

STANDARD INTRODUCTION

The ongoing debate over civil unions and same-sex marriage often generates more heat than light. Yet the debate cannot be ignored, as legislators and voters around the country grapple with whether and how to recognize same-sex relationships. [Tonight/today] we are pleased to welcome John Corvino and Glenn Stanton, two leading and opposing voices on this important subject.

Dr. Corvino, who holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Texas, teaches ethics at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. He is the editor of *Same Sex: Debating the Ethics, Science, and Culture of Homosexuality* and the author of numerous articles on sexuality and ethics. He is also known as “The Gay Moralist,” a weekly columnist for 365gay.com.

Mr. Stanton is the director of family formation studies at Focus on the Family in Colorado. He is also directing a major research project of global family formation trends with the Institute for Marriage and Family in Ottawa. He has authored or contributed to 10 books, including *Why Marriage Matters: Reasons to Believe in Marriage in a Postmodern Society* and *Marriage on Trial: The Case Against Same-Sex Marriage and Parenting*.

Our format for the debate will be as follows.

Corvino and Stanton will each present an opening statement. Each will then have time to respond to the other’s comments. We will then open the floor for questions from the audience. In order to ensure a productive dialogue, we ask that you keep your questions focused, courteous, and brief.

While Corvino and Stanton disagree on many issues, they share a commitment to reasoned, civil dialogue. To that end, they ask all audience members to join them in setting a tone of mutual respect throughout the discussion.

We will begin with opening comments from Corvino. Please join me in welcoming them both.