

Barry Clifton

RE 7395

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thirty years ago if you had told an average Connecticut resident that in 2007 their elected leaders would be contemplating a bill allowing for gay marriage, you would have been waved off as an alarmist or a space alien. Yet in this brave, new world in which we live, what was unthinkable a generation ago has come to our very doorstep. How did we get to this point?

Certainly not through science. The 1993 study which trumpeted the discovery of the so-called "gay-gene" did nothing of the sort, and even the author of the study when asked if homosexuality is rooted solely in biology, said, "Absolutely not." If science truly mattered, then we would hear more analysis of the significant physical harm risked by those who engage in same-sex behavior, particularly among males. If science truly mattered, more weight would be given to studies showing that sexual orientation is often shaped by profound, even painful environmental influences. As we learn more about the elasticity of the human brain, we also gain insight into how repeated thoughts and behaviors literally imprint themselves on the mind, to the point where the behavior comes to be perceived as inescapable, even innate or inbred. This also explains why many are able to change the direction of their sexual orientation through a variety of therapeutic methods. The process of sexual detoxification is difficult, but not impossible. All this to say, my friends, if you have come to the conclusion that the scientific book on homosexuality is closed, you could not be more mistaken. And the ambiguity of the research alone should be sufficient reason to stop here, now, today this radical and uncalled for experimentation you are considering with one of humanity's most vital institutions.

*Barry Clifton*

How did we get to this point? Certainly not through common sense either. You are like little children playing with gunpowder. You are tinkering with realities far greater than yourselves. Realities that cannot be reduced down to a sound-bite. We're told that "Love makes a family" – sounds good on a greeting card; doesn't work so smoothly though in the human heart of a 19 year old woman whose mother conceived her through a sperm bank, and now this woman is dealing with the anger and pain and confusion she's felt for so long about never having or knowing a real father. It doesn't work so smoothly in the heart of a 20 year old man I knew who jumped with both feet into the gay community of one of our large cities, and emerged three years later with AIDS. It doesn't work so smoothly in the hearts of so many teenagers who are not discovering who they are with greater sexual experimentation but becoming instead more and more sexually confused and jaded (and for whom Britney Spears is their poster child). And why? Because we have removed all the boundaries, and taken down all the street-signs, erased all the warning labels which have been handed down to us for generations, to nurture us and to protect us. And now you want to take down one of the last meaningful reference points that is left.

A politician, they say, is only concerned with the next election – or the lobby group with the biggest coffers. A statesman is concerned with the next generation. If you want to help society and help the next generation, then you need to be strengthening marriage, not redefining it out of existence.