

# Contraception's a Slippery Slope to Homosexual Union

By Stephen Gabriel

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Childless heterosexual marriages are contradicting natural law, too

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Many have reacted with alarm to the issuance of marriage certificates to gay couples in San Francisco. But, with the widespread acceptance of contraception in our country, the arrival of this moment was really just a matter of time.

Most people would agree that sex between a husband and wife is both an expression of love and the normal means for creating offspring. One of the reasons that society has always held that sex is proper only to those who are married is that justice requires that any child conceived has a right to a stable home with a mother and a father. Eliminate the possibility of conceiving a child and the need to restrict sex to married couples is much less compelling, at least on the surface.

There was a time when contraception was universally condemned. In the Christian world, Catholic and Protestant churches alike taught that contraception was morally wrong, until the Anglican Lambeth Conference in 1930.

Today, only the Catholic Church – along with a few other relatively small denominations – holds this view. Indeed, the Catholic Church has always taught that for the marital act to be morally good, it must both be a loving act and be open to creating offspring. Anything else would be contrary to natural law.

If the polls are correct, most married couples (including Catholics) in the United States are practicing contraception. That is, they have removed the possibility of creating offspring from the marital act except when they have an explicit desire to conceive a child. They are expressing their love for their spouse and deriving the pleasure that goes with sex, while eliminating the possibility (or at least reducing the likelihood) of conceiving a child.

If married people can enjoy sex without the concern of conceiving a child, why can't unmarried people do the same?

By willfully separating procreation from marital intimacy, our society has started down a slippery slope that will be very difficult to get off. Children are becoming sexually active at earlier and earlier ages. Our schools are trying to combat this trend with contraception. The transmission of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV among both unmarried adults and children continues to be a major public health concern. And now gay couples, whose

love is incapable of producing children, are demanding the benefits of a marriage certificate.

And why shouldn't they? If childbearing is no longer a necessary component of heterosexual marriage, why should it be a consideration in assessing the morality of gay marriage? Heterosexual couples are able to marry in this country whether they intend to remain childless or not. And a significant number do, in fact, remain childless. Why shouldn't homosexual couples be given the same benefit?

The logic for banning gay marriage is seriously undermined by the contraceptive mentality of our society. True, most married, heterosexual couples have children. But, if we decide that the marital act can be rendered sterile once – indeed, for most of our fertile years – then where do we draw the line?

Gay marriage is wrong because marriage is and has always been ordained toward bringing children into the world, something that a gay relationship, by its very nature, is not able to do. Introduce contraception into the marriage, and children become a mere option. Our contraceptive mentality has put heterosexuals and homosexuals on a level playing field.

The prospect of legalizing gay marriage has not been foisted upon us by relatively few gay activists. Our contraceptive society has been preparing the way for this step for more than two generations. When are we going to wake up and recognize the devastation wrought upon our society by the widespread acceptance of contraception by so many good people?

Rejecting contraception is not easy for anyone under the best of conditions. We like to have control over our lives, especially in matters so personal and vital to our well-being.

But the results are in and the costs of having such control are seen all around us. We live in a sex-drenched society.

We all need to do some serious soul-searching on the contraception issue. Laws don't need to change to turn the tide. It's a matter of hearts. Hearts need to change, one heart at a time – starting with yours and mine.

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