

### **<Same sex parents>**

Have you ever seen the wedding of the same sex? If you so, how did you feel about that? There is an article about it. More California voters now support allowing same sex marriage than oppose it, according to a new poll released Wednesday, May 28, 2008. According to the survey, many citizen of California agreed with the same sex marriage as well as homosexual love.

The same sex marriage has been accepted from Denmark to Norway, France, some states in America, Canada and etc. On the other side, homosexual love is illegality itself in Iran.

In Korea, even though the wedding of the same sex is not illegal, the legal procedure for their marriage is not possible. It means that the angle of the homosexual still depends on the view of country and society.

In the past, accepting or opposing the marriage was the only matter of homosexuality. However, nowadays, it

becomes more expand such as marriages of gay and adoption of homosexual parents.

There are many objections about homosexual and a lot of controversies about their adoptions in the society.

For example, in 2001, Seok Cheon Hong who is a Korean movie actor come out of the closet announced people that he is gay. More surprisingly, in the beginning of 2008, he adopted two children (A boy and girl) from his own relatives.

In the view of the others, there were so many concerns as well as celebration. It has brought controversy between the acceptance and the objection.

One netizen was against his adoption and said "It is wrong for the children to see their uncle who is gay being their own father, when they are in adolescence, they will be in serious confusion without knowing their own identity." On the other hand, another netizen disagreed and refuted this opinion, "Just because their father is gay, it

does not mean that his children will suffer with confusion."

I agree with the second opinion. I do not think that they will suffer confusion just because their parents are gay. I am sure that homosexual couples are able to take care of their children and bring them up.

Frankly speaking, in Korea, the marriage between homosexual couple could be unrealizable. However, although people concerned about the marriage between farm male and foreign female in the past, it has been accepted as one form of families. Thus, there are lots of possibilities that the marriage between homosexual couple could be accepted naturally in the society same as the example above.

Because I'm sure the homosexual couple has the right to be happy as same as the other couple has. In order to accept them, we should try to consider them without prejudice.

So, from now on I'd like to insist against the objection that just because he or she is a homosexual they have only a bad influence on a child. In general, there are a few prejudices which heterosexual couples have against homosexual couples.

First of all, some people argue that homosexual couples do not want long term relationship. Even if they do, they believe that the relationships of homosexuals never have long term. Therefore, they suppose that it is true that the children from the gay parents will feel definitely unstable about another same sex parents during they are in adolescence.

According to many researches, 40~60% of gay couples maintain long term relationship. Moreover, 45~85% of lesbian couples have a stable long term relationship. Another research showed that homosexual and heterosexual couples were not much difference between two relationships.

This research has proceeded for 18 years and it was about married heterosexual couples, homosexual couples, lesbian couples and living together couples. According to the research, 4% of gay couples, 6% of lesbian couples and 4% of heterosexual married couples broke up during the research. It means the rate of the duration between homosexual couples and heterosexual couples relationships were not much difference. By looking at this research, it is wrong to argue that homosexual couples cannot maintain their relationship as comparing with heterosexual couples.

Secondly, some people argue that homosexual married couples cannot perform their role as a father or a mother. Psychologists analyzed the relationship between a child and his or her mother: A child grows up with a sense of union with her mother. However, as he or she gets older, the child realizes that he or she is not the part of their mother and becomes independent themselves. At this time, it

is the father's job to teach the children about social roles. This is the reason heterosexual couples insist that same sex parents cannot play a role as good parents to their children.

However, when I heard this analysis, I wanted to ask one question to everyone "Can only a man become a father? Or can only a woman become a mother?" Then, why do we still maintain the idea that father could be man? In my opinion, it is about not only the sex but also one's ability and how he can play his role as a good father to his children. Thus, Their role are not relate to their sex. The most important thing is how they can be good parents to their children.

A psychologist named Valerie Mitchell shared her opinion about the research and said that nowadays in America, the job that a father and mother should do has been uncertain. She added that it is foolish that the

parents who feel unity with their children can not be concluded as a mother.

My point is that gay parents can raise their children with good care and love because there are no limitations of roles for being parents.

Thirdly, in general, people consider that gay couples are psychologically unhealthy because they are in unhealthy relationship therefore they say it is not possible for gays to become good parents.

In this point, you have to think about when they refer to "being unhealthy." What is unhealthy? What is normality? Can we judge others? Am I normal? Are you normal? Up to where be it abnormal? I think we do not have the right to judge other people. This is because we born in a different way from the first. Thus, in my opinion, this nonsense comes from disgust against homosexual. Moreover, heterosexuals think homosexuals are different from them.

But I have mentioned before, it is not true. From now on, many researchers are willing to prove them.

It is about studies that the emotion of lesbians and the heterosexual women were similar, their adaptation ability and the defense ability were same, and few lesbians suffered depression as well as feeling insecure compared with heterosexual women. The researchers showed that lesbians had more strong with self-support and self-confidence about themselves. Another researcher proved that lesbians have the potential to be good parents to their children.

When compared to attitude and recognition of identity as parents, the result of research showed that lesbian mothers aren't different from heterosexual mothers. According to the research, lesbians tend to be much more responsible and are more considerate about raising a child than heterosexual women.

Lastly, another misunderstanding about gay parents is that their children become homosexual as same as their parents. Therefore, some states in U.S. courts have expressed clearly that when homosexual couples get divorced, she or he is not allowed to keep the custody of the children.

I think it is not equal because one's sexual preference is not effect on others people choice to make him or her sexual preference. We cannot force anyone's emotion, definitely not influence for our children. Parents can't make their kids become homosexual or heterosexual.

As we definitely know, the sexual preference of parents does not have any influence on their children. In addition, by looking at many treatises from 1970's to 1980's and articles for 15years, the children were not gay because they were not influenced by their parents; rather, Many children from the heterosexual couples were

homosexuals. It showed that parent's sexual preference do not influence their children.

On the other hand, the children from heterosexual couples and homosexual couples were alike in conception of identity and moral judgment ability they were equal in most cases. As I have mentioned over and over again, the children from both couples are not different, they are very similar. I think the reason is that gays are also good parents.

As the points that I have mentioned above, it is obvious that we do have some prejudice and misunderstanding against homosexuality. Even though it might be natural situation because we live in the heterosexist world, I strongly think that it is a problem that these misunderstandings tend to make other discriminations.

For example, when a judge has to decide a child's custody, homosexuality is always the main reason of loosing the custody. It shows another stereotype prejudice against

homosexuals. It is wrong to discriminate others just because they are not heterosexual. Moreover, people also discriminate their children just because they have gay parents.

Though writing this essay, I realized that there is a lot of discrimination about the homosexuality. As a result, I believed that it needs to be fixed. Homosexuals are just different not wrong. They are human like us. How can we say it is wrong for them to become parents? In addition, when it is obvious that they desire to raise children and form families of their own as a human instinct.

They are special, unusual and slightly different from other people. Therefore, we need to try to treat them with compassion and love, the homosexuals also have right to raise their children as a good parent. When these ideas are generalized, the time that not only homosexuals but also alienated classes in society are protected by law must come true.

1. The Associated Press. Conflicting Polls Over Calif. Gay Marriage support 28 May 2008. CBS5 / AP

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2. Ga Heon, Yun. *Psychology of homosexuality*. Seoul:

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3. Eric, Marcus. *Coming out and 300 Q&A About gay and lesbian people*. Seoul: Park young yul, 1997.