

marriage

DO CHILDREN
NEED BOTH
MOTHERS
AND
FATHERS?

IS MARRIAGE
JUST A LEGAL
ARRANGEMENT
FOR THE
BENEFIT
OF ADULTS?

CAN I BE BOTH
RESPECTFUL AND
COMPASSIONATE
TOWARD ALL PEOPLE
AND STILL OPPOSE
THE REDEFINITION
OF MARRIAGE?

How Will Redefining Marriage Affect Children?

Lawsuits currently pending
in Washington State are
asking judges to change the
legal definition of marriage.
But as lawyers debate the
rights of adults, have we
stopped to consider the
needs of children?

Marriage Shapes Children and Children Shape the Future.

Every civilization since the beginning of time has defined marriage as a union between men and women. It is the one institution that reliably brings men and women together for child bearing and rearing – two things any society must have to survive and flourish.

Past Experiments with Marriage Have Hurt Kids.

Research has clearly shown that high rates of divorce and out-of-wedlock births have had a devastating impact on millions of children because it has left many of them without the nurture and influence of *both their mother and father*. Both moms and dads matter to their kids.

Changing Marriage Means Having Less of It.

The experience of other countries should make us leery of conducting social experiments on marriage.

Five Dutch scholars recently raised “serious concerns” about “serious social consequences” from same-sex marriage and other efforts to “deconstruct marriage in its traditional form.” Redefining the meaning of marriage weakens its social value and fewer couples – gay or straight – choose to value it or even take part in it.

It's About the Future.

No one should question a parent's love for their child – whether married or single, straight or gay. And every individual deserves respect, dignity and equal rights under the law. But marriage is not a civil right – it is a family-building institution given special recognition due to the unique benefits it brings to our entire society, especially children. Therefore, we must work to create a future where more children are raised in a home with their married mom and dad.

Redefining marriage will not only change its meaning, but also its purpose and its significance for future generations. Marriage... let's strengthen it, not redefine it.

www.familiesnorthwest.org

Agree?
Act now to preserve
marriage.

Unsure?
Learn more and make
an informed decision.

Disagree?
Share with us
your perspective.

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...because your family matters.