**I’M AN EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN. AND I THINK SAME-SEX MARRIAGE SHOULD BE LEGAL.**

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Sarah Bessey, May, 2012 <http://sarahbessey.com/im-evangelical-christian-think-sex-marriage-legal/>

I live in Canada. Here, it is legal for same-sex couples to marry each other. And somehow, the apocalypse has not occurred. *Shocking, I know*.

As someone raised in a post-Christian culture, now living in a post-same-sex-marriage culture, AND as someone that is a heterosexual evangelical Christian herself, **I think that same-sex marriage should be legal –**and I think that Christians, even those that believe homosexuality to be a sin, need to back off the issue.

**From a purely pragmatic standpoint, it doesn’t affect my own life negatively.**For my friends and acquaintances that are GLBT,the ability to have a legal standing on par with heterosexual couples carries weight in every area of their lives. And **the fact that two consenting adult people love each other and are committed to one another does not devalue me, my marriage, my religion, or the society I live in.** If anything, it has created a more stable, tolerant, and accepting society.

Most of us evangelicals in Canada, regardless of personal beliefs about homosexuality, can admit that since same-sex marriage has been legalised in Canada, our society has not gone to hell in a hand basket, nor has traditional marriage, or our families been under attack. Scare tactics and wild-eyed fear-based rhetoric rarely turns out to be true.  In actual practice, our society has become “live and let live” which is actually a rather tolerant and comfortable place to be. [Tell me this sounds like an informed Christian]

**My personal definition of marriage goes beyond the government’s definition of marriage, to that of a religious sacrament**undertaken within the context of an affirming community of believers, serving as a foreshadowing or a demonstration of Christ’s love for the church.  With that in mind, I think that, in the **interest of separation of church and state,** a post-Christian or post-religious society should, in fact, be exactly that – *post-religious*.

In Europe, most of the governments do not ‘marry’ couples. Rather, they issue civil unions allowing for legal connection in matters of health, access, finances, custody and adoption etc. regardless of sex. Then, if one is religious, you go to your faith community and participate in a marriage ceremony as your tradition dictates and understands that sacrament. As long as the government is in the business of performing marriages, there is no need to discriminate.

**I don’t believe that the traditional family needs me to “defend” it in the least.** Within Christian community, family is defined liberally, crossing blood lines to include all of those within the community of believers anyway. God promises place the lonely within families. We are even cautioned against the idea of making an idol out of our familial relationships.

My marriage is the greatest relationship of my life, spiritual in every way. And my ability to have a strong marriage, that affirms God’s heart for relationships and demonstrates unconditional love is not altered by someone else’s inability or disinclination to do so. If people around me are getting divorced or having affairs or treating each other terribly, I’m still called to a Godly marriage. If people around me are in same-sex relationships, I’m still called to a Godly marriage. We raise our tinies in spirit and truth, regardless of what the world, the church, or the neighbours, are doing. Even if one believes that same-sex marriage or relationships are a sin, their existence doesn’t threaten the very existence and sanctity of your own marriage.

(Part of me also asks “*What traditional family?”* Perhaps that is a cultural ideal, but the truth is that most of us were not raised in a “traditional” two-parent, 2 kids, 1 dog home (well, I was but that’s beside the point). Whether it’s due to divorce, death, or some other circumstance, most children are not raised in 50s-television-show homes, which, from what I can tell, is what many of the staunchest “marriage defenders” are actually looking at as the ideal.) [This is real ignorance but it also makes the Family a “social construct” – something a certain type of society erects, not something from God, favorite Progressive idea]

**Finally, most arguments against same-sex marriage fail to take one thing into account: love –** and not just love between two people that wish to live their lives together. [This is hard core Emergent theology]

Rather, **we miss an opportunity to love those that are different than us, to express love to those that we even disagree with strongly, to affirm their right to make choices different than our own.** As [Nathan Albert](http://www.bobcornwall.com/2016/08/embracing-love-nathan-albert-review.html)[wrote](http://www.loveisanorientation.com/2010/forget-issue-remember-people/), we have turned it into an ‘issue’ to debate, to fear, to feel anger over and lobby. On both sides, probably with cause. [The Link on Albert is mine, showing his theology]

But we have forgotten that it is not just an issue.**It’s about people**. So when we debate an “issue” and forget that it is backed by people – imperfect, wounded, beloved people on both sides – we dehumanize each other.

It’s missing the point. The point of God, the point of Jesus, the point of the Holy Spirit is not to block same-sex legislation.  The point of Christianity is not to create a theocratic Christian society. No one is won to Love by hate or legislation.

God does not need me to defend marriage. He does not need me to block other people’s decisions. He does not need me to wade into a culture war or gang up on a minority or sow seeds of discord and fear. He does not need me to defend Him, my understanding of His best or even my way of doing life. I have much to learn.

He*has* called me to an active, all encompassing, radical love that looks beyond all things to see the value, dignity, and humanity of each person, to speak the words “**you are loved more than you could ever imagine**” to every soul. And then to try to live out that Love.

*\*This edited post originally appeared in 2010 on*[*Sarah Bessey’s blog*](http://sarahbessey.com/in-which-i-share-4-reasons-why-i-am-not/)*. It seemed like a good thing to consider these days.*