Bryanna Houze

The Fight for the Right

Only a decade ago, there were no states within the U.S. in which same-sex marriage was legal. Currently, there are nine states in which same-sex marriage is legalized; however, the other forty-one seem unlikely to adopt the same policies unless forced to do so by the country’s leaders. This issue has caused an ethical debate. Those who support same-sex marriage view its legalization as a right, but those who oppose the legalization of same-sex marriage view it as an abomination and a blemish in the eye of their religion. The legalization of same-sex marriage is becoming a very heated controversy. From Facebook to the magazines, the issue is plastered everywhere.

Recently, the issue of same-sex marriage has been rapidly on the rise. In March 2013, a Facebook trend went viral; followers of this movement set their Facebook profile pictures to red equal signs. The image was meant to represent marriage equality, but instead, it created a chain of arguments and debates. The supporters, or those who want same-sex marriage to be legalized see this as a right. In their eyes, their right to marry who they love should not be taken away. While there are many out there who agree with that and fight to give same-sex couples those rights, there are also others out there who are strongly opposed to the legalization of same-sex marriage. Those who oppose the legalization argue that same-sex marriage is unnatural and does not uphold the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman; furthermore, they argue that the marriage is not traditional nor accepted by their religion. Although there are followers of both sides, the power to legalize same-sex marriage does not lie with the followers- it lies with the leaders of the country.

Many argue that not legalizing same-sex marriage is an infringement upon the rights of homosexuals; in fact, in the U.S. Constitution, the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment states that,” No state shall. . . deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws,” which includes the protection of the right to marry. Those determined to witness the legalization of same-sex marriage argue that the government is practicing “unfair discrimination.” On the other hand, there are those who do not support the legalization of same-sex marriage. They may oppose for a variety of reasons; the two most common reasons people oppose gay-marriage legalization are their religious beliefs and traditional practices of marriage. Many religions say that homosexuality is against their religion, therefore, they oppose the legalization. Others claim that the sanctity of marriage is at risk when the government allows same-sex marriages, and when children are involved, they feel that the tradition mother and father figures are not fulfilled by a same-sex couple. It is very clear that the issue of same-sex marriage is a huge controversy, and it is no secret that everyone has their own opinions.

President Barack Obama and other Democratic Party leaders are winning over the hearts of gay-marriage supporters. President Obama stated, “Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law, for if we are created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well.” With promises like these, President Obama should be taking some initiative to see that his promise is fulfilled, and that is why many of the supporters are so pumped for the future of their right. Even though President Obama has made these statements, it is very unlikely that all fifty states will go through with the legalization of same-sex marriage. The future of the legalization of same-sex marriages is iffy; the only thing that is certain is that the movement is growing and it has become a worldwide phenomenon.

In closing, the future of the same-sex marriage revolution is unclear, but it is obvious that the supporters will no longer take this fight sitting down. The supporters are up in arms and ready to battle for their right to marry; the opposes are ready, too, and they will fight the supporters as much as possible. Although this problem has become such a big controversy, I feel that in the near future, we will have some kind of solution to this chaos. To get a better insight, I asked around Wheeler, and here are the results I got: