
50% of all marriages end in divorce.

Are gay people sure about this whole getting married thing?

Before you get married, please be sure you want to. Planning a wedding can be a nightmare. Paying for it isn't much fun either. Then, you return from your honeymoon and move in together. That's when one of you throws dirty clothes on the floor and, for the first little while, the other one of you picks them up. Key words in the last sentence: first little while. And then you go to the bank one day only to discover the \$4.32 balance in your shared bank account. Needless to say, marriage has its moments.

YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED? LET'S SEE SOME HETEROSEXUAL I.D.

Until very recently, the definition of marriage was 'the lawful union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others.' That definition came to us straight from 19th century England. Before you reach for your abacus, that's 138 years ago. Perhaps it goes without saying, but the definition of marriage was in desperate need of a facelift.

THE RELIGION OF HOMOPHOBIA

Let's state the obvious: Religious groups, for the most part, aren't a homosexual's biggest fan. But not because of sexual orientation. Back when the belief systems of the world's religions were being set up, homosexuality was considered a problem because of a gay couple's inability to reproduce. The world needed to be populated and since in-vitro was still a

few thousand years away, gay people weren't much help. So marriage needed to be hetero. No argument there.

But the world has come a long way from needing a population. Society has evolved. Religion should too. With that said, don't expect to see the Pope on a float at next year's Pride Parade.

"I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND HUSBAND."

Sounds strange. No one's denying that. Mostly because change, in particular this one, takes some getting used to. Two provincial courts have already acknowledged this need for change. Ontario and British Columbia have taken the first critical steps in reshaping our country's definition of marriage.

And now the folks on Parliament Hill want to make this definition a statute for the first time in our country's history. It would read 'Marriage, for civil purposes, is the lawful union of two persons to the exclusion of all others.' With this basic human right granted, now all a gay person has to do is learn how to deal with a mother-in-law.

GAY RIGHTS HAVE COME A LONG-ISH WAY

The law has done its part. And over the course of the next year, Parliament will too. As for you, if you already support same sex marriage, talk about it to anyone you can. Or, spend some time at equalmarriage.ca and www.pflag.ca for more information.

Equal Marriage
For same-sex couples

PFLAG CANADA
Parents Families Friends
of Lesbians and Gays