman is the best foundation for civilization and the raising and nurturing of the next generation of children. Anything else is settling for something less. In the case of same-sex marriages, children raised in these abnormal unions will have their understanding of what is normal, acceptable, and true about marriage completely corrupted, as well as being denied the obvious nurture that comes from the complementary natures of a father and mother.

The world is watching what happens this November. Already homosexuals come to California to be married so they can carry the fight to their own countries. By passing Proposition 8 a clear message will be sent to the rest of the nation, and around the world that the denigration of the sanctity of marriage, stops here, and stops now.

It's our duty to take a strong stand for what is right. I encourage everyone to go the extra mile to support the passage of Proposition 8, whether through donations, writing, talking, blogging, and for sure voting. The preservation of traditional marriage is not only for our own good, but for the good of the next generation. To find ways you can become involved, go to [www.protectmarriage.com](http://www.protectmarriage.com) and start today.

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