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English 1A

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Proposition 8

There are recently huge debates about same-sex marriage in California, the issue is known as Proposition 8. It advocates that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California" (Text of Proposed Law, Prop 8). Nowadays same-sex marriages are legal in the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, Spain, and some of the U.S. states. Same-sex marriage is defined as the union of two people who are of the same biological sex, or gender. Although same sex marriage is legal in some European countries, it does not mean that it is good and U.S. should also legalize it. U.S. Civil Code Family Section 300 stated that "Marriage is a personal relation arising out of a civil contract between a man and a woman..." It is obvious that U.S. has a law and section that clearly define marriage. Moreover, same-sex marriage is against U.S. tradition, and its legalization will affect the adopted child who is raised by the same-sex couples, it lacks the father and mother's role in the family, it increase the numbers of same-sex couples. Therefore, same-sex marriages should not be allowed in U.S.

First, U.S. is a free country; everybody has the freedom to choose whoever they want to marry with, no matter what. It is true, but same-sex marriage is against U.S. tradition. In the U.S. tradition, which is from English common law tradition, "a marriage was a contract based upon a voluntary private agreement by a man and a woman to become husband and wife."(Cornell University Law School) Besides from English

common law, U.S. tradition also comes from Bible. In the history of the United States, the Bible has been used to justify some things, which become the tradition and law. From Leviticus 18:22, the Bible refers to homosexuality as an abomination. Even though it is a fundamental right for everybody to choose whoever they want to marry with, it does not mean that they can marry a person with the same sex or gender. Since everybody was born with tradition from the family and country; therefore, everybody should follow their tradition.

Second, legalizing same-sex marriage would create a bigger chance for the same-sex couples to adopt orphans, which will help many children. It is good that many children can get a better life by the adoption, but it is also going to create bad effects for the children. The children, who were raised by them, will think that love the same-sex person is normal, because they grow up in the situation where both of their parents have the same sex or gender. If this happens, it is going to change the moral of the children and also the culture of the country. The children will love the same sex person as well as the opposite sex person, so they will have additional alternative in relationship, if they cannot get a female, then just get a male partner. This situation will change the mentality of the children, who will become the next generation. As generation changed, it is going to affect the culture of the country, because culture is created by the people who live in that country. If everybody starts accepting same-sex marriages, then same sex marriage will just be a common thing in that country. Therefore, same-sex marriage should be illegal because of the bad effects for the moral of the children and culture in U.S.

Third, some people argued that financial are the most important thing in the family. It is true that financial is important, but not the most important. The most important thing is the role of father and mother in the family; the family itself means father, mother, and child. When the child is growing up, the child will think that the father is the head of the family and a person who also protect the family. The mother is a person whom the child can share a problem with, and she is the person who gave birth. With these roles, the child will feel the intimacy of family, which gives thought to the child, that a family needs those roles. In doing so, the child will have a dream to create a family with the role of father and mother. Therefore, same-sex marriage should not be legalized because of the lack of father and mother's role.

Fourth, same-sex marriage would encourage gays and lesbians to settle down with one partner. Surveys show that on average, single male gay adults have a large number of sexual partners, so legalizing same-sex marriage will encourage them to form lasting relationships, marry, and become monogamous. However, other surveys show that homosexuals in committed relationships are rarely monogamous. Dr. Martin Dannecker, a homosexual German Sexologist, said that 83% of males had numerous sexual encounters outside their partnerships over a one-year period. Dr. Dannecker observed "clear differences in the manner of sexual gratification" between single and non-single gay men that were the reverse of what he expected. Of the homosexual men in steady relationships, he wrote, "the average number of homosexual contacts per person was 115 in the past year." On the other hand, single gay men had only 45 sexual contacts.

Therefore, same-sex marriage will not make a big difference in their sex life with their partners.

Finally, gays or lesbians would not recruit other people because sexual orientation is inborn. Nevertheless, the study, based on the Census Bureau's new American Community Survey (ACS), shows a 30 percent increase in same-sex couples between 2000 and 2005, it is nearly five times the six percent growth rate of the U.S. population (Olsen par.15). These were caused by the legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts which has encouraged same-sex couples to live their lives more openly and honestly. Although gays and lesbians said that legalization of same sex marriage would not affect or recruit others, the numbers of same-sex couples has increased since the legalization in Massachusetts. Hence, the legalization of same-sex marriage should not be approved because it would affect or increase the numbers of same-sex couples.

Some people argue that they are born in a wrong body, or they have “different” mind that makes them behave differently from people with the same gender as them, and they are just willing to marry someone with the same gender and live a happy life. However, society needs to keep in mind how they used to live long time ago. For example, when I was a little boy, I was playing with other kids, and we used to joke around if one of us act or do stuff like a girl and everybody will laugh for it. Also, my parents always warned me to act like a boy if I acted softly or cried. That was what made me want to act like a man. This is what I believe to be the most important thing to be a straight guy. I know one of my friends who was very feminine when he was a child. Everybody was bullying him at school, but, as he grew up, he finally realized that he is a

male no matter what he had in his mind or soul, and he needs to accept it whether he wants it or not. Now, he lives like a normal guy, college student and he has a girlfriend. He finally realized that he is a male. Literally, there is no such rule about how a male should behave or act, but most people in society picture male as a guy, masculine, strong, protect other people, unlike female which perceived as weak, dependent, etc. However, years ago, people were not eager to admit that they were gay or lesbian because the society viewed it as something that abnormal. Notice that the number of gay and lesbian have increased in the past few years (Gary par.4). It is because the world is becoming more open and less conservative compared to decades ago. People back then who might have the emotion to be a gay or lesbian lived a regular life because they realized that it was wrong and they had no choice but to live a regular live. Therefore, same-sex marriage is not something that should be considered.

It is true that everybody has a right or freedom, but their right or freedom should not be against the tradition. Also, the same-sex couples would help orphans to get a better life by adoption, but the situation in the same-sex couple's family would create a moral declination for children. Some people argue that financial issue is the most important factor in creating a family, however there is still a lot of things in family that money cannot buy, such as; the role of father and mother. Same-sex marriage would also encourage gays and lesbians to settle down with one partner, but surveys show that homosexuals in committed relationships are rarely monogamous. And also gays or lesbians would not recruit other people because sexual orientation is inborn, but the

legalization would increase the numbers of same-sex couples. Therefore, Proposition 8, which defines marriage only between man and woman, should be enforced.

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