



Written by [Dave Bohon](#) on December 17, 2013

The Associated Press reported that a spokesman for the Mormon Church (LDS) “said its members do not practice polygamy, and polygamist organizations have no affiliation with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints despite the fact the term ‘Mormon’ is ‘sometimes misleadingly applied to them.’”

Attorney Jonathan Turley, who represented Brown and his “wives” in the federal court, told reporters that “homosexuals and polygamists do have a common interest: the right to be left alone as consenting adults. There is no spectrum of private consensual relations — there is just a right of privacy that protects all people so long as they do not harm others.”

Brown released a statement applauding the ruling, saying that “while we know that many people do not approve of plural families, it is our family and based on our beliefs. Just as we respect the personal and religious choices of other families, we hope that in time all of our neighbors and fellow citizens will come to respect our own choices as part of this wonderful country of different faiths and beliefs.”

Among those decrying the ruling was Russell Moore of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, who told the press: “This is what happens when marriage becomes about the emotional and sexual wants of adults, divorced from the needs of children for a mother and a father committed to each other for life. Polygamy was outlawed in this country because it was demonstrated, again and again, to hurt women and children. Sadly, when marriage is elastic enough to mean anything, in due time it comes to mean nothing.”

Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council noted that “same-sex marriage advocates have told us people ought to be able to ‘marry who they love,’ but have also always downplayed the idea that this would lead to legalized polygamy, a practice that very often victimizes women and children. But if love and mutual consent become the definition of what the boundaries of marriage are, can we as a society any longer even define marriage coherently?”

Matt Staver of the conservative pro-family legal group Liberty Counsel said that he and other champions of traditional marriage “have warned of this slippery slope” in their efforts to stop the legalization of same-sex “marriage.” “If marriage is deconstructed to include people of the same sex, then there is no logical or legal argument to ban polygamy or polyamory,” he said. “Same-sex marriage is the abolition of marriage and will destroy the most basic foundation of family and civil society.”

Noting that marriage predates government and civil authorities, Staver challenged that right of legislative bodies or courts to redefine its parameters. “Marriage was not created by religion or government and is ontologically a union of one man and one woman,” he said. “Deconstructing marriage will hurt children and society.”



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