

## **The Non-Traditional Family and Adoption**

In spite of proliferating alternative definitions of the family, CMDA supports the Biblical model of the traditional family--an exclusive, committed, lifelong union of a man and woman living in an integral loving relationship with or without biological or adopted children.\* Most current scientific studies\*\* affirm that the Biblical model provides the optimal environment for the health of children, family, and society.

We believe the unique contributions of both father and mother are important for wholesome child development. However in our fallen world there are many wounded families in which one partner is absent. We encourage the Church to fulfill its Biblical mandate to support single parents in providing a nurturing environment for their children. In a situation of remarriage, it is possible to re-approximate the Biblical model for the family.

Adoption is an act of love that provides a beneficial environment for a child and reflects God's act of love in adopting us into His family. CMDA enthusiastically encourages and supports adoption of children or frozen embryos into the traditional family. In addition, there may be circumstances in which a single person\*\*\*, while not meeting the optimal Biblical model of the family, might adopt a child and provide a loving and nurturing environment that would outweigh the potential difficulties inherent in this situation. CMDA does not support adoption into family models other than these.

Advancements in reproductive technology have likewise created complex ethical issues. CMDA believes it is morally inappropriate to use reproductive technologies\*\*\*\* to produce children outside the boundaries of the traditional Biblical family model.

\*The following alternative family forms do not meet this Biblical model: Same-sex couples, Domestic partners, Polygamy, Polyandry, Incestuous unions, Open marriages, and the like.

\*\* See Annotations. See Standards for Life – Annotations for Homosexuality Statement

\*\*\*A single person living according to Biblical standards. See Standards for Life: Human Sexuality, and Homosexuality.

\*\*\*\*See Ethics Statement: Artificial Reproductive Technologies.

*Approved by the House of Representatives June 11, 2004 unanimously.*