

## Experts On Homosexuality Critique GLSEN's Same-Sex Marriage Curriculum

By Frank York

**D**r. Warren Throckmorton, along with co authors Dr. Gary Welton and Mike Ingram, have recently published a critical review of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network's (GLSEN) school curriculum on same-sex marriage.

GLSEN published its curriculum in 2003 as part of its ongoing efforts to create a gay-affirming climate on junior high and high school campuses. GLSEN promotes what it calls "safe schools" for homosexually-inclined teens.

In Throckmorton's introduction to this "Critical Review Of The GLSEN Same-Sex 'Marriage' Curriculum," he observes:

"Upon reviewing the GLSEN curriculum, we believe the same-sex marriage curriculum serves a political purpose much more than an educational one. If this curriculum was used in schools, no student would be safer, and indeed those students who express a traditional view of marriage would likely find themselves feeling pressure to change their perspective, or will feel their values and beliefs had been attacked."

In the Executive Summary of this analysis, Throckmorton notes:

"The curriculum was quite focused on presenting a favorable view of same-sex marriage. No opposing views were offered, nor were any such views included in the handouts or suggested teacher resources for classroom use. The curriculum frequently suggested the use of coercive methods to persuade students toward a favorable view of same-sex marriage. The curriculum authors often took liberties with the facts concerning same-sex unions. While much of the content was presented as fact, there were very few references given to support the material presented."

### Subtle Coercion Exists Throughout The Materials

The analysis of the GLSEN same-sex marriage materials

notes that in the introductory section, the GLSEN authors urge teachers to tell students they should avoid viewing homosexual marriage as either right or wrong. They are to present the issue as one of "human rights" that extends beyond morality.

Yet, while claiming to avoid issues of morality, the curriculum makes it very clear that opposing gay marriage would indeed be morally wrong. Students are taught that opposing prohibitions against same-sex marriage is akin to racism, homophobia, and "all other oppressions." (p. 7)

According to Throckmorton, "The authors force the dubious analogy between sexual orientation and race repeatedly in this document." In effect, says Throckmorton, this "... line of reasoning is to imply that those opposed to gay marriage are also racist or oppressive."

### Materials Contain Inaccurate And Misleading Information

The GLSEN materials make this inaccurate statement as fact: "Studies of same-sex partnerships indicate that these relationships function similarly to those of opposite-sex couples in terms of commitment, endurance, and mutual care and support." (p. 5)

Dr. Throckmorton points out that this statement is false. He cites the *Journal of Family Psychology* report that found that 62% of gay couples acknowledged outside affairs. By contrast, the vast majority of heterosexual relationships are monogamous. Only 11% of married individuals, according to available evidence, have violated their marital vows at some point.

Throckmorton concludes his analysis with these comments: "We have documented that the GLSEN curriculum is biased, coercive, inaccurate and misleading on many points and impractical in implementation. For these reasons, we respectfully suggest that school districts not use these materials for classroom instruction." ■

### "Getting It Straight": What the Research Shows About Homosexuality

A new 142-page book, "Getting It Straight," has just been released by Family Research Council. This publication contains many quotes from the peer-reviewed literature that relate to gay parenting, the percentage of homosexually inclined persons in the population, health risks of gay male sex, and critiques of the biological theories of causation. It is available from Family Research Council for a \$5 donation by calling FRC at (800) 225-4008.