## Marriage is For One Man, One Woman Only

Our God-given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are under assault as we prepare to celebrate this Independence Day. The devaluing of human life, marriage, and family that we see today is centered around a disordered understanding of love. Instead of love ordered towards sacrifice and self-giving for the benefit of another, we as a nation have embraced an idea of love that seeks to take from another for our own selfish needs.

Many in our society deny the existence of their Creator, embrace their own truth and live according to their self-interests. Our society encourages and teaches youth to enjoy sexual freedom while ignoring the consequences of sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, human trafficking, and violence against women and children. Some exalt the supremacy of the environment while polluting and desecrating the environment of the womb. While seeking to deny natural law and the complimentary nature of men and women, some have preferred to extol the idea of a malleable sex and gender. The absence of a mother or father in a child's life used to be viewed as a sad reality for too many children but now a purposeful and permanent separation of a child from a mother or father is declared healthy and engraved in law.

Those who believe their inherent rights to life and freedom come from God believe that no government entity has the right to usurp the divine law. They embrace God's law as truth and work to strengthen respect for all human life regardless of convenience or sacrifice. Many seek to honor the gift of sexuality within marriage and acknowledge the value of motherhood and fatherhood for children and our society. They join together to promote chastity and self-dignity for our youth. An unwavering faith that we are created in the image and likeness of God, provides strength for many to persevere and illuminate the darkness of injustice with God's love. In order to protect the well-being of future generations, let us pray that hearts will be inspired to seek truth and selflessness.

By loving all unconditionally, not just those who meet our needs or are easy to embrace, we can rebuild a nation where we live the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness given to us by God.

If we fail this ideal and love others based on self-interests, blind to the needs and rights of the most vulnerable and weakest among us, then we will have built a fractured nation based on death, tyranny, and the pursuit of pleasure.

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