
The Complementarity Principle

At the most basic level, marriage and its offshoot, the family, are based on the sexual complementarity of a man and a woman. It is a union in fact, not just in form, based on a conjugal sexual act that unites the man and wife in a bond that includes every level of their being: biological, physical, emotional, mental, mystical, and spiritual. This is the primary reason we maintain that homosexual relationships, even if granted marital status by secular law, can never be legitimate marriages, or even unions, in concept or in fact.

Homosexual relationships are totally lacking in the biological and anthropological elements of joining together that a man and a woman carry out in entering the institution of marriage. Such relationships cannot contribute in a proper, natural way to the procreation and survival of the human race. The possibility of using recently discovered methods of artificial reproduction, beyond involving a grave lack of respect for human dignity, does nothing to alter this inadequacy. Public policy should not intentionally create motherless and fatherless families. Marriage is unique. It is essential and incorruptible. And marriage alone can provide benefits inherent in the common good.

That is why, when the Illinois General Assembly created civil unions to provide the benefits of marriage to homosexual couples, they recognized complementarity for what it is: the conjugal union of the two sexes. All arguments attempting to debase that idea fall short. Two men or two women engaged in a relationship cannot replicate this conjugal union at all.

It has been argued that marriage is a fluid institution, that it was not always between one man and one woman; that disgraces like the infamous Kardashian wedding so refute the sanctity of marriage that only hypocrites could withhold it from committed same-sex couples; and therefore that “social progress” demands we give up on marriage and redefine it in the terms that rhetoric and emotion will set for us.

Marriage is the preeminent institution that protects, contains, and focuses the sexual complementarity of men and women, turning it toward constructive social ends. This complementarity is responsible for the life of every legislator, activist, and other human being on the planet.

Ultimately what is happening in our state is that we are attempting to redefine marriage on a lie. As citizens of Illinois who understand that the civil union law does provide benefits equal to marriage and that there is no complementarity between two men or two women, we find the effort to redefine marriage disturbing. Finally then, we say let the people vote on an up-or-down definition of what marriage should be: the union of one man and one woman only, for the common good! ■

