

Some Things Will Never Change!

Have you ever said that in exasperation when **someone** or a **situation** seemed immovable, inconvincible and stubborn to change?

- Your job
- Your marriage partner
- Your children
- Situations over which you have no control

Well, for some things and people that can be a very frustrating experience that hinders growth or progress when growth and progress needs to be happening.

But then, there are situations/areas that change or progress would not be the best thing to happen. Holding onto what is established and fighting to preserve those principles or truths is the right thing to do and whatever cost it may bring.

God's outline of marriage is one of many principles or truths that need to be held onto in a climate where some are seeking to redefine God's original recipe for marriage.

Just this past week – Monday Feb. 5, 2018, The VA. Senate Courts of Justice Committee defeated three bills seeking to repeal VA's current statutory provisions that define marriage as being between a man and a woman.

- On other words, certain Committee members voted to retain VA's language that "Marriage is to be defined as being between a man and a woman."
- The vote was narrow – 8 to 7 in favor of keeping the definition of marriage.

SHOULD GOVERNMENT DEFINE AND REGULATE MARRIAGE? AND HOW SHOULD MARRIAGE BE DEFINED?

A. God's Book of Creation and Revelation, the Bible, teaches that marriage is only between one man and one woman:

- The Bible contains both clear and explicit teachings about marriage.
- These teachings are relevant to our consideration of governmental laws and policies about marriage.

1. God created marriage at the beginning of the human race as a lifelong union between one man and one woman:

- Gen. 1:27-28 God created Adam and Eve and told them that together they should bear children.

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...”

- Were Adam and Eve actually a married couple?
Gen. 2:25 “**The man and his wife** were naked, but they were not ashamed.”
- So, yes they were a married couple.
- Because of the Law of First Principle established in Genesis – the Bible views the relationship between Adam and Eve as “the pattern for all marriages to follow in the earth.”
- Gen. 2 helps to clarify this even more:
vv. 21-24 “So the Lord caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and He brought her to the man. At last! The man exclaimed. This is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She shall be called woman, because she was taken from man.”
- V. 24 establishes the union between Adam and Eve as the pattern for marriages in general as it states:
This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”
- “Leaves his father and mother” pictures a situation where a man departs from the household of which he was a part, and it implies that a new household is being established.
- **The phrase “holds fast/clings to his wife”** means there is a new relationship that is the basis of the new household that is established.
- **So marriage is defined as a union between a man and his wife.**

This union of the man and the woman is also Jesus’ understanding of Genesis 1-2 when HE responds to the question from the Pharisees about divorce in Matt. 19:3-6:

“The Pharisees came to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” He answered, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female,” and said, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?” So they are no longer two but one flesh. “What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

In His answer, Jesus affirms several things about marriage:

1. Marriage was established when God “**created them from the beginning**” and “**made them male and female**” and also said that “**Man shall hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**” Vv. 4-5
2. He also affirms that marriage is an institution God creates between a man and a woman, because He calls marriage a relationship between two people whom “**God has joined together.**” V. 6
3. Jesus stated that God intended for marriage to be a lifelong relationship – not a temporary agreement: **Covenant vs. Contract.**
v. 6 “**What God has joined together, let not man separate.**”
4. When the Pharisees asked Him “Why did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and send her away?” v. 7
Jesus’ response was found in v. 8 “**because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wife, but from the beginning it was not so.**”
God’s purpose in marriage from the beginning was a lifelong, committed, faithful relationship between one man and one woman.

- The Bible is also clear that sexual faithfulness to one’s partner is an essential component of marriage, for adultery is regularly viewed as sin.
- It is one of the Ten Commandments given to man by God:
- Exodus 20:14 “You must not commit adultery.”
- Sexual purity and avoidance of adultery is reaffirmed several times in the New Covenant by Jesus and Paul:
Matt 19:18 keeping the commandments, Jesus replied: “You must not murder, you must not commit adultery, you must not steal, you must not lie/swear falsely”, etc.
Rom. 13:9 “For the commandments say, you must not commit adultery...”
James 2:11 “For the same God who said, you must not commit adultery, also said, you must not murder.”

Read Proverbs 5-7 for a wakeup call and warnings about the man who decides to take another man’s wife.

- You will incur more trouble than you ever bargained for.
- It just ain’t worth it.

B. Marriage between a man and a woman is the most fundamental institution in any society:

The establishment of marriage found in Gen. 1-2 comes before the establishment of any other institution in human society.

- If the Biblical concept of marriage and family are altered or destroyed; all society will suffer [as we are seeing it happen now].
- If there are no Biblical marriages – there will be no orderly society.
- Before establishment of cities, towns, courts of law, nations, governments, businesses or corporations & churches, schools or any other organization – MARRIAGE IS FOUNDATIONAL TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY SOCIETY.
- Every society has recognized the need to protect the institution of marriage as defined by God and His Word.
- British anthropologist, J.D. Unwin concluded after investigating Dr. Sigmund Freud's assertions for the liberalization of sexual behavior, that Dr. Freud's ideas had grave consequences for all societies.
- In studies made of 86 different cultures, it was found that "strict marital monogamy was central to social energy and growth."
- NO SOCIETY FLOURISHED MORE THAN THREE GENERATIONS WITHOUT IT.

As God's people representing His Kingdom and Culture in this world; we must do everything we can do to ensure that our marriages are strong and Bible centered and include the Lordship of Jesus Christ at the core of their existence.

C. Incest, Adultery, Homosexuality are prohibited in Biblical Ethics:

When the moral standards as explained from the Old Covenant and the New, there are certain types of relationships that are excluded from being accepted as valid marriages or unions:

1. **Incest**: Lev. 18:1-18; = **Incest forbidden**. 20:11-20; Duet. 22:30; 1Cor. 5:1-2.

Lev. 18:22 “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.”

Lev. 20:13 “If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.”

Rom. 1:26-27 “For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passions for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.”

1 Cor. 6:9-11 “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the Kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

1 Tim. 1:9-10 “Understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine.”

Some have tried to interpret these scriptures to mean that it only applies to certain types of homosexuality:

- Between men and underage boys, not men of equal age or consent.
- Homosexual prostitution, where money or exchange is involved.
- Relations between a “naturally” homosexual person and one who is not “naturally” homosexual?
- The Bible does not make any such distinction between **types** of homosexual practices.

- This is not a correct way to interpret the scripture.
- The words of scripture are written applying to all types, kinds, ideas of sexual practices that are in violation of & abnormal to the natural order of how God created human kind to participate in sexual relations.

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