



Direct Answers from Wayne & Tamara Equally Yoked

I am in an arranged marriage. My husband did not want to marry me because I am not beautiful, but his father forced him. Since the marriage, my husband treats me like a family member in the household, not as his wife.

He is a good person, but he is not in love with me. He has sex with me because I want it. We have a daughter. I am a nonworking woman, so I can't think of leaving my husband. But in this relationship, I can't live also.

I don't know what to do. My parents do not support me. Please give me a solution.

Dhriti

Dhriti, someone said a problem without a solution is not a problem. It's a fact. People cannot live decades without having someone who loves them. That's a fact and it goes for both of you. But we are getting ahead of ourselves.

Other than him falling in love with you, you have boxed us out of all solutions. You say you cannot leave because you don't work and cannot change your parents' minds. Yet you want to change your husband's mind and make him feel the most intimate emotion toward you.

You can't have it both ways. In arguing that you cannot change your parents' minds, you must admit you cannot change his mind.

Only changed circumstances allow for answers to your problem. You are a nonworking woman. Change that if you can. Whether it means getting a job, or getting a skill and more education so you can get a job, work toward that.

Your parents don't support you. Show them your point of view. Perhaps tell them, "If I gain skills and get a job, will you support me if I end this marriage?" Finally, there is your husband. In what will he support you? In what can you be cocreators?

If he loved you, you would be okay with the marriage. But you would not be okay if he was nasty or mean. Then you would tell us, "I don't love this guy, and they forced me to marry him." That's your husband's situation. The most one can expect in a forced marriage is, long years down the road, the other party comes to a grudging acceptance. The worst is they loathe what life has done to them.

Your actual question is, how do I make my husband fall in love with me?

Search the internet and you will find countless "scientific" ways to make this happen. But the literature on making someone fall in love with you shares one characteristic. It's drivel. It follows this form: people in love do these things; if you do these things, you will be in love.

That's like saying, zebras have stripes. If you had stripes, you would be a zebra. Here's a bucket of paint.

We know of no way to turn this into a Bollywood love story of two people drawn together by kismet. Neither of you will be able to live without love. If either of you cheats, it will only make matters worse.

What you feel now is a comeuppance for going along with this arranged marriage. Arranged marriages are often done to a third party's gain, and only they profit by it. This son was forced to marry you for a reason that benefited his father.

Either you have a problem with a difficult solution, or you have a problem without a solution, which is a fact. Which will it be?

Wayne & Tamara

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RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINT CENSORED

BOSTON, MA - U.S. District Judge Denise Casper denied a request to display the Christian flag in a public forum. Boston resident Hal Shurtleff and his civic organization, Camp Constitution, requested to fly the Christian flag in the city's public forum during an event celebrating the Constitution in September.

The city regularly extends civic and cultural organizations the opportunity to raise their flags on one of the city hall flagpoles to commemorate whatever events are important to the organizations. The city's application policy refers to the flagpoles as a "public forum."

The city's written permit guidelines promise the public "to accommodate all applicants seeking to take advantage of the city of Boston's public forums," referring to the flag pole as a "public forum." However, the city admitted in a court filing that government officials consider the message of the applicant and, based on that unwritten policy, will only permit non-religious messages.

This city has allowed a wide array of messages by private individuals and groups but denied a flag containing a Latin cross that Camp Constitution requested to raise during its event celebrating the Constitution and highlighting the religious views of the Founding Fathers.

The district court acknowledged the exclusion of the flag was content-based censorship and that the city historically allowed a wide array of private speech, but the judge denied the preliminary injunction. And, despite the fact that the city's policy refers to the flagpole as a "public forum," the opinion makes no mention of this critical fact. Liberty Counsel is appealing this ruling.

"Today's ruling disregards the evidence that the city of Boston treats its flagpole as a public forum for all applicants except when it comes to a religious viewpoint," said Roger Gannam, Assistant Vice President of Legal Affairs. "The Constitution does not allow the city to treat Camp Constitution and other Christian organizations differently from all others who are allowed to raise their flags for important events," said Gannam.



CA Counseling Ban is Dead

SACRAMENTO- Liberty Counsel celebrates that the dangerous California AB 2943 bill is dead. This horrendous bill would have established government-enforced censorship of counselors who wanted to provide and consenting adults who wanted to receive talk therapy for unwanted same-sex attractions, behavior, or gender confusion. It also tried to ban sales of printed materials and books expressing the viewpoint that unwanted same-sex attractions or gender confusion can be reduced or eliminated.

The author of the bill, assembly member Evan Low, withdrew AB 2943, today being the last day of the legislative session. Low said: "I knew this was an emotionally charged issue, so I spent the past few months traveling up and down the state meeting with a wide variety of faith leaders."

"The dangerous bill that would ban counsel and even portions of the Bible is dead," said Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel.

Adults with unwanted same-sex attractions or who struggle with unwanted gender behaviors or confusion may continue to receive counsel in California. Victims of sexual abuse can continue to choose professional counseling help if they develop (as often happens) unwanted urges to engage in same-sex behavior or if they become gender confused and want to explore the possibility of change. AB 2943 was not in the best interest of counseling clients and was ideologically driven. If the bill had passed, Liberty Counsel was prepared to file a lawsuit regarding its significant constitutional violations.

"Our lawsuit was ready to file. We were prepared to challenge this unconstitutional and dangerous bill if it passed. Thank God, this bill is now dead," said Staver.

This bill could have been used to ban the Bible, which directs people to trust in Jesus Christ to help them overcome unwanted same-sex attraction or gender confusion. Even a reference to portions of Scripture could be banned if used to support or promote change. For example, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 specifically refers to "men who practice homosexuality," and then states, "such were some of you," clearly indicating that through a relationship with Jesus Christ there is hope for change in this area and every other area that conflicts with God's design for each person.

Liberty Counsel's client, Christopher H. Rosik, Ph.D. has been a licensed clinical psychologist practicing in Fresno, California for 30 years. He is also a professor at Fresno Pacific University and has published his views on same-sex attraction and the Christian faith in more than 50 books or peer-reviewed journals. Approximately 10 percent of his clients struggle with same-sex attractions, and they often complain of conflict or dissonance between their same-sex attractions or behaviors and their moral or religious beliefs.

Dr. Rosik's experience demonstrates that sharing his faith-based worldview, along with mainstream psychological talk therapies, can be effective. Some of his clients specifically sought out a therapist who is a member of their faith community because they believe their values regarding same-sex attractions and behaviors will be respected and not labeled as "homophobic" or otherwise misguided or maligned. Now Dr. Rosik can continue to share his professional views that his clients want to hear without fear of punishment.

"I am glad that California legislators recognize the many people, including our Liberty Counsel clients, have personal experience with changing their unwanted same sex attraction and others who have professionally helped their clients to change, reduce, or eliminate same-sex attractions," said Staver. "It is not the role of the government to intrude into the counseling clinic and dictate what a client should want! AB 2943 tried to control the private conversation between counselor and client, yet the implications of it reach far beyond silencing certain counseling. This bill substituted the government's whim for personal choice. It sought to silence and censor the Bible's message of hope and change regarding unwanted same-sex attraction. It was best that the California legislature defeated this blatantly unconstitutional assault on free speech and the freedom to choose counseling that will help people in need," said Staver.

Liberty Counsel also represents Walter Heyer who provides products and services to residents in California via a website, telephone communications, and conferences or seminars. Heyer struggled with gender confusion and had "gender reassignment" surgery at the recommendation of Paul Walker, Ph.D., the chairman of the committee that drafted the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care and who served as the founding president for the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association from 1979-1981, now referred to as the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

Heyer later became a Christian. He greatly benefited from counseling, and his gender dysphoria is resolved. Now he embraces that God created him as a biological man, and he provides advice and resources to people struggling with gender dysphoria. Heyer has written several books which address gender dysphoria and dissociative disorders from a faith perspective, speaks at conferences, and has thousands of visitors to his website, including many from California. This bill would have subjected him to potential liability for merely speaking, writing, or otherwise advising Californians who seek his advice about gender dysphoria to help themselves or family members.

In addition to banning therapeutic counseling regarding unwanted same-sex attractions or gender confusion, this bill tried to make "advertising, offering to engage in, or engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with an individual" a fraudulent business practice. This bill was written with such broad and ambiguous language that it would have been impossible for Dr. Rosik and his clients to determine whether their conversation or language during counseling sessions is illegal.

In addition, Liberty Counsel represents Alliance for Therapeutic Choice and Scientific Integrity, a nonprofit professional organization that provides referrals, sponsors conferences, publishes peer-reviewed research, and offers scholarships to students. It also represents the American College of Pediatricians, a national organization of pediatricians and other healthcare professionals dedicated to the health and well-being of children, including those in California.

Denise Shick, another client of Liberty Counsel, is an ordained minister with degrees in psychology and community and human services and has written several books. Shick is founder and executive director of Help 4 Families, a Christian ministry that compassionately provides emotional and spiritual support for family members, including those in California, of loved ones dealing with gender confusion. Help 4 Families offers prayer, spiritual counseling, resource materials, seminars, retreats, and referrals for professional counseling.

This California bill ignored studies, including the Effects of Therapy on Religious Men Who Have Unwanted Same-Sex Attraction, that confirm that talk therapy is quite effective. This particular study shows the overwhelming effectiveness of people receiving counseling to reduce or eliminate their unwanted same-sex attractions, behaviors, or identity.

More than two-thirds of those who participated had significant heterosexual shifts in sexual attraction, sexual identity, and behavior. They also experienced moderate-to-marked decreases in suicidality, depression, substance abuse, and increases in social functioning and self-esteem.