The New Normal? Understanding Same Sex Attraction and Gender Fluidity
Bird’s Eye View

1. Recent cultural change
2. Science, Stats and SSA
3. What is gender fluidity?
4. Possible Causes of SSA
5. Which story do we live by? Biblical story?
6. Is there any evidence that change is possible?
7. What about gay marriage and gay rights?
8. What does redemption and reconciliation look like?
Attitudes to Homosexuality

Hatred
1998
FAGS ARE WORTHY OF DEATH
ROM. 1:32
HOMOSEXUALS ARE POSSESSED BY DEMONS
thrown out

thrown out of home and school

Jeremy, 17
Salt Lake City

Jeremy wasn’t having a good time in school in Salt Lake City. Students called him names and teased him constantly. When he asked school administrators for help, their solution was to get rid of him, sending him to a different school.

When he told his parents he didn’t want to change schools, they took the school’s side and transferred him anyway. At his second school, Jeremy had an even tougher time. He’d go home sad and scared every day, telling his parents what happened to him during the day. So they sent him to a third school.

Two more schools later, his parents told him he had to stop being gay (impossible of course), or they’d kick him out. So, in effect, he was kicked out.

His voice gets shaky when he talks about his parents, but he says he’s not angry with them. "You can’t be mad at someone for their opinions. They really tried. It just got to be so much that I stopped caring."

Jeremy moved into a place of his own, took his night classes, and started doing volunteer work at several community organizations: "I’ll do anything I can to feel like I’m needed."

When he’s not leading workshops at the Utah Federation for Youth or hanging out with friends—Jeremy’s not a big fan of raves or parties, he prefers coffee shop conversations—he’s starting his modeling career. "I think it will really be good for my self-esteem," he says.

Despite what happened to him, he dreams of a world where everyone could accept themselves. "If I could have one goal in life, that would be it."
Hate The Fags, Just Don’t Kill Them?

Uganda's gay ban is colonial hang-over.

An Injustice anywhere is a fight for.

Sodomy is a sin.
Proudly NIGERIAN
Proudly LESBIAN!

Sodomy law is a Colonial Relic. Repeal it NOW!

We are not ILLEGAL
We are full Citizens of NIGERIA.

STOP THE BILL!
Consensual Adult love is not a Crime!
“Health”
1997
Entertainment Weekly

Gay Hollywood 2000

A SPECIAL REPORT

INSIDE THE GAY TV REVOLUTION  HIP-HOP HOMOPHOBIA
THE CELEBRITY CLOSET  TV'S GAYEST SHOW EVER
GAY FILMMAKERS SOUND OFF  101 MOVERS & SHAKERS
Gay characters have quietly become hot. Can their love lives?

By JAMES PONIEWOZIK

THE FIRST TUESDAY OF HIS SECOND season on the air was a big day for Will Truman. Will, the male half of NBC's Will & Grace, went on a date, after spending last year setting an endurance record for getting over a painful breakup. The date was with a harried bookstore clerk we saw for all of five teasing seconds, but it was a date nonetheless. His other accomplishment: the Top-20 WoG beat its straight-couple neighbor, ABC's Dharma & Greg, in the first round of a pitched battle for ratings.

And there you have the state of gaiyness on television in 1999: TV has come out, within fuzzily defined but undeniable limits. Since the much touted coming out of Ellen DeGeneres in 1997—and the much noted rapid demise of her sitcom in the following season—prime time has seen an influx of popular, prominent and well-rounded gay characters without Ellen-esque audience or advertiser cavils. Indeed, there's so much cachet in being gay that even straight characters are trying it. On Fox's Action, scheming mob producer Peter Drago received oral sex from a star to whom he passed himself off as gay, and in what promises to be a head-turning second episode of Fox's Ally McBeal on Nov. 1, Ally engages in steamy hip-wrestling with another woman.

That straight characters are getting
COMING OUT
IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

How 13-year-old kids are dealing with their sexual identity — and how others are dealing with them, in much older ways.
With 36-page educational strategy & resource guide

*Discussion topics include self-esteem, sexual orientation, and homophobia.

*Resource materials by and for young people, parents, counselors, educators, and youth groups
THE McCAIN VOTERS: WHERE WILL THEY GO NOW?

SPECIAL REPORT

GAY TODAY

How the battle for acceptance has moved to schools, churches, marriage & the workplace
Netherlands 2001
Is Gay Marriage Next?

Behind the Supreme Court's Privacy Ruling

The Fights Ahead—From Adoption To the Military
Is Gay Marriage Next?

Behind the Supreme Court’s Privacy Ruling

The Fights Ahead—From Adoption To the Military
GAY MARRIAGE ALREADY WON.

THE SUPREME COURT HASN'T MADE UP ITS MIND—BUT AMERICA HAS

BY BARBARA WOJCIECHOWSKY
New York Times
Gay Marriage legal

- 16 countries
- 18 states
- 34 states ban SSM
- Civil Unions
1996

VICTORY!
DOMA DEFEATED

HISTORY HAS BEEN MADE.
SUPREME COURT HAS OVERTURNED THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT.

WE ALL DESERVE THE FREEDOM TO MARRY

THE FREEDOM TO MARRY

CITY HALL
Marriage, redefined
What the Supreme Court’s historic decision will really mean
p.4
An Extended Nuclear Family?
Gay men, lesbians and the kids they are making and raising, sort of together.

By John Bowe
“GLBTQIA”

Gay
Lesbian
Bisexual
Transsexual
Questioning
“Queer”
Intersexual
Asexual
Homosexuality: The Challenge of Love
Science and Same Sex Attraction
* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fpdsdk6J00E
Kinsey and 10%
### How Common? (US studies)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exclusively SSA</td>
<td>1-2.5%</td>
<td>0.3-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep “Homosexual”</td>
<td>2-4%</td>
<td>1-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime Occurrence</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(same gender sex)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some attraction</td>
<td>5-15%</td>
<td>15-25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*National Health Statistics Report. US Department of Health & Human Services 2011*
Recent studies in USA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reporting “Bisexual”</td>
<td>1-3%</td>
<td>2-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least one s.s.sex ptntn in last year</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Liquid” “Fluid” sexualities</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kinsey’s scale

Exclusively Heterosexual

0 1 2 3
No homo dreams, fantasies, desires...

Exclusively Homosexual

4 5 6
No hetero dreams, fantasies, desires...
Beyond Gay and Straight

Homosexual  Bisexual “Fluid”  Heterosexual
Distribution of sexual preference (2)

- Heterosexual
- Homosexual
- Bisexual
- "Fluid"
- Confused?
Lisa Diamond U of Utah study

- 48% Lesbian Identified Women – some degree attraction to men in previous year
- 40% gay men – …
- 26% LIW reported wanting sex with a man in previous year
- 20% gay men…
- 9% LIW did have sex with man
- 12% gay men…
Gender identity

- Transvestism
- Transsexual
- Intersexual
- Asexual
TIMEx9, 2014

THE
TRANSGENDER
TIPPING
POINT

America’s next
civil rights frontier

Laverne Cox, a star of Orange Is the New Black, is one of an estimated 1.5 million Americans who identify as transgender.
The world of Trans-

- Transgender studies 1990s
- Normalization against heteronormative culture
- Trans culture
- Hardship and suffering
  - Identity struggles
  - Discrimination, rejection and violence
Transgender umbrella

* Includes transsexuals, transvestites or cross dressers, gender fluid and anyone transitioning
* Trans man: Female to male (F2M)
* Trans woman: Male to female (M2F)
* Sexual orientation separate but related
  * Androphilic (attracted to men)
  * Gynephyllic (attracted to women)
Gender Identity Disorder

- Only if being transgender causes distress or disability (gender dysphoria)
- Believe they are one sex even though all the physical evidence suggests that they are the other
- Wrong bodies or wrong beliefs?
- A few intersex people where there is genuine confusion (chromosomes, hormones...
Transsexual/transgender

1. causes: much speculation –
   ∗ Hormones, genes, family, culture
   ∗ Similar to same sex attraction
   ∗ Some evidence of brain differences claimed

2. Psychological treatment

3. Hormones

4. Major surgical reconstruction
Other cultures

- Thailand and Laos: kathoey – male to female transgender and effeminate gay men
- India: hijra – a third identity
- Many other Asian countries identify transgender people
Transvestites

- Cross dressing for various reasons
- Most heterosexual
- Drag king or queen
- Fetishism
Chromosomes

- XYY – taller, more muscular, more impulsive, higher activity, more criminal convictions

- XXY – shorter, less muscular, less secondary sexual characteristics. More timid and passive

- XO – Shorter, abnormal ovaries, no menstruation, lack of secondary sexual characteristics
Hormones - intersex

- Hermaphroditism – full or partial genital or reproductive organs of both sexes – usually genetically female (xx)
- Pseudohermaphroditism – gonads match sex chromosomes but external genitalia resemble opposite sex.
- Adrenogenital syndrome – genetically female but raised as males because external genitalia look male
- Testicular feminization syndrome – lack of male genitals in individuals who are genetically male
Gender ambiguity

* Gender fluidity/gender non-conforming
* Gender a spectrum – not two opposing categories
* 2-7% of boys under 12 display cross-gender behaviors
* By age 10 most drop cross-gender
* 60-80% become gay, rest male or want to become women
Wait – relate to children as intersexuals until gender more clear

Controversy over how active to be in shaping behavior

Some to Gender reassignment surgery
Deconstruction of Heteronormative Culture
Gay Identity

- Attraction
- Orientation
- Identity

I'm Out
Therefore I Am

I'm Gay & Proud of it
The Shaping of Homosexuality?
Between Two Worlds

- Modern or Postmodern
- Essentialist or Social Constructionist
- Constitution or Choice?
Genetic Factors

Twin research
Genetics?

- 1991 (M) & 1993 (F) Bailey and Pillard
  - ID twins 52% male/48% female
  - NID twins 22% male/16% female

- Bailey Australian Twins Study 2000
  - ID twins 20% male/24% female
  - NID twins 0% male/10% female
Genetics?

- Sample bias
- Statistical errors
- Actual concordance in first study for male ID twins 34% (52) and in second study 11% (20)
- Bailey: This (2000) study “did not provide statistically significant support for the importance of genetic factors.”
Swedish Twin Study (2008)

- Archives of Sexual Behavior, Niklas Langstrom, June 2008
- 43,808 twin pairs (1959-1985)
- 3826 pairs, 2320 ID, 1506 Fraternal (12%)
- 5% male, 8% female one same sex partner any time
- 35% male - 18% female genetic influence
Genetics?

- A Gay Gene
- Dean Hamer, 1993
- Region of X chromosome in small group of gay men Xq28
- Not replicated
Genetic factor?

- Epigenetics
- Possibly some influence in some people
  - ?Temperament
  - ?Hormones
  - ?Neurochemistry
- What is – not necessarily what ought to be!
- Created or “Fallen”
Gender non-conformity?

* “Effeminate” males and “masculine” females more likely to become homosexual

* “Sissy” “Tomboy” “Feeling different”

* “71% gay men and 70% lesbian women among 1500 people in SF felt different from same sex peers in childhood compared with 38% heterosexual men and 51% women.”

* “Sensitivity” (strong creative drive, keen aesthetic sense)
Gay Sheep?

- 8% rams mount only other rams and not ewes
- Hypothalamus female-like size
- ? Abnormalities of hormones in pregnancy
Psychological Factors?

- Research mostly on homosexual men
- Mothers - over-involved, dominant and strong
- Fathers – quiet, distant, unexpressive, sometimes absent and/or hostile
- Poor communication between parents
Women

- Parents – critical, domineering and/or detached, weak and passive
- Often poor relationship between parents
Both men and women

- Deficit in relationship with parent of same sex. Real or perceived?
- Early attachment problems in relation to mother (detached or over involved)
- And... always exceptions!
Psychological Factors?

- Deficit in relationship with parent of same sex (real or perceived)
- Often lonely and feeling inadequate
- Women familiar
- Men mysterious and therefore attractive
- Envies and eroticizes desired qualities
Attempts repair of childhood hurts through relationship - sex

Sexual compulsion

Gives up hope of true intimacy

Cycles of infatuation and disillusionment

Little sexual fidelity in men
Sexual Abuse

- Several studies with variable results
- Overall much greater history of childhood sexual abuse in those with SSA than OSA
Sociological/Cultural Factors?

- Relativism
- Tolerance
- Cultural acceptance of homosexuality
INTERACTIONAL MODEL

Genes?
Temperament

Distant/absent
Sometimes abusive father

Over-involved dominant mother

Difficulty/distance in relationship with parent of same sex

Prenatal hormones?
Environmental toxins?

Context of first sexual experience?
Cultural acceptance & encouragement of H/S

Sexual Abuse

Pride
Distorted Desire

Lust
Idolatry

Rebellion
Self-protection
Sexual addiction
Heart choices
Starting Points/Assumptions

- Pragmatic Materialism
- Humanism/Existentialism
“Experience is for me the highest authority... It is to experience that I must return again and again to discover a closer approximation to the truth as it is becoming in me. Neither the Bible nor the prophets, neither Freud nor research, neither the revelations of God or man, can take precedence over my own direct experience.”
Self actualization
Social construction
Anything Goes

- Gay
- Pornography
- Pedophilia
- Premarital sex
- Homosexuality
- Transvestite
- Transsexual
- Queer
- Metrosexual
- Casual sex
- Bisexual
- Straight
- Sex with animals
- Lesbian
- Oral sex
- Premarital sex
- Bondage
- Fetishism
- Questioning
- Group sex
- Swinging
- Hookup
Another Story:
Creation - Fall – Redemption - Restoration

David Arms
Creation

- So God created man in his own image... male and female he created them. (Gen 1:27)
- A man shall leave his mother and father and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. (Gen 2:24)
- SEX: Procreation, companionship, and declaration (of something beyond itself)
Marriage

- Complementarity of sexes
- in exclusive covenantal bond for life
- with expectation of children and
- creating secure environment for birth and nurture of children
- for the good of wider society
Adam et Eve chassés du Paradis
Masaccio (Tommaso DI SER GIOVANNI, dit)
1401 - 1428, né à San Giovanni Valdarno (Toscane)
Rebellion & Fall
Need for Fences: Leviticus 18:22 & 20:13

- If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination.

- With prohibitions of child sacrifice, incest, adultery and bestiality. All accepted as wrong today.
Just exploitative or idolatrous sex condemned?

- Male - not cult prostitute, boy or youth.
- Applies to Israelites and non-Israelites (Lev 18:26)
- Both parties penalized (Lev 20:13)
- Not just part of idol/temple worship
Just part of the purity laws?

- As eating blood, bodily discharges, purity of priests
- But
- Basic categories of sexual immorality remain the same in NT (1 Cor 5-7)
- 1 Cor 6:9-10 Paul’s word arsenokoitai = “men who lie with males” from Lev 18 & 20
Roman 1: 18-32

- Turned away from God
- Darkened understanding
- Dishonorable passions
- Exchanged God for idols
- Exchanged Truth for lie
- Exchanged natural for unnatural
- Insensitive consciences
Echoes of Eden
(Genesis 1-2)

- Ever since the creation of the world (Rom 1:20)
- The Creator (Rom 1:25)
- Male and female he made them (Gen 1:27, Rom 1:26-27)
- Complementarity of sexes “very good” (Gen 1:31)
1 Corinthians 5-6

- Condemnation of incest and other forms of sexual immorality (visiting prostitutes) (1 Cor 5-6)
- Appeals to Genesis (1 Cor 6:16)
- Serial, unrepentant sexual immorality (of all forms) could lead to exclusion from the kingdom of God. (1 Cor 6:9-10)
- Not worst of sins (1 Cor 6:9-10) // theft, greed…
- Danger of pride (Rom 1-2) “you have no excuse...”
Liberal critics

- Not unnatural for those who have only known SSA!
- Only refers to fertility cults or married men having sex with youths
- Not wrong if loving and consensual. Constitutional SSA not known to Paul
- Progressive liberation from:
  - Racism
  - Sexism and misogyny
  - Heterosexism
Other biblical themes

- Narratives, laws, proverbs, commands... all assume heterosexuality as the norm
- No regulation of different types of same sex relationships
- Relationship between God and Israel, Christ and the church always heterosexual imagery
Christian responses through history

1. Homosexuality the worst of sins
2. Homosexual relations non-ideal but lesser of evils
3. Homosexual relations God-given
4. Homosexual desire a distortion of God’s good creation as a result of the fall

Homosexual orientation the result of being part of broken world where all of our sexuality is fallen

SSA not chosen (sinful/fallen nature)

The ongoing practice (in thought or action) is not the creator’s intention and is therefore “sinful”

Difference between temptation and sin

Part of the struggle between sinful nature and new creation in Christ
CAN MALE HOMOSEXUALS BE HELPED TO CHANGE?
Is Change Possible?

- APA and ACA
  - Moves to have “conversion therapy” banned as unethical, unenlightened, ineffective, prejudiced and homophobic.
  - Counsellors and Psychotherapists (Regulation) Bill threatens to remove from the register anyone who is involved with “gay to straight therapy”

- Gay affirmative therapy encouraged
Psychoanalytical, Behavioral, Cognitive and Group Therapies – pre 1973

- Many studies of change
- Average significant positive outcome across these studies is 33%
- Some change is possible
Kinsey’s scale

Exclusively Heterosexual

No homo dreams, fantasies, desires...

0 1 2 3

Exclusively Homosexual

No hetero dreams, fantasies, desires...

4 5 6
Religiously oriented approaches

- Pastoral counselors and support groups (Exodus International – Chambers)
- Sexual Identity Therapy (Throckmorton and Yarhouse) sexualidentityinstitute.org
- Reparative Therapy (Nicolosi and NARTH) narth.com
Reparative Therapy (males)
Nicolosì

- Gender identity shame and defensive detachment
- Early attachment problems with father
- 2-3 years of weekly intensive sessions
- Work with grief, affect regulation, attachment, helping to relate to other men
Nicolosi ‘98 (Reorientation thpy)

- 882 “religious” people who were seeking change or who had experienced change.
- 78% men, 22% women
- Average age awareness of homosexual tendencies: 12.4 years
- 726 (82%) therapy from professional therapist or pastoral counselor.
- 156 (18%) support from friends, family, ex-gay ministry
Nicolosi (882 “religious people”)

- 68% exclusively or almost exclusively homosexual at one time in their lives
- Only 13% perceived themselves in this manner after therapy (55% change)
- 35% unsuccessful in making change
- Av age entering therapy 29.9 years
- Av length of therapy 3.4 years
-Decrease in homosexual thoughts, fantasies, masturbation and overt homosexual behavior

- Improvement in overall psychological health

- 99% believed homosexual orientation can be changed
Gay for Life?
Going Straight: The Uproar Over Sexual ‘Conversion’

PLUS
TERROR
THE U.S. EMBASSY BOMBINGS
MONICA TESTIFIES
STOCKS
WHAT TO DO NOW
BY JANE BRYANT QUINN
Robert Spitzer

* 1973 APA vote to remove homosexuality from list of disorders in DSM
Spitzer study (2001)

* 143 men, 57 women in 5 years sustained effort to change. 45 minute telephone interview
* 66% men and 44% women who had rarely or never felt any opposite sex attraction now had good heterosexual function. Spectrum of change.
Spitzer study (2001/3)

“Contrary to conventional wisdom, some highly motivated individuals, using a variety of change efforts, can make substantial change in multiple indicators of sexual orientation, and achieve good hetero-sexual functioning.”
Spitzer

“The mental health professionals should stop moving in the direction of banning therapy that has, as a goal, a change in sexual orientation....”

2011 Public retraction
Jones and Yarhouse (2007/9)

Ex-Gays: a longitudinal study of religious mediated change in sexual orientation (IVP)

- 98 subjects. Prospective study and follow up 7 years later
- 23% reported “conversion” to predominant heterosexuality
- 30% reported “chastity” + reduction in SSA
- 29% continuing change but uncertain success
- 15+% no change
- Change on continuum
Conclusion of studies

* Changes away from SSA and towards heterosexual functioning in some dimensions: 45-65%

* Majority do not experience complete change of orientation
  * Changes on all dimensions:
    * Males 10 - 15%
    * Females 30%

* Change is slow and difficult
APA report 2009 - abstract and summary

“conducted a systematic review... and concluded that efforts to change sexual orientation are unlikely to be successful.”

“Thus the results of scientifically valid research indicate that it is unlikely that individuals will be able to reduce same-sex attractions or increase other sex attractions through Sexual Orientation Change Effort (SOCE).”
How can we be agents of Redemption and Reconciliation?
How do we love?

- Build friendships
- Champion respect, dignity and love of neighbor for people of any sexual orientation
How do we love?

- Build friendships.
- Champion respect, dignity and love of neighbor for people of any sexual orientation
- Welcome into our homes and churches as fellow image bearers and sinners like us.
- Share the gospel of God's love and grace and forgiveness – that we all need – when time is right
- Give time for it to sink in - expect slow change/little change/no change (cf. materialism...)
Friendships, families, and community
Teaching, prayer and counseling
If Church is a hospital, some intensive care counseling may be needed.
Support groups
Firstlightstlouis.org and Harvestusa.org
Gay Christians - Side A and B

A - God blesses same sex marriages – (faithful monogamy)

B - God calls to lifelong celibacy or perhaps mixed orientation marriage

http://www.gaychristian.net/greatdebate.php
SSA Christian – Side B

- Moving away from “gay identity”
- View same sex attractions as temptations and strive to live celibate lives.
- Wesley Hill “Washed and Waiting”
- Not either/or... Gay/Straight.
- Sexual Human becoming
• “Post-gay” not “ex-gay” – directional
• Recognize tendency for “wrongly centered self”
• Need to be centered in Identity in Christ
• Some possibility of change - but realism necessary
Difference between attraction, orientation and identity

Call to stewardship of sexuality

“God allowed me to struggle in this way but did not create this orientation”

Finding calling and vocation in singleness

Need for supportive community

www.spiritualfriendship.org
“Church was a place of nurture and unconditional acceptance, but at the same time the teaching was clear that I shouldn’t act on those sexual desires. In an environment where young people were being encouraged to experiment, I was really grateful that I had been kept from acting on my feelings.” Sean Doherty

www.livingout.org
“One of the most surprising discoveries I made... is that the New Testament views the church – rather than marriage – as the primary place where love is best expressed and experienced.”

Wesley Hill “Washed and Waiting”

Huge challenge to the church
What about Gay Marriage (and Side A)?
Believe that Scriptural texts support faithful and loving same sex relationships

How could a loving God condemn us to the loneliness of celibacy?

“I now believe that homosexual behavior is appropriate within the confines of a committed, loving, monogamous, lifelong, Christ centered relationship.” Justin Lee “Torn”

http://www.acceptingevangelicals.org/

https://www.gaychristian.net/
Revisionist view of Marriage

- Homosexuality, at its core, is about the emotional, (financial and psychological) connection between two adult human beings. And what public institution is more central—more definitive—of that connection than marriage? The denial of marriage to gay people is therefore not a minor issue. It is the entire issue.

- Civil Unions discriminatory
A change of direction
Moving marriage forward

“‘When talking about freedom to marry, share the truth: gay couples want to join marriage precisely because they respect the institution and what it means in our society...’

But... Masha Gessen – lesbian journalist:” It is a not brainer that homosexuals should have a right to marry, but I also think it is a no brainer that the institution of marriage should not exist...”
Revisionist view of Marriage and Family

- Why limit to two people or even man/man, woman/woman?
- Any partnership where there is love and affection and companionship
Gay Marriage

- Another major social experiment
- Soviets 1917-1923
- Divorce
- Gay Marriage
- First society in history to have gay marriage

- Breakdown of heterosexual marriage
- Is it in the best interests of children, family and society?
- Marriage rates of gays and lesbians after new law
- Sweden: Divorce rate
- Need for two parents of different sexes
“To pursue gay equality is noble and right. But to pursue it by undermining heterosexual institutions is deeply damaging to both hetero- and homosexual persons alike. For heterosexuals need an institution that shapes them for the consequences of opposite sex union – without that, it is disaster and despair for children, burden and poverty for women, and dislocation and atomisation of society.” Roger Scruton and Phillip Blond. Marriage Equality or the destruction of difference.
Some consequences of change of definition

- Discrimination
- Schools, churches, adoption and fostering agencies, government jobs
- Litmus test for ordination
- Accusations of hate speech
- Loss of accreditation and federal loans for seminaries
- Changing definitions of parenthood and gender
Following Christ

- Persecuted minority
- Live the gospel
- Point to the one who brings redemption and ultimate reconciliation.
Helpful Books & Article

- *Washed and Waiting, Wesley Hill, (2010)*
- *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views, Robert Gagnon, (2009)*
- *Marriage Equality or the destruction of difference? Roger Scruton and Phillip Blond ABC Religion and Ethics 4 Feb 2013*