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Homosexual or Heterosexual - why should anyone care?

The **overwhelming** maelstrom over sexual-orientation clouds the basic teachings of logic and reason. From the First Book of the Old Testament we learn that after their creation, Adam and Eve were given appetites for **food and sex - to sustain and procreate life. The abuse of both appetites has been a problem since. As to sex, Civil Law confines the practice to two consenting adults in private. It's not a public affair.** Yet, society has become polarized over the private practice of sex. It should not be an issue. No one needs to know what consenting-adults do in private. But the discord has evolved into the question of 'same sex marriage', soon to be decided by the Supreme Court.

It has become a colossal social issue. Gays are divided socially; affected economically and condemned by some religious. Yet, they can now join the military with a bizarre proviso. Even elements of the Fashion World reflect the influence of perceived lifestyles. More polarization! It's now front-page news when a well-known 'comes out of the closet' – as if we need to know. Yet it's the public's perceived knowledge of these private affairs that fans the flames of prejudice in the most unlikely walks-of-life. On the other hand, even gays parade and publicly flaunt their lifestyle in defiance of prejudice - sometimes exacerbating the problem by so doing.

Tragically, the issue has resonated with violence in some schools where gay students have been maligned, beaten and even killed. This is incredible since schools are where tolerance is taught. Now, the rights of Gays have followed their logical course to become the precursor to 'same sex marriage', which only the highest court can adjudicate. It's now a conflict between moral and civil law with the definition of 'marriage' a bone-of-contention. The legal ramifications of 'same sex marriage' have also pitted 'states rights advocates' against the Supreme Court. Yet, the issue appeared so simple - what two **consenting-adults** do in private is **not a public affair. It's no longer that simple. The marriage-issue has convoluted the cause. Whatever the finding by the Supreme Court, unanimity is unlikely – leaving the judgment a bone-of-contention plagued with on-going controversy. A similar problem was posed by the abortion-issue when the court adjudicated Roe versus Wade.**

Can this court mandate in favor of 'same sex marriage'? The First Amendment to our Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law that..." effectively, alters our freedoms. In this case, according to some religious leaders, 'freedom of religion' precludes 'same sex marriage'. Ponder this - will the Supreme Court supersede the Constitution's Bill of Rights in adjudicating the rights of Gays, whose desire to marry conflicts with Moral Law? The **Laws of Mankind** are comprised of man-made Civil Laws and the Moral Laws of the Deity, for which believers account in the hereafter. Nonetheless, our founding fathers were guided by Moral Law in framing a constitution of civil laws – all accomplished while maintaining the separation of 'church and state'.

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Whatever our faith or inclinations, the human conscience is the moral-compass that guides our choices – which we’re free to make within the parameters of existing laws. It appears the greatest need is ‘definition’ and the public’s need to know. No new laws on this matter can improve on what is now indelibly **inscribed** in our Constitution - and **proscribed** by the amended Bill of Rights. A matter for our school classrooms is the widespread lack of thorough understanding of the laws by which we are governed. Laws must be taught in a social-context in everyday-language (sans ‘legalese’) beginning at the proper grade-level in Elementary School – with parental prerogatives a factor. It’s **elementary** that we learn the laws of the land – it’s **mandatory** that schools teach and uphold these dictums in their curricula. Despite an apparent void in implementation at some levels, many school districts are taking valiant strides.

Essentially, the ‘rights’ we need are inherent in our existing laws – and all who live under these laws should be made to know them. **Now, the nation is poised for an historic occasion when the Supreme Court adjudicates** the legality of ‘same sex marriage’. It may well be the most momentous of times, considering the separation of Church and State. It also diminishes the line separating the basic fundamentals to our Constitution – Civil Law and Moral Law. Are they still in concert – or in conflict?

Comments of several Camarillo clerics were qualified, resolute and hopeful. Rabbi Michael Lotker, spiritual leader of Temple Ner Ami, a Reform Jewish Congregation, stressed his belief that “the essence of a holy relationship is fidelity, mutual respect and love; there is no reason why this needs to be narrowly restricted to heterosexual relationships alone”. Rev. James Stehly, pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Church, quoted Pope Benedict’s remarks on marriage: “...it is only the rock of total, irrevocable love between a man and a woman that can serve as the foundation on which to build a society that will become a home for all mankind”. Rev. James Decker-Mahin, pastor of the United Methodist Church was hopeful: “Our civil law and moral law have adjusted to civil rights and women’s rights over the last 200 years. It is my hope that civil law and moral law will adjust to gay rights and senior rights in a much shorter period of time”.

‘Gay rights and same-sex marriage’ has also triggered an implosion within the tenets of this nation-of-laws. By every measure, ‘gays have rights’ and always had them – but there’s no sign the solution to discord will come with the Court’s decision on same-sex-marriage. Some states have already voted in favor, in accordance with ‘States Rights’ - others are steadfastly opposed. That is the quandary.

Notwithstanding the Court’s decision, American resolve faces a humongous task: to heal and reconcile a lingering breach – that’s ‘chronic and irreconcilable’.

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