

How to protect Marriage in Maine

1. Know the threat.

The organization calling themselves, “**Gay, Lesbian Advocates & Defenders**” has targeted Maine and all of New England as the place to re-define marriage to include homosexual couples. “*to secure marriage equality for all couples across New England by 2012*”. They are joined by **Equality Maine**, (Maine’s largest organization supporting the homosexual lifestyle) “*By the time the polls closed we had more than tripled our goal, identifying over 33,000 Maine voters who support marriage for same-sex couples. We’re going to deliver these postcards to legislators in Augusta.*” The “**Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry in Maine**” recently announced the support of 120 “clergy” in Maine who support same-sex marriage. These are a few of the indications. Plans are clearly underway to pursue the re-definition of marriage in Maine.

If same-sex “marriage” is legalized in Maine, we can expect to see hate crime laws expanded and more strictly enforced; children will be taught more about homosexual behavior in public schools and the proclamation of the Word of God will be restricted. Pastors, teachers and Christian business people will be required by law to recognize and approve of “gay marriage”. Confusion and deception of huge proportions will be unleashed in Maine’s culture.

God will be mocked and we will see more attempts to create a god in man’s own image. The Word of God will be officially declared irrelevant and useless.

2. Know the Process

Current Maine law limits marriage to the union of one man and one woman. **This law can be changed to include same-sex unions by a simple majority of legislators** and the signature of the governor. A court in Maine can set aside current law if it is deemed by the court to be unconstitutional. **The Maine State Legislature is expected to vote on this during the upcoming session!** This is **NOT** a ballot measure for Maine people to vote on.

The **ONLY** way to prevent the legislature or the courts from changing the law is by amending the State constitution to include a definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman. This cannot be done by petition or referendum. It can only be started by approval of two-thirds of the legislature. Then it would go to the people for approval.

3. Know the Plan to Protect Marriage

The Maine Marriage Alliance strategy is very simple, but we believe effective. It has two crucial components.

- a. **Prayer** – We don’t believe we can match the financial and organizational resources of the proponents of same-sex marriage. But we believe in the effectiveness of prayer. **This effort requires that the people of God humbly and earnestly seek His aid and blessing.**

- b. **Participation of Maine’s Spiritual Leaders** – If we are going to seek God’s aid in protecting marriage, we believe we must respect God’s own design for providing salt and light to the world. That is the Church of Jesus Christ. Marriage is God’s institution and God’s design. No other organization, however helpful they might be, can or should seek to supplant the work of the church as the conscience and the standard of righteousness for our culture. We need Maine’s pastors and spiritual leaders to stand together with courage, commitment and grace.

We are asking the leaders of the Church in Maine to prayerfully protect the institution of marriage in this way:

- a. Pray, organize prayer meetings, pray with other pastors and encourage your people to pray often.
- b. Preach biblical messages on the design and sanctity of marriage.
- c. Warn the people under your care of the threat to marriage and society.
- d. Enlist the people of your fellowship to contact local legislators as soon as possible, asking them to protect the definition of marriage.

Rather than using form letters or petition forms, we believe the most effective communication is that of local legislators hearing from their own individual constituents. We will help provide contact information for legislators in your districts if needed. Please do not let the simplicity of this method fool anyone. **It has proven to be the most effective way of persuading legislators.** *(a church we know of plans to provide paper, envelopes and stamps to people during a special service. They will be taking time during the service to write notes to their legislators. After praying together, the letters will be collected for mailing)* **There is no lobbying group or organization as powerful as a praying church taking individual action.**

- e. Be in contact with the Maine Marriage Alliance for helpful information and updates on legislative activities. The Maine Marriage Alliance is **NOT** intended to be your voice. We do want to serve you with information and as a means of facilitating communication. You are **NOT** being asked to help the Maine Marriage Alliance, but the Maine Marriage Alliance asking for the opportunity to help you.

Protecting the institution of marriage for Maine is your work.

	Maine Marriage Alliance www.MaineMarriage.net	
Concerned Women for America of Maine www.cwfa.org director@maine.cwfa.org 207-667-5476	<i>Additional resources</i> 	Maine Jeremiah Project www.MaineJeremiahProject.com mjp@midmaine.com 207-341-0341