

## What God Has Joined Together?

*by David G. Meyers & Letha Dawson Scanzoni*

“Because marriage is inherently healthy, same-sex marriage will be healthier than its less permanent alternatives.”

These authors are both active, long-term Christian advocates of the committed relationship of marriage. In *What God Has Joined Together* they call for a calm, reasonable discussion of the benefits to all that could derive from accepting same-sex marriage. They point out that the **only** difference between opposite-sex and same-sex marriage is the sex of the participants. Every other characteristic is identical.

Marriage is interdependence, both economic and sexual, publicly affirmed by a public contract. This contract may be confirmed by a church, a court, or other public ceremony. The public commitment between the two parties provides strength and stability to the relationship.

The social sciences find that children raised in two-parent households – opposite-sex or same-sex – are generally healthier, happier, and more successful than those raised in single-parent households. Studies also show that children fare better where these parents are in a formal, committed, long-term relationship; i.e., marriage.

Rather than singling out special groups that “should not be allowed to marry,” Christians and other conservatives should be supporting marriage as the best partnership under God’s and civil law. Accepting same-sex marriage will strengthen rather than dilute marriage and the social and legal benefits that derive from it.

Arguments both for and against same-sex marriage are provided and evaluated. The authors feel that arguments for accepting same-sex marriage are stronger than those against. Where parties to the discussion are open-minded, they believe there is a real possibility of coming to acceptance of same-sex marriage.

*Reviewed by Dave Parker*