

Equality

Should same-sex marriage be legalized? In most parts of the world it is illegal for people of the same-sex to get married. Same sex marriage is not acceptable in many religions. It can be difficult for people of the same-sex to start a family (mostly gay couples). Same-sex marriage can possibly affect families, the legal system and people's religious views.

Countries around the world are slowly starting to legalize same-sex marriage. As in the year of 2013 there are currently 16 countries that have legalized same-sex marriage. Some countries have different rules that apply to the law along the lines of the legalization agreement. In some countries at least one person has to be from that country in order to marry there. "The law requires that at least one member of the couple be a Dutch national or live in the Netherlands." ("The Freedom to Marry Internationally"). The main reason for those countries making those decisions to legalize same-sex marriage is because they believe that homosexuals deserve all the same rights as any heterosexual couple." The church of Sweden's board voted to allow priests to web same-sex couples using the term 'marriage' ("The freedom to marry internationally"). The United States and Mexico are countries with regional rights to marry." On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts became the first state to provide the freedom to marry to same-sex couples.' ("The freedom to marry internationally"). Shortly after that more and more states in the U.S started to legalize same-sex marriage.

Australia and Columbia are taking steps towards legalizing same-sex marriage. "In December 2013, the first same-sex couples married in the ACT, but a court ruling overturned the freedom to marry and invalidated those marriages." " In December 2012, a committee in the Colombian Senate approved a measure by a 10-5 vote to extend the freedom to marry, but in April 2013, the freedom to

marry was not approved.’ (“The freedom to marry internationally”). If they keep trying and not give up quick eventually it will get approved.

“Honduras, Latvia and Uganda, banned same-sex marriage in 2005.” (“Gay Marriage Around the World”). All countries have very similar reasons on why they have legalized same-sex marriage and why some have not. The countries that have banned same-sex marriage might eventually change their mind and legalize it, but we won’t know till it happens.

There are many countries that have legalized the right for homosexual couples to marry and to be able to adopt. Also, there are some that does not find it acceptable. “Initially, gay and lesbian couples were not allowed to adopt children under the original legislation, but Parliament passed co-parenting for same-sex couples in 2006.” (“The freedom to marry internationally.”) Many countries had not allowed the right to adopt until a while after having debates over it.

Same-sex marriage doesn’t necessarily affect families in negative way, although many people believe that it does. “Current researchers shows that children with gay and lesbian parents do not differ from children with heterosexual parents in their emotional development or in their relationship with peers and adults.’ (“Children with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender parents.”)

Many people believe that since the child's parents are lesbian or gay that their child would be too, which is not true that is just a stereotype. “ If same-sex marriage does disadvantage kids in any way, it has nothing to do with their parent's gender and everything to do with society's reaction toward the families, said Indiana University sociologist Brian Powell.” (“Gay Parents Better Than Straight Parents? What Research Says”). The only difference in having homosexual parents than a heterosexual family is the fact that the homosexual parents are the same-sex.

Due to the fact that the children have a homosexual family there is a more likeness of them getting bullied. Parents can prepare their children before it does actually happen. If parents prepare their children before-hand then they won't be so surprised and they'll know what to do in the event of this happening.

Heterosexual couples usually don't plan on having a baby and they'll more than often get an abortion. "Gays and lesbians rarely become parents by accident, compared with an almost 50 percent accidental pregnancy rate among heterosexuals, Goldberg said". ("Gay Parents Better Than Straight Parents? What Research Says"). Therefore, the facts clearly show that most heterosexual partners are unprepared and unplanned. In contrast homosexual partners have a higher percentage of being prepared and plan to become parents and usually they will work really hard to become parents.

Many couples or single moms can't stand the fact of having a child with some sort of birth defect. Those parents will give their children up for adoption and they might not even regret it. "More than half of the kids adopted by gays and lesbians had special needs." ("Gay Parents Better Than Straight Parents? What Research Says"). That shows how much they would love to have a child no matter what birth defect that child may have. They are giving children a chance to be in a loving home because the parents that had them couldn't for some compromising reason. They ignore the child's birth defect and look at the beauty in the child, they don't judge them by one little imperfection.

Many people say that homosexual couples kids will have a ton of problems, they have been proven wrong by many researches. "kids growing up in gay and straight families matched pretty equally when it came to self-esteem, emotional well-being and the amount of time they spent with parents; but when it came to overall health and family cohesion, the children of gay parents did even better than the national average." ([Katie McDonough](#)). " Children of same-sex couples scored higher than the national

average for overall health and family cohesion, measuring how well the family members get along.” (Vince Chadwick) . “Goldberg interviewed another group of 49 teenagers and young adults with gay parents and found that not one of them rejected the right of [gays and lesbians to marry](#). Most cited legal benefits as well as social acceptance.” (Stephanie Pappas) From these results it shows that the fact of homosexual parents not being a heterosexual couple has no effect upon the child. The only possible way that a child's development can really be effected is by the way that which they're raised.

Legalizing same-sex marriage goes against many peoples religious views. “ Legalizing [gay marriage](#) constitutes a type of sacrilege and an unjustified intrusion of the state into what is necessarily a religious matter.” ([Austin Cline](#)). “Religions are richly variable in their organizations, belief systems, rituals, and practices.”([Michael Bronski](#), [Ann Pellegrini](#) and [Michael Amico](#)). “Religious groups, predominantly from a Christian based faith, seem to be the single most influential force in the attempts to keep same-sex marriage illegal.”(**Brittney Baker**). Something such as legalizing same-sex marriage will go against their religion and will be difficult for them to cope through it. Many people just won't do anything that isn't following their religion. No one should be forced to do something that they do not accept; That's why it is still illegal for homosexuals to marry in some religions.“What religions have to say about homosexuality varies considerably not just among religions, but within religions, too.” ([Michael Bronski](#), [Ann Pellegrini](#) and [Michael Amico](#)). Saying that all religions are pretty much exactly the same is not true. Religions are independent and place their own beliefs upon many things. Which in conclusions is saying that not all religions are against homosexuality.

Many religions don't want to go against their belief in having traditional marriages. “Religious groups tend to put marriage on a pedestal, thus it is easy for them to claim that allowing same-sex marriage will end the perfection that is the institute of marriage.” “Thus the argument that same-sex

marriage will ruin the institute of marriage is slightly irrelevant, considering heterosexuals are not honoring it in the way most religions believe it should be honored.” **(Brittney Baker.)**

Heterosexual marriage isn't all that good as staying faithful towards one another like some people make it out to be. “In 41% of marriages either one or both spouses have admitted to an infidelity, and 57% of men and 54% of women admit to committing infidelity in any relationship they have had. **“(Brittney Baker.) After these statistics it shows that those religions that think heterosexual marriages and couples are faithful are misled.**” Religious groups, predominantly from a Christian based faith, seem to be the single most influential force in the attempts to keep same-sex marriage illegal.” **(Brittney Baker.)** Christians find homosexuality as being a sin and should never be accepted. They feel like accepting homosexuality would be them going against their religion. Also, they feel like accepting homosexuality would be considered sinning within their religion. Not every religion has to accept homosexuality, no one really says that they have to. Same-sex marriage may never be accepted in those religions that find homosexuality a sin, especially marriage.

Another reason why religions don't accept same-sex marriage is because they only believe in traditional families. “traditionally families have not been thought to include two mommies or two daddies. But this does not mean that such a family is ineffectual or incapable of providing the same benefits of living as a traditional family with one mom and one dad.” “studies and statistics show that there are no significant differences between children raised by heterosexual couples versus same-sex couples.” **(Brittney Baker.)**

Making same-sex marriage legal will be a continuous debate, no one truly knows how long it will last or if it will ever end. Some countries have taken steps towards legalizing same-sex marriage as

in other countries they have not. Same-sex marriage or homosexuality may never get accepted world-wide. They say everyone should be treated equally and I feel like with this situation they are not.

Homosexuals get discriminated in many places, those people never stop to think how it makes them feel. Everyone has feelings, people can only take so much till they break down. Many homosexuals gain from all those negative opinions of others. They find it has being a way as them showing that they're not going to give up in something they strongly believe in.

Same-sex couples are not allowed to adopt in many countries which I find to be unfair. They can give child a good loving home and they'll be able to give that child a wonderful life just like any other heterosexual couple could. Instead of a girl getting an abortion for a reason like she feels like a child would be hard to handle, a homosexual could would love to have that child, they would be giving him/her a chance of life.

In the end there's going to be three different people, one that is for same-sex marriage, another that is totally against it and the other just being in the middle. Most of the time the percentage of people being against it is higher. If there was more background knowledge on same-sex marriage I feel like those in the middle would be able to pick a side. This debate over same-sex marriage rights will just be continued.

Bibliography

http://www.religiondispatches.org/books/sexandgender/7311/does_religion_condemn_homosexuality/

http://www.salon.com/2013/06/05/worlds_largest_study_on_gay_parents_finds_the_kids_are_more_than_all_right/

<http://www.pewforum.org/2009/07/09/gay-marriage-around-the-world/>

<http://journals.chapman.edu/ojs/index.php/e-Research/article/view/87/307>

<http://www.freedomtomarry.org/landscape/entry/c/international>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/16/gay-parents-better-than-strights_n_1208659.html

