

# 6 Facts Giving Perspective On Marriage In America

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*(Adapted from a speech delivered on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 on the west steps of the Colorado State Capitol during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual [Pillar Project Event](#).)*

I wanted to take just a few minutes & share some thoughts with you about the pillar of traditional marriage, especially in light of last year's United States Supreme Court ruling on marriage. Someone might say, 'Hey Aaron, the Court ruled that marriage includes same-gender unions & that settles the debate, nothing can be done at this point. Aaron, what part of "supreme" don't you understand?' So, I'd like to engage that sentiment this morning by pointing out what I believe to be six critically important facts that we as Americans must understand to have proper perspective on this issue. **Fact #1** is this: Let's remember that as of October 5th, 2014, [less than 2 years ago](#), all but 19 States in our Federal Union had active laws &/or [Constitutional Amendments](#) on the books defining marriage traditionally. Prior to the Supreme Court's ruling last summer, numerous Federal Appeals Courts overturned the will of the People in these States, so that by the time the Supreme Court made its ruling last year, it could be said that [37 States & the District of Columbia](#) had already legalized same-gender marriage—this legalization was through judicial activism, it was not by the will of the People. **Fact #2:** There was an extensive [federal study](#) published in 2010, designed to appraise the research of the previous decade concerning the impact of marriage on children, which indicated that the welfare of children is best supported by their biological, traditionally-married Mom & Dad. Yes, a federal study demonstrated the fact that traditional marriage is best for children, only 6 years ago. **Fact #3:** As of March 2009, [roughly 7 years ago](#), no State in the Union had passed a statute to allow same-gender marriage except via the mechanism of judicial mandates working through various state legislatures. **Fact #4:** No nation on the planet recognized marriage as anything other than the union of a man & a

woman until [the year 2001](#), just over 15 years ago. **Fact #5:** Excluding our country, only [8.4%](#) of the [world's population](#) lives in a nation where same-gender marriage is in effect & legally recognized—the issue is far from settled even from this perspective. As of this year only [20 countries](#) besides America, out of [195 U.S.-recognized countries](#) in the world have same-gender marriage & citizens from around the world are rising up to defend marriage with huge rallies in [France](#) & [Mexico](#), some attracting [hundreds of thousands](#) of people. **Fact #6:** 159 years ago the United States Supreme Court agreed to define citizenship to [exclude those of African heritage](#), by a 7-2 majority. The Court's ruling concerning African-Americans was [overturned](#) just 11 years after it was announced via an amendment to the United States Constitution. In 2015 the Court agreed to define marriage for [324 Million Americans](#) to include same-gender unions, by a 5-4 majority.

I'd like to share a few observations about these facts. It seems to me that sitting on a certain court doesn't make persons infallible—sometimes mistakes have to be corrected. If Americans reversed one egregious decision via a Constitutional Amendment why should we think it beyond the pale to do it again? 1857's ruling had its [1868 correction](#). When will 2015's correction happen—and more importantly are you & I willing to go to work to make it happen? Let me encourage you to actively reject the idea that the authority & self-determination of “We The People” has been replaced by a branch of the Federal government. Our United States Constitution has reserved all powers not specifically granted to the Federal government [to the States & the People](#), respectively. We do have the Constitutional & God-given right to govern ourselves on the question of what marriage is & I want to strongly encourage you to support the goal of We The People reclaiming our rightful authority to govern ourselves on the question of marriage & to ask you to never stop defending the truth about marriage being the union of a man & a woman. Friends, if marriage really is the union of a man & a woman & pre-dates government itself, then same-gender marriage is a lie. It is not hate to speak this truth. Our religious leaders can love people & still believe they are wrong about same-gender marriage. No one can rightly characterize these leaders as haters, leaders who've demonstrated love to those with whom they disagree, love that is partly expressed by standing

faithfully on the teachings of their religion. In the end, we cannot base our society on a lie. Do we want our grandchildren to wake up in America to see the day when the pillar of traditional marriage crumbles to the ground because we stopped fighting to defend it?—to see it turned into a union of any gender & number of consenting individuals, which then makes the institution meaningless because it means everything & introduces things like [throuples](#), [polyamory](#) & [co-parenting](#)? For those of us thinking to ourselves that the fallout from the lie about marriage hasn't quite hit our communities yet so there is no emergency, remember that the weeds in your neighbor's yard, without some type of action, will soon be the weeds in your yard. Friends, if we care about the society that our children will grow up in, then we should care that a lie is being spread in our culture about what marriage actually is—and at the end of the day you have to ask yourself if you're okay with that. Do your convictions, do your beliefs allow that kind of passiveness when it comes to truth? We The People must incessantly advocate for the truth about marriage & ask officials at every level of government to defend & articulate the truth about marriage, something we're all doing here this morning. Most of all, we must advocate for the truth in the most powerful & undeniable of ways—in our own lives. As imperfect as they may be, we must honor our own marriages & seek to support the marriage relationship of every man & woman whose marriage we come in contact with. It is for this reason we speak against both homosexual & heterosexual behaviors that undermine the institution of marriage. Ryan T. Anderson has rightly said “government doesn't *create* marriage, government *recognizes* marriage.” Government rightfully recognizes marriage & must be in the “marriage business” because government has a legitimate & enduring interest in the well-being of children, with social science demonstrating that to the degree marriages fail in society, [children suffer](#). They do worse in school, their health suffers, they engage in more dangerous behaviors, and so on. Social science has demonstrated that to the degree marriage fails in society, the number of citizens who depend on the government for their sustenance increases proportionally. For those libertarian-minded folks out there, remember that a free citizenry cannot long survive if the majority of its citizens depend on the government rather than the strength that comes from healthy & strong marriages & the families they produce. For those who

consider themselves to be limited government aficionados, we must understand that to the degree the institution of marriage fails, limited government becomes increasingly impossible. Let's remember that America's founding principles were fundamentally a recognition that morality exists—in other words, right & wrong exist & that our public policies should reflect a national identity that is moral & right, not immoral & wrong. These principles are fundamentally moral questions that have a certain reality about them & regardless of whether a citizen happens to be secular or religious, I hope that one day we'll all see the value that these principles bring to society. Some might ask, 'Why should we insist that our government rights its misguided course on marriage? Why not accept what seems to be an irreversible national course? Why not throw in the proverbial towel?' I say the answer is simple: It is immoral for the government to tell children that either their Mom or Dad doesn't matter, that they're dispensable & replaceable & interchangeable—and this is what same-gender marriage implies in all cases & actualizes in many cases. It is immoral to allow an individual who was born with clearly identifiable male features into a women's restroom or shower where our wives, daughters & mothers are vulnerable just because that man regrettably suffers from gender dysphoria—and both of these examples are directly related to the logic that same-gender marriage itself relies upon. The State has a rational interest in reserving the recognition of marriage to something more than a relationship between adults of any gender or number and this interest presupposes the immutable nature of an individual's plainly recognizable gender at birth. Can we as Americans, especially those who claim to have God on their side, give up on what we know is true & right just because there is a devoted, talented & well-funded opposition? We must never be afraid to be in the perceived minority. As the ancient Psalmist David said, 'I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.' We must refuse to be the American generation that gave up on what marriage truly is. As the facts I mentioned beforehand demonstrate: the fight is young, the struggle is real & victory is possible. I pointed out the 6 Facts for some needed perspective but there yet remains a question for each of us: Are we willing to work as long as it takes to preserve & successfully defend this pillar of moral truth in our society, like the Americans of the Dred-Scott

era did for the truth that all men are created equal, regardless of their ethnicity? Our zeal for authentic marriage must exceed the zeal possessed by those purveying counterfeit marriage. We're all being told to give up on marriage & basically 'go home.' Our American forebears never tolerated this type of defeatism & neither should we. After the egregious 1857 U.S. Supreme Court decision a [newspaper article](#) denouncing the decision captured the essence of the determination of those who ultimately overturned this immoral decision, "Compact yourselves together for the struggle which threatens your liberty." In this moral struggle we seek to inspire our fellow citizens towards the truth about the most fundamental of human institutions: marriage—and we wish to maintain a society committed to religious liberty with the free exchange of ideas, including for those who disagree with us, and we hope that through this Constitutionally-protected process our fellow citizens will see the validity of what we stand for. As the old adage goes, where there is a will, there is a way. Our responsibility is to commit to the principle of traditional marriage & choose to defend it so that the truth about marriage will ultimately prevail in America. We have to stand together as fellow citizens in spite of our many differences. If you & I were standing next to one another & saw someone drowning in the South Platte River that winds through Denver, we wouldn't refuse to work together to save a drowning person because we didn't share the same religious beliefs or ethnicity. Well folks, our State & Nation is currently in the act of drowning & for too long we've refused to work together for the defense of these principles. As a result, our State & Nation are drowning in moral confusion. As I close, it is worth repeating & remembering: 'I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.' We must refuse to be the American generation that gave up on what marriage truly is—the fight is young, the struggle is real & victory is possible.