

---

## Florida Lawyer Warns Of Societal Dangers Of Same-Sex Marriage

*Reviewed by Frank York*

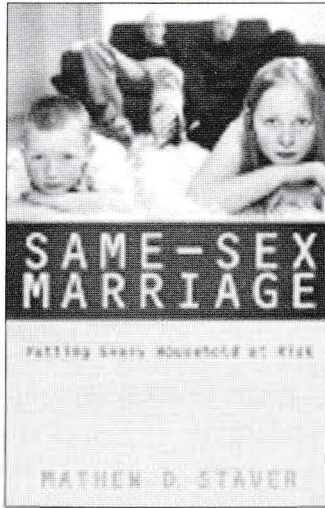
*Same-Sex Marriage: Putting Every Household At Risk* by Mathew Staver is a short, but important book. Staver, who heads the Christian law firm, Liberty Counsel in Florida, has taken a leadership role in several key legal cases involving religious freedom versus gay activism over the past few years.

In the beginning pages of his book, Staver describes his involvement in a lawsuit against San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom who began illegally issuing marriage licenses to gay couples in 2003. Staver's lawsuit was eventually upheld by the state Supreme Court and Newsom's licenses were declared illegal.

According to Staver, the battle over gay marriage is ultimately a "debate over marriage itself" and will profoundly impact the institution of marriage, children, and our entire culture—including reorientation therapists.

April 2005

Staver quotes from numerous experts on the root causes of homosexuality, including Dr. Nicolosi. He observes: "For boys, proper role models of a father and mother are critical to the development of their maleness."



Staver correctly points out that binary sex is normative and that human behavior must have sexual boundaries. "Accepting same-sex marriage requires the rejection of gender. Same-sex marriage essentially says that gender doesn't matter, that children fare just as well when raised in a single-gender household as with a mom and a dad. Of course, this is not true."

The author is especially concerned about the threat that same-sex marriage will have on the emotional development of children. He observes that "Children raised by homosexuals are more likely to engage in same-sex rela-

*continued on page 40*

tionships, and thus open themselves up for increased physical and mental health problems as well as social challenges. ... It is not in the best interest of children to place them in homes where they are more likely to become orphans or be tugged apart by frequent custody battles or placed in the midst of rotating sexual partners."

### Silencing The Opposition

In Chapter 5, Staver details the aggressive effort of homosexuals and transgender activists to get laws passed that criminalize public expressions of opposition to homosexual behavior. He describes a case he litigated in Colorado that involved Cheryl Clark, a woman who had left the homosexual lifestyle after she had become a Christian. Her ex-lover, Eley McLeod then sued for joint custody of a daughter that Clark had legally adopted on her own from China.

A judge ruled that McLeod was legally entitled to joint custody of the child and that Clark was forbidden from exposing her daughter to any literature or Bible teachings that criticized homosexuality.

In another Liberty Counsel case involving a female-to-male transgender named Margo and Linda Kantaras, a Florida judge ruled that maleness and femaleness are legal myths and that Margo had a legal right to custody of Linda's biological child after they divorced. (Linda had converted to Christianity and sought the divorce.) In addition, Linda was forbidden by the judge to expose the child to any materials that denigrated homosexuality.

Staver observes that gays are pushing for **hate crime laws** that criminalize any opposition to **homosexuality**. "It is conceivable that preaching or teaching **against homosexuality** could be prosecuted as **conspiracy to commit a hate crime**," said Staver. This could apply **not only to pastors preaching against homosexuality but would be extended to reorientation therapists as well**.

He notes that in some cities, hate crime laws **do not require** any physical contact with the individual. **Some crimes** involve simply "intimidation," "threat" or "force of threat" in order to be considered a crime. "An alleged victim could claim that he was 'intimidated' or 'threatened' in regard to his person or property, and could further claim that since he was homosexual, that this 'intimidation' or 'threat' was because of his 'sexual orientation,' and thus the prosecutor could enhance the crime by applying the **hate crimes law**." Staver sees gay activists using "the **force of law to crush** their opposition."

### A Hill Worth Dying For

Mat Staver believes the battle to **protect marriage not only** involves marriage but religious freedom and **free speech** as well. He says Christians and other **concerned citizens** "... must draw a line in the sand because **once we cross the same-sex marriage line, it will be difficult to turn back**."

---

Mathew Staver, *Same-Sex Marriage: Putting Every Household At Risk*, (Nashville, Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2004), 154 pages, \$8.99.