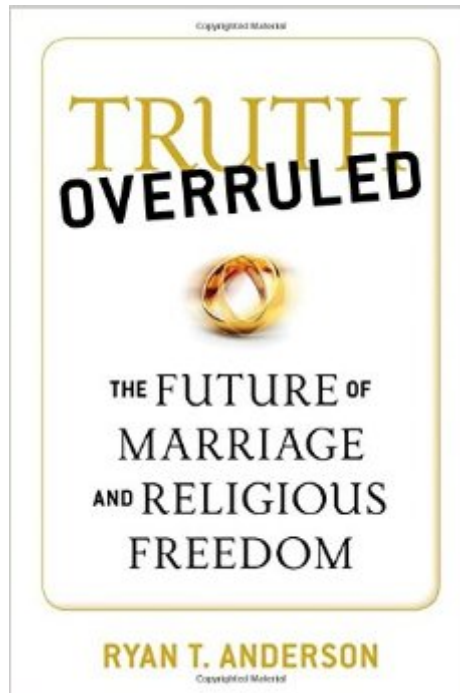


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# Truth Overruled: The Future Of Marriage And Religious Freedom



## Synopsis

The Supreme Court has issued a decision, but that doesn't end the debate. Now that the Supreme Court has ruled, Americans face momentous debates about the nature of marriage and religious liberty. Because the Court has redefined marriage in all 50 states, we have to energetically protect our freedom to live according to conscience and faith as we work to rebuild a strong marriage culture. In the first book to respond to the Supreme Court's decision on same-sex marriage, Ryan Anderson draws on the best philosophy and social science to explain what marriage is, why it matters for public policy, and the consequences of its legal redefinition. Attacks on religious liberty--predicated on the bogus equation of opposition to same-sex marriage with racism--have already begun, and modest efforts in Indiana and other states to protect believers' rights have met with hysterics from media and corporate elites. Anderson tells the stories of innocent citizens who have been coerced and penalized by the government and offers a strategy to protect the natural right of religious liberty. Anderson reports on the latest research on same-sex parenting, filling it out with the testimony of children raised by gays and lesbians. He closes with a comprehensive roadmap on how to rebuild a culture of marriage, with work to be done by everyone. The nation's leading defender of marriage in the media and on university campuses, Ryan Anderson has produced the must-read manual on where to go from here. There are reasonable and compelling arguments for the truth about marriage, but too many of our neighbors haven't heard them. Truth is never on "the wrong side of history," but we have to make the case. We will decide which side of history we are on.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

While political maneuvering and judicial activism can achieve much in the short term, truth always wins out in the long term. Marriage always has been and always will be a covenant between one man and one woman as the basis for family and society. Ryan Anderson does a terrific job of exposing the lies of those who want to redefine marriage as well as issues an excellent call to those who would stand on the side of truth to stand up and be heard through intelligent arguments, persistence, and modeling. Read this book if you want to help our wounded nation!

Ryan T. Anderson's *Truth Overruled* is an excellent traditionalist response to the same sex marriage (SSM) issue. While Anderson does a great job explaining why the Court's recent decision was deplorable, this book is not just a screed against the revisionist view of marriage. It also builds a positive case for the venerable natural law understanding of marriage, and it outlines some positive steps traditionalists can take to build a counter-cultural movement. Chapter 1: *Men, Women and Children: The Truth About Marriage*, lays out the basic natural law case for the traditional definition of marriage. As Anderson points out, everyone favors marriage equality. The real issue is the definition of marriage itself. The natural law tradition argues that men and women are different, that their sexual organs are naturally ordered toward reproduction, and that the same act of reproduction is also unitive. All of this points to a relationship that is mutual, permanent, exclusive, ordered toward raising children. In short - the traditional view of marriage (the "conjugal view" as Anderson calls it). None of this argumentation is inherently religious, much less Catholic, as many of the trolls who claimed to be reviewing the book have argued. These arguments trace back to Aristotle, who was a pagan (in the best sense of that word!), and are shared by a broad cross-section of thinkers. If you have read Anderson's previously co-authored work with Girgis and George (*What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense*) this is very familiar territory. Chapter 2: *The Consequences of Redefining Marriage*, argues that once the definition of marriage is cut loose from the moorings of male/female sexual complementarity, marriage is reduced to nothing more than contract law. And since any number of adults can enter contracts for any number of reasons on the basis of consent, there is no principled reason marriage should be limited to TWO consenting adults. Chapter 3: *Judicial Tyranny*, analyzes the Obergefell decision. Justice Kennedy's reliance on substantive due process and sentimentality are embarrassing, and Anderson exposes his decision for its irrationality, and highlights the criticisms

leveled in the dissents. Chapter 4: "Bake Me a Cake, Bigot!" deals with the chilling effect that SSM advocacy has had on the free exercise of religion. As Anderson points out, no supplier of services like wedding cakes or photography has refused to do business with gay people. But what they have refused to do is cater events which would - in their conscience - be tantamount to using their talents to support an event that is against their religious beliefs. No one would expect a Jewish baker to be forced to cater a neo-Nazi rally, though that baker may do business with people who have anti-semitic beliefs. Chapter 5: Religious Freedom: a Basic Human Right, discusses the natural law basis of religious freedom and the effort to preserve this right with legislative "religious freedom restoration acts". Anderson discusses the recent hysterical response to the Indiana law in particular. Chapter 6: Anti-discrimination Law: Why Sexual Orientation Is Not Like Race, discusses the intended and unintended consequences of various sexual orientation and gender identity laws. Anderson also discusses why interracial marriage is not a parallel issue to SSM. Through thousands of years of reflection of marriage, it was commonly understood that marriage was an inherently male/female union, but it was not until Maryland passed anti miscegenation laws in 1661 that any political order defined marriage in racial terms. Chapter 7: The Victims, turns attention to the social science question of whether children are just as well off in same-sex households as they are raised by biological parents. Anderson weighs the various studies that have been done on this deeply complex issue. Chapter 8: Building a Movement, outlines the various fronts in which traditionalists need to press the case for marriage: in the arts, in law, in institutional religion, in academia. Chapter 9: The Long View, offers hope that just as the current popular sentiment in favor of SSM took a long time to materialize, that given enough time traditionalists can win the fight for people's hearts. This was the one section of the book where Anderson did speak from an explicitly Christian point of view. This is an excellent work. Anderson's tone is irenic, and his arguments are earnestly logical. The greatest tribute to the quality of his work is the ridiculous number of one-star reviews by people who have obviously not even read the work. Their ad hominem attacks on Anderson and their failure to engage the substance of the issue will do the traditionalist cause far more good than harm to anyone who might be undecided and impartial. So thank you, trolls!

Truthful, intelligent, well written. A cogent defense of traditional marriage. You be your own judge. Don't just take my word for it. Read the book. You will not be disappointed.

Fantastic. Thank you. I am inspired.

I bought this book after hearing about the anti-Ryan Anderson campaign and all the one star reviews on . Interestingly, most of the 1 star reviews appear to have been spawned by the same sort of bigotry and hatred for which Ryan Anderson stands accused. I'm thankful that there are people like Ryan Anderson who are willing to subjugate themselves to the intense, hateful criticism of the pro-gay marriage crowd, people who, at every turn, rather than engage in debate, resort to name-calling and personal attacks. This book is a thoughtful and persuasive analysis of the Supreme Court decision, as well as a defense of traditional marriage that any American would benefit from reading, wherever you stand on the issue of gay marriage.

Ryan T. Anderson has given us a great gift in *Truth Overruled*. It is a civil roadmap forward. There have been many casualties of the sexual revolution and changing laws would only have this continue. Ryan didn't invent the way to something better, but he maps it out for our current moment clearly, accessibly, and with hope and charity. Consider giving it a read.

Excellent. Truth-tellers are never embraced by a culture that denies truth. Expect Anderson to be opposed vehemently.

The debate over same-sex marriage is far from over. In fact, it is just beginning. Just as the Supreme Court ruling in *Roe v. Wade* didn't stop the abortion debate but actually intensified it, we can expect the same to happen in the wake of *Obergefell*, a decision which, like *Roe*, is pure judicial activism, without the slightest constitutional basis. Anderson offers an amazingly clear and broadly accessible argument, backed by abundant evidence, to show that defining marriage in law as a lifelong and exclusive union of one man and one woman is crucial for the health of our society, especially for children. And he shows that this position has absolutely nothing to do with bigotry, prejudice or animus of any kind toward those who identify as gay or lesbian. As he writes, "It is not bigotry but compassion and common sense to insist on laws and public policies that maximize the likelihood that children will grow up with a mom and a dad." This book is a must read for anyone who cares about the future of our nation, and who wants to make sure that we retain the freedom to think, speak, conduct business, and raise our children in accordance with the belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman.

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