

Culture Wars

I. What is at stake in the debate over same-sex marriage?

“With this tendency (movement toward same-sex marriage) we step outside the whole moral history of humanity... **we are facing the dissolution of the image of the human being**, whose consequences can be extremely grave.”¹ Cardinal Ratzinger, the Prefect for the Sacred Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith

II. Intellectual background that has brought us to where we are now

Impossible to believe in objective truth (outside of science)

The idea that freedom means radical autonomy: doing whatever I decide is right

These ideas in contrast to scripture:

- “Without me you can do nothing.” John 15:5
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” John 14:6

III. Changing the Fabric of Society

A. The goal of homosexual activists:

To “fight for same-sex marriage and its benefits and then, once granted, **redefine the institution of marriage completely**, to demand the right to marry not as a way of adhering to society’s moral codes but rather **to debunk a myth and radically alter an archaic institution**... The most subversive action lesbians and gay men can undertake... is **to transform the notion of ‘family’ entirely**.”²

Michael Signorile, homosexual activist and writer

“Being queer is more than setting up house, sleeping with a person of the same gender, and seeking state approval for doing so... Being queer means **pushing the parameters** of sex and sexuality, and in the process **transforming the very fabric of society**.”³ Patti Ettlbrick, former legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

B. How the goal is being achieved: a strategy of desensitization

After the Ball: How America Will Conquer its Fear and Hatred of Gays in the 90’s. Published in 1989, this book was a public relations manifesto that laid out a detailed plan for achieving acceptance of homosexuals by mainstream America. The strategy:⁴

1. Talk about the issue incessantly so Americans become jaded;
2. Focus on abstractions such as civil rights;
3. Keep attention off behavior; hide the more unsavory aspects at all costs;

4. Demonize opponents through linkage to hate groups and words such as “bigot” and “hatred” and “homophobe”;
5. Marginalize the church by creating dissent within it;
6. Steadily employ a series of laws to reduce the ability of traditionalists to fight back;
7. Paint homosexuals as victims—the ‘born that way’ message works best.

IV. The climate in the Church

The Catholic Church is now—arguably—at its weakest point in American history: its moral voice affected by the scandals.

The sex abuse scandals have produced silence and timidity. Church leaders have been shamed and cowed into silence.

A culture of dissent within the Church

V. The End Goal

The evil one is at work, and his ultimate purpose in this attack is to destroy the image of God in creation.

¹ Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Zenit*, May 17, 2004. www.zenit.org

² Leslie, T. 2004. “The Case Against Same-Sex Marriage.” *Crisis Magazine*, January 8, 2004. www.crisismagazine.com/january2004/leslie.htm

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Wolfe, C. 2000. *Same-Sex Matters: The Challenge of Homosexuality*. Spence Publishing. P. 175