

# What every Christian must know about saving marriage with Proposition 8

## 12 surprising answers to common questions.

by Craig A. Huey, ElectionForum.org

### 1 What happened to marriage in California?

On May 15, 2008, by a 4–3 decision, the California Supreme Court voted to force “same-sex marriage” on California.

This decision overturned Proposition 22, which states that *marriage is between a man and a woman only*.

**In 2000, an overwhelming 61.4% of California voters passed Proposition 22.** And now, less than a decade later, judges on the state Supreme Court are imposing their personal beliefs in place of the will of the people.

**When a court follows its own agenda instead of the law, we call it “legislating from the bench,” or judicial activism.** Instead of abiding by the vote of the people or by an action of our elected lawmakers, activist judges dictate social policy based on their own radical political beliefs.

Because of this court decision, more than 1 million Californians signed a petition that put a special Protect Marriage Initiative called Proposition 8 on this November’s ballot. If passed, this will amend the California State Constitution to restore traditional marriage

### 2 What impact will the Court’s ruling have on American society?

This is history in the making—a case with titanic national implications. For the first time in history, marriage is being “redefined” as a civil right; this new definition will radically change our society.

**No other political decision to change American society (as we’ve known it for more than 200 years) even comes close to this one.**

This judicial activism will have a profound, negative impact on the future of marriage, the sanctity of marriage, the protection of children and freedom of religion.

The results of “same-sex-marriage” in European countries are fewer total marriages and more children born out of wedlock.

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**Starting in Genesis 1 and 2, the Bible speaks of God’s creation and His design for marriage between a man and a woman.**

Throughout civilized history, male/female marriage has sustained its design to protect children and to promote a role model for a healthy social relationship.

Simply, this court ruling pushes all of us into a sociological/political experiment that has proven a failure.

### 3 What impact is it having already?

As of June 17, 2008, marriage licenses no longer read “bride/groom,” but “party A/party B.”

Ten states asked California to delay the pending “marriage” ceremonies till after the November election. This is because they’re concerned that homosexual “couples” from their states will travel to California, get “married,” then return to their home states...demanding their out-of-state “marriage” license be legally recognized at home.

But Attorney General Jerry Brown and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger refused the states’ request. And California’s Supreme Court agreed.

This is important because now, on the November ballot, Proposition 8 will appear to be taking rights away from the people. Taking “same-sex marriage” away makes getting a yes vote much more difficult.

### 4 Is this a civil rights issue?

In the 4–3 state Supreme Court decision, the three dissenting votes rightly pointed out this is **not** a civil rights issue, it’s an issue of **choice**.

The four judges who voted for “same-sex marriage” did so based on a distorted view of “civil liberties.” That’s because they—and most of the news

media—now say homosexuality is a civil right.

Just as you can't discriminate against people based on their race, you also can't discriminate against people based on their "sexual orientation."

But is that correct?

Choosing one's personal sexual behavior isn't the same as what defines one's race.

Redesigning society based on this confusion—that a chosen sexual "orientation" is no different from the unchosen, unchangeable characteristic of race—is based on faulty and dangerous reasoning.

**There are some things we don't choose, God does.**

No one can choose his or her race or height—any more than he or she can choose any gene given by God.

Whom we enter into a dating relationship with, engage in romance with and have a sexual relationship with is voluntary—it's a matter of free will.

Homosexual behavior is a choice—not a civil right.

Race is not a choice—and is a civil right.

## 5 What really is marriage?

Marriage is the union of a man and a woman. It is the rock-solid foundation of a healthy society.

You can find its beginnings firmly planted in the Book of Genesis, and its definition as a covenant between a man and a woman is found throughout Scripture.

**For centuries, marriage has been the means for the procreation, protection and nurturing of children in a stable, healthy, home environment.**

God created men and woman differently. These differences serve a useful purpose and complement each other in the rearing of healthy, normal children.

"Redefining" marriage in any other way contradicts God's plan. Four judges are using all of us in a terrible experiment that history has proved a failure—one that threatens the foundation of our society.

God designed us so that only the sexual union of a man and a woman can create new human life and build civilization.

## 6 How will this ruling create social havoc?

The court said it meant its decision to uphold civil rights. You can count on courts applying this same "civil rights" argument to legalize:

- Polygamy
- Marriage between an adult child and his or her parent and siblings

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How do we know? Because the civil right argument has no objective standard. The Supreme Court in a footnote basically said its intent was only for same-sex marriage. But another activist decision could easily be made.

What's more, without a clear, objective standard, courts can apply the "civil rights" logic to incest and child/adult sex.

**According to California's liberal court decision, it's all about "civil rights"—not history, culture, logic, morality, tradition or what's best for the children. And certainly not about God's law.**

Homosexual "marriage" isn't about civil rights. It's about sexual preference and about the true meaning of marriage, neither of which is defined by sexual relations.

**Now, because of the court's decision based on newly created "civil rights," our religious liberty is in danger.**

## 7 Why is this a clash of worldviews?

The November 2008 election will be a historic clash of worldviews—the secular, liberal elitist worldview versus the Christian worldview.

Secularists have declared a cultural war against Christians and the Bible.

For centuries, Western Civilization has maintained public policy that protects and promotes the mother and the father as the basis of the family unit.

Laws protecting the heterosexual family stood the test of time because of their tremendous benefits to the well-being of society, family and children.

**Marriage is the institution that holds together the fundamental building block of society—the family. The future of humanity depends on whether we protect marriage and family.**

It all begins with male and female:

In Genesis we read, "God created man in His image; in the Divine image he created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them, saying: 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.'" (1:27–28)

**Our Savior Jesus Christ taught the same: "From the beginning of the creation, God made them male**

**and female. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother; and shall cleave to his wife.” (Mark 10:6-7)**

Marriage isn't merely a relationship such as a friendship or a business partnership. Nor is it merely the legalization of physical passion.

And it's not about emotional feelings of being in "love." It's mutual, total self-giving between a man and a woman for the purpose of raising a family and growing in holiness.

Marriage has proven to be the only institution that lets children grow naturally in conditions that are healthiest for their successful psychological and moral development.

## **8 How is this an attack on our religious liberties?**

Already, those who agree with the Bible that homosexuality is a sin are under attack as "intolerant" and "hateful" by Hollywood, in the media, in the schools and by politicians.

**Churches and pastors.** Watch for lawsuits to mount against churches. Look for them to be hit with costly lawsuits if they don't allow homosexual "weddings." No one may violate civil rights, and four California justices have just declared "same-sex marriage" a "civil right."

Last year in New Jersey, a lesbian couple sued the Methodist Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association after it refused, for religious reasons, to let the "couple" hold a civil union ceremony on the camp's property.

So far the camp has lost tax-exempt status on only part of its property, but the homosexual advocacy group that's threatening to appeal that ruling says it's looking for a bigger victory.

**Watch out for more Christians, Christian organizations and pastors to grow increasingly reluctant to speak out against the sin of homosexuality for fear of accusations of "hate speech," "discrimination" and violating "civil rights."**

Examples of such persecution are already taking place.

In 2008, Canadian Evangelical Pastor Stephen Boisson was banned from expressing Biblical truth about homosexuality, ordered to pay \$5,000 for damages for "pain and suffering" and to apologize to a homosexual activist.

Pastor Boisson's crime was that he wrote a letter to his local newspaper denouncing homosexual

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activism as "wicked," and stating, "Children as young as 5 and 6 years of age are being subjected to psychologically and physiologically damaging pro-homosexual literature and guidance in the public school system, all under the fraudulent guise of equal rights."

Dr. James Dobson of *Focus on the Family* has to edit references to homosexuality out of his radio broadcasts in Canada so he doesn't get prosecuted for "hate speech."

Pastor Chuck Smith of Calvary Chapel has warned all Calvary Chapel pastors that they'd better prepare for the day that they'll have to go to jail for teaching Biblical passages on homosexuality.

**Christian adoption nightmare.** Once Massachusetts courts imposed "same-sex marriage," they began to force Boston Catholic Charities to turn over innocent little children to homosexual "couples." Boston Catholic Charities refused, deciding instead to stop all adoptions!

**Church tax exemption in danger.** Why should churches remain tax-exempt if they violate "civil rights" as defined by four judges? Expect churches to lose their tax exemption unless they bow to the "gay" militants and their lawyers.

**Christian employees.** Christian photographers, wedding-cake bakers, rental agencies and other businesses—look for them to be targets of ruinous lawsuits.

In New Mexico, Elaine Huguenin, a Christian who's a professional wedding photographer, was hauled before the state's Human Rights Commission for declining to photograph a "same-sex commitment ceremony."

In April, the Commission found her guilty of violating the state's "anti-discrimination" law and ordered her to pay more than \$6,600 in attorney's fees to the two lesbians who filed the complaint.

**Christian parents and schools.** The assault on parental authority is obvious in public schools. The only other state (besides California) to "redefine" marriage is Massachusetts. There, under state law, parents cannot take their children out of classes that teach that homosexuality is moral behavior—not even young children in grade school.

## 9 What is Proposition 8 on the November ballot?

Proposition 8 on your November ballot, if passed, will add the following 14 words to California's Constitution:

**“Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid and recognized in California.”**

A majority (50% plus one) YES vote is needed to win.

If we get those 14 words in our state constitution, no court may remove them. But the opposition won't let up. “Pro-homosexual marriage” forces nationwide are descending on California to defeat this initiative.

Telemarketers, door-to-door volunteers and campaign workers across America are rallying as never before to defeat our pro-marriage initiative.

The ACLU is advising supporters of “homosexual marriage” to pool all their time and resources to defeat our California initiative rather than fight for “homosexual marriage” in their own states.

It's possible militant “homosexuals” and their backers will raise at least \$50 million to defeat Proposition 8. Right now, Proposition 8 forces hope to raise around \$15 million.

**This crucial initiative will win only if Christians statewide mobilize to support it.**

Only if pastors and other church leaders decide to be involved will we win.

## 10 How is this issue being distorted by lies and misconceptions?

When the Court's ruling came down, media hype shot up. Front-page headlines read, “A major victory for civil rights,” and “Historic win for equality and justice.”

As “same-sex marriage” licenses leave the county clerks' offices, the media report more of these “love stories,” always marching to the drum of a “civil rights” victory.

Meanwhile, citizens who want to restore marriage between a man and a woman are being called hateful, intolerant and un-American.

We're being called bigots, “homophobes” and “religious fanatics.”

**What Christians must do right now is to proclaim the truth in love.** Despite lies, distortions and misrepresentation, we can make a strong, reasoned defense of marriage no matter how much opposition comes from the media, politicians and liberal elite.

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## 11 What can we expect in the coming months?

Expect the media, politicians, various “experts” and the homosexual lobby to frame the Protect Marriage Initiative as a “civil rights” issue, not as a campaign to protect our society and kids, or to uphold the benefits and value of marriage.

Watch how the media portrays us. For instance:

- We'll be labeled as “divisive,” “intolerant” and “hateful.”
- Opposition to the sin of homosexuality will be called “bigoted.”
- Celebrities and well-known politicians will grab media attention to denounce us.
- Christian love and the Bible's truth will be distorted and questioned.
- We'll be accused of being “mean-spirited” for not letting two people who are in love get married.

**Our response must be patient, loving and focused on being pro-Biblical marriage. We must not hesitate to tell the truth about the sin of homosexuality. But the issue is being pro-marriage.**

## 12 What should our response be to homosexuality?

This historic battle is for saving traditional marriage and religious freedom in California. The issue goes beyond the debate on “same-sex marriage” to the larger issue of homosexuality.

As Christians, we must reject the media's stereotyping of us as angry and hateful towards homosexuals.

**First, we recognize we all are sinners...and each of us needs to be saved by grace through Christ's work on the cross.**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 says, “Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor

homosexual offenders, nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. 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.”

**Second, this is an opportunity for us to be a light and a hope for homosexuals. Through our words, actions and attitudes, we can be ambassadors for Christ...showing God’s compassion and love for the homosexual.**

We can help them learn that there is hope in Christ, and that He can set free those who are trapped in homosexual bondage. That God can deliver them from the homosexual sin as He has done for so many others.

It’s up to us to ensure that God’s truth and word are heard above all the noise and rhetoric.

### **What do I need to do?**

**1 Pray for Proposition 8:** This is a spiritual battle. Ephesians 6:12 says, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Without much prayer we will lose.

- **Add Proposition 8 to your daily prayer list and urge others to do the same.**
- Print this prayer request in every church bulletin between now and the election.

**2 Get the word out:** Send this update to everyone you know. Visit [www.ElectionForum.org](http://www.ElectionForum.org) to forward it to your friends, family, church members and church leaders. In November, make sure all of your family and friends vote.

**3 Ask your pastor and elders:** What are they going to do? How are they planning to (1) register voters and (2) inform their congregation? These activities are completely legal under IRS rules. They don’t involve endorsing a candidate. The pastor has a legal, constitutional right to speak freely about the facts. Visit [www.californiafamily.org/Site/church-canandcannot.asp](http://www.californiafamily.org/Site/church-canandcannot.asp) to see what churches may and may not do legally in terms of talking about the Proposition 8.

**4 Register church members so they can vote in November:** In order to vote on November 4, 2008, your voter registration must be post-marked no later than October 20, 2008. It’s completely legal—and is in fact encouraged—for churches to register members of their congregation.

- Contact us for voter registration forms and instructions.

- Contact us if you’d like someone to speak before your congregation about the Christian duty of voting and why Christians should register to vote and support Proposition 8.

**5 Encourage your pastor to speak out about the sanctity of marriage and God’s plan for marriage:** If pastors don’t promote marriage and proactively encourage their congregations to be pro-marriage, this initiative will fail. Talk to your pastor. If he wishes, we can come to your church to:

- Give a short message to encourage voting
- Deliver a full service on God’s plan and the benefits and necessity of marriage

**6 Push the politicians:** Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has vetoed every “same-sex marriage” bill that has come across his desk, saying he backed the will of the people, expressed in Proposition 22.

With this recent court ruling, he’s suddenly flip-flopped and he now publicly opposes Proposition 8.

- Pray that he’ll change his mind and support the initiative. Write him. <http://gov.ca.gov/interact#contact>. After the ruling, the Governor issued this press statement:

“I respect the court’s decision and as governor, I will uphold its ruling. Also, as I have said in the past, I will not support an amendment to the constitution that would overturn this state Supreme Court ruling.”

**Senator John McCain:** Write Senator John McCain at [senator\\_mccain@mccain.senate.gov](mailto:senator_mccain@mccain.senate.gov), and thank him for endorsing Proposition 8.

**Senator Barack Obama** is supporting the judges’ ruling, and opposes Proposition 8. But you can contact him at [info@barackobama.com](mailto:info@barackobama.com).

**7 Write letters and make phone calls:** Write letters to the newspaper and make calls to talk shows, explaining why we need to pass the Proposition 8.

**8 Contribute funds:** To offset the \$50 million media blitz, money is needed urgently. Please send the most generous amount you can today.

Your donation to support Proposition 8 will be used for the TV, radio and direct mail campaigns.

To make a secure online donation or donate by mail, visit [www.electionforum.org](http://www.electionforum.org) and click the Donate now button.

Thank you, and may God reward you richly for your sacrifice! “...the things *sent* from you [are] a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.” (Phil. 4:18)

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