

# American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 [www.americandecency.org](http://www.americandecency.org)

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

March 2011

## Stand for Marriage



### Marriage is God's plan

God has ordained three basic institutions: the church, the government, and the family. The family is the first and foundational institution of human society, composed of individuals related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

According to the Bible, marriage can only be the union of one man and one woman (Gen. 1:27; 2:24). It is the only proper place for sexual relations and is intended to be a life-long relationship. Also, children do best when they have a married father and mother.

While some in the culture might seek to redefine what constitutes a family, God's perspective is unchanged.

Every civilization in history is built upon the institution of marriage. The welfare of children, the propagation of the faith, the wellbeing of society,

and the orderliness of civilization are all dependent upon the stability of marriage according to the divine pattern.

### Marriage according to Jesus

Jesus was clear about the definition of marriage: "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?" So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (Matthew 19:4-6). Jesus affirmed God's plan for marriage, thus rejecting all other sexual relationships – including homosexual relationships.

### Marriage is under fire

Unfortunately, many in our culture are seeking to redefine marriage, and therefore destroy it altogether. For when the God-given pattern for marriage is undermined, the whole superstructure of society becomes unstable. Alarmed

by this growing threat to traditional marriage, a number of states have taken action.

### Marriage is being defamed in most states

While marriage has been redefined to include same-sex "marriage" in a few states, 29 states have voted for constitutional amendments preserving traditional marriage (Hawaii's amendment allows the legislature to decide). Many other states have a Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) to define marriage between one man and one woman, but these laws could be overturned by courts or altered by legislators.

### Marriage law is being abandoned by our President

President Obama's Department of Justice issued a statement that it will no longer defend the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which is a statute enacted in 1996 by overwhelming majorities in the Senate (85-14) and House (342-67) and signed into law by President Clinton.

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This law states clearly:

*[T]he word 'marriage' means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife.*

DOMA basically does two things: First, it protects each state from being forced to accept the marriage policies of any other state, particularly those states that endorse same-sex "marriage." Second, it defines marriage as only between one man and one woman for purposes of federal law.

However, President Obama "opposes DOMA and believes it should be repealed." Consequently, the President has instructed his Justice Department to no longer defend the constitutionality of DOMA in court cases involving "legally married same-sex couples." The President's failure to defend DOMA is also a failure to fulfill his

oath to "faithfully execute the office of President of the United States." What will be the next law that he will choose not to enforce or uphold?

**Please contact your U.S. Representative.**

Respectfully ask him/her to pass a resolution reaffirming the Defense of Marriage Act law and intervene for DOMA in court cases. It is time to stand for marriage!

**TAKE ACTION NOW TO PROTECT MARRIAGE**

**Action Step 1: PRAY:** We need to pray for mercy on a culture that is moving away from God's design (See Genesis 18-19).

**Action Step 2: PRACTICE:** We need to practice biblical principles for healthy marriage (See Ephesians 5:22-33).

**Action Step 3: PARTICIPATE:** We need to participate in our "government of the people, by the people, and for the people" as Abraham Lincoln described it (See Matthew 22:21).

**\* Contact Your U.S. Representative:** Your elected officials need to hear from you. No organiza-

tion speaking for you will have the same impact. Call the Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121. Or you can visit: [www.FRC.org/contact-elected-officials](http://www.FRC.org/contact-elected-officials) for contact info.

**\* Make a simple but urgent request like the following:** "Please support traditional marriage as a union of a man and a woman by passing a resolution reaffirming the Defense of Marriage Act and defending it in the courts." or "Please send President Obama a message that he should uphold the law by passing a resolution reaffirming the Defense of Marriage Act and defending it in court."

**\* Stay informed:** Visit the Family Research Council website: [www.FRC.org](http://www.FRC.org)

**Action Step 4: PROCLAIM:** We need to proclaim the promise found in 1 Corinthians 6:9b-11: "Do not be deceived: no sexually immoral people... adulterers... male prostitutes, homosexuals... will inherit God's kingdom. Some of you were like this. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." That is Good News!

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