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AMERICA**

Commentary

The Unraveling of Measure 36 and the Will of the People

April 25, 2005

Oregon Senate Bill 1000

With the passage of **Measure 36**, the majority of Oregonians now believe traditional 'marriage' is '**safe.**' They are **sadly** and **unfortunately** ... ***mistaken!***

On **April 13th**, **Oregon's Governor, Ted Kulongoski**, and several state legislators introduced **Senate Bill 1000**, a **comprehensive bill that if passed, would** virtually '**undo**' Oregon's Constitutional Amendment preserving traditional marriage.

If SB 1000 is passed by the Oregon legislature and signed into law by the Governor, traditional 'marriage' will be **joined**, side-by-side in Oregon law with **another** type of '**marriage**' called '**civil unions**'.

Passage of **SB 1000** would make '**civil unions**' between '**same sex**' **couples, equal to marriage in every respect; no small matter to you, your family, and all Oregonians.**

So What is Wrong with 'Civil Unions'?

They Lead Inevitably to the Destruction of Traditional Marriage

In SB 1000, the words ‘civil union’ or ‘civil unions’ is inserted **seventy seven (77) times** next to the word ‘marriage’ in current Oregon law, each time *prescribing and ensuring the exact benefit, treatment, or privilege currently provided only to ‘marriage’ between a man and a woman.*

Glen Lavy senior vice president of the **Alliance Defense Fund’s Marriage Litigation Center** says, “Civil unions themselves are an **erosion of marriage**. No one can legitimately conclude that these civil unions are anything but **marriage with a different name**.” They are meant to “**redefine** marriage to mean **anything** and ultimately **nothing**.”

If SB 1000 is passed, so called ‘civil unions’ will stand on **equal ground** with traditional marriage and be **taught in our schools** as a legitimate **alternative** to marriage between a man and a woman.

They Suggest to the Young and Naïve an Acceptable Alternative to Traditional Marriage

If SB 1000 is passed, the State will **require** ‘civil unions’ be **taught to our youth** as an acceptable and state recognized ‘alternative’ to traditional marriage.

Homosexuality and lesbianism is currently viewed in our schools and by the education establishment as a legitimate ‘alternative’ lifestyle and is already being embraced more readily by our youth. So called ‘civil unions’ will only further the notion amongst the young and impressionable that living together in a condoned same sex relationship with the same status as marriage, is ‘**okay**,’ further eroding the meaning, fulfillment and importance of marriage between a man and a woman.

They Lack All Sociological and Societal Benefit

For those who argue that homosexuality and lesbian behavior is genetic or natural, and therefore, ‘same sex marriage’ or ‘civil unions’ is compassionate, there is no scientific, sociological, or psychological research that supports that claim, none whatsoever. In fact, the findings and research demonstrate just the opposite.

They Violate the Will of the People

The people of Oregon overwhelmingly rejected an effort to change traditional marriage when they passed **Measure 36** in November of 2004. The passage

of a Constitutional amendment by the people, is always seen as **the will of the people**.

Placing protection of traditional marriage in the Oregon Constitution makes clear that Oregonians do **not** want traditional marriage tampered with, changed, or duplicitously 'copied' by **anyone**, to serve the interests of a minority with a self serving agenda.

SB 1000 will do just that by ensuring 'civil unions' stand on **equal ground** with traditional marriage.

They Force the Public to Accept a Lifestyle the Public Rejects

The latest surveys of the American people clearly demonstrate a growing opposition to the homosexual agenda, so called 'same sex marriage' and '**civil unions**.'

They Set a Destructive Course for Oregon and America

The strength of American society has always been **the two-parent family with a mother and father**. The current effort to undermine marriage with so-called 'civil unions' will only further erode that institution and all institutions that are built on traditional marriage. Out of wedlock children, confused sexual relationships, gender roles, and societal mores already abound. Civil Unions will only make this worse.

They Violate God's Purpose for Men and Women

The most important reason so called 'civil unions' should be opposed is the defiance of God's laws and His purpose for men and women it represents.

Jesus of Nazareth said, "Have ye not read, that **He who created them** at the beginning made them **male** and **female**, and said, for **this** cause a **man** shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his **wife**; and the two shall become one flesh." (Matthew 19:3-9)

Genesis 1:28 says, "Be fruitful and multiply."

So called 'civil unions' by their very nature, **oppose** and **violate** these mandates and fulfill **none** of what God ordained.

Clearly, the author of life itself **intended** for marriage to be between a man and a woman, and **none other**. No other 'arrangement' by man is acceptable to God.

If SB 1000 were passed by the legislature, **what God opposes** would then be **approved** and **imposed by the state of Oregon**.

We are Subject to the Laws of our Creator, not Unbelieving Men

Sir William Blackstone, the renowned **British jurist** whose commentaries on the law were the basis of The Declaration of Independence, said...

"Man...**must necessarily be subject to the laws of his creator**, for he is an entirely dependent being...and consequently as man absolutely depends upon his maker for everything, it is necessary that he should **in all points conform** to his maker's will. This will of his maker is called the **law of nature**."

Civil Unions Violate the "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God"

The "**Laws of Nature and of Nature's God**" were the basis for the Founder's declaration that the 13 colonies were free and independent from the authority of the King of England and his Parliament.

Blackstone said the '**laws of nature**' being the exact expression of **God's "will"** for all creation, including mankind, were "**binding over all the globe, in all countries, and at all times; no human laws are of any validity, if contrary to this.**" (Underlinings added)

John Locke, who wrote nearly a hundred years before Blackstone, said, "**The law of nature stands as an eternal rule of all men, legislators as well as others.** The rules that they make for other men's actions **must...be conformable to the law of nature – i.e. to the will of God.**"

'Civil unions' are therefore of **no 'validity'** in that they are '**contrary**' to God's 'will.'

Opposition to 'civil unions' is Not 'Discrimination'

Every group that seeks to justify its wants, behaviors, or agenda, cries 'discrimination' if others (and the law) disapprove or argue against their position. Such is the case with those who want homosexual and lesbian behavior legitimated and legalized. They and their spokesman have laid hold of this word to intimidate and squelch opposition. No one wants to be seen as

a person who 'discriminates' on the basis of race, color or religion, which we all abhor. Making a moral distinction is different however. The word 'discriminate' means to 'make a distinction' between two things or matters. In that sense, we all 'discriminate'.

Opposition to 'Civil Unions' is Not 'Unloving'

Just the contrary. There is a **vast difference** between '**concern**' and '**empathy**' for those who engage in relationships that God neither condones nor encourages, and actually '**condoning**' those behaviors, to the **detriment** of all who rightfully do **not** condone those relationships or behaviors, and the institutions that preserve traditional, God ordained moral values.

While the empathy of many who believe that those who engage in same sex relationships experience emotional pain is understood, the **notion** that pain is best ameliorated by making laws more favorable to the behavior and circumstances they have chosen—that brings the pain—is **misplaced**.

This 'notion' is common to the idea that anyone and everyone's 'pain' should be relieved no matter what they do, whether right or wrong, is false. **Choices have consequences**. There are, as George Washington said, '**eternal rules of order and right**.'

Summary

So called 'civil unions' **violate the "laws of nature and of nature's God."** They **violate God's clear purpose in marriage**, the good of society, and the well being of children. They **set a destructive course** for Oregon and America. They **lack all sociological and societal benefit** and **have no redeeming or inherent worth**. They **suggest to the young and naive an 'acceptable alternative' to traditional marriage**. They **force the public to accept a lifestyle the public rejects**. They **lead inevitably to the destruction of traditional marriage**, and they **violate the will of the people** by making 'civil unions' **equal** to marriage.

Conclusion

There is a distinction to be made between God's purposes and will and that of man's, the natural and the unnatural, true marriage and false marriage.

'Civil unions' represent a minority of men and women who want the approval of others and the state as well as equal status for that which violates God's purpose and will.

If the Oregon legislature passes SB 1000—in spite of the mounting evidence that it will only further erode traditional marriage and the moral strength of the nation—**‘marriage’, and God’s purpose for marriage, will be compromised and degraded to what secular men—who do not know or honor God—say it is.**

A vocal minority will trample the rights of the majority. The gay and lesbian community—and those who have set their faces against God’s authority—will have the same **protected civil rights status** as race and religion, as well as greater justification for their behavior and rebellion to God.

The phrase ‘civil union’ is a fraudulent ‘word-of-art’ concocted to lead the public to believe in something that is not nor should be. It is a serious deception with its origin in the Garden of Eden. It is a **parody** of marriage, an **imitation** and **counterfeit** that cannot be made real.

SB 1000—if not strongly and vociferously opposed by the Christian Community—will do more to destroy traditional marriage, morality, and social order than the media will discuss or we Christians can imagine. It is **filled** with everything the gay and lesbian community ever wanted, including full ‘civil rights’ privileges and protections **as well as all the benefits and advantages of traditional marriage**...but with a different title... **‘civil unions’**.

The Oregon Legislature should reject SB 1000 in entirety.

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