

Themed Reflection – Gay Marriage

Child: Mum, why aren't you going to John's parents' wedding?

Mother: Well – it's overseas.

Child: Why?

Mother: They're not allowed to get married in Australia because they're gay.

Child: Why does it matter?

Mother: It's just wrong. Marriage is about a man and a woman. Bringing up children is about a man and a woman.

Child: But we don't have a dad around.

Mother: You know your father wasn't a good person, sweetheart.

Child: But John's dad's both love him. They go to all his soccer games. Mine doesn't.

Mother: Okay, love is important.

Child: So it was alright for you to marry dad even though he got angry all the time and threatened you?

Mother: No, but –

Child: So what does marriage mean, mum? Look – on Wikipedia it says it means a legal contract between spouses.

Mother: Marriage is a sacred thing, honey.

Child: Your marriage didn't last though. John said his parents have been together for fifteen years.

Mother: Well, I'm sure they're very happy then.

Child: But they shouldn't be allowed to get married? Even if they're happy?

Mother: It's not that simple.

Child: But just because they're gay doesn't mean they won't love each other any less. You and dad could get married, but you didn't love each other in the end.

Mother: It's also about the church. Marriage is in a church.

Child: Oh Mum, please! Who do we know that got married in a church? You said that you and dad got married in Nan's backyard.

Mother: We didn't have money. And gays just choose to be different.

Child: What, like you 'chose' to fall in love with a man. A man who didn't love us.

Mother: But that's just normal.

Child: Okay. *That's* normal. But John has two dads, they love each other after fifteen years, they are good parents, they do all the things parents are supposed to do for their kids. But because they are both male, we say that is not 'normal' and they can't get married? Funny sort of normal we have today, mum.