Marriage: One Man, One Woman

Selected Scriptures

6/26/2011

Illustration:

"I've found true love, Mom." Sharon glowed as she came into the room after her last semester at college. "I've found that special someone to spend the rest of my life with, just as you hoped I would, Dad" Lily and Tom were at first thrilled at Sharon's words, but they became more uncomfortable as the conversation continued. She talked about the future and shared with them that she had met the love of her life. But the lover she intended to commit her life to was another woman. She understood that her parents' faith in Christ might cause them to object to the relationship. She wasn't asking them to approve the relationship. She was asking them to accept it and bless it. Underneath the invitation to join her in celebrating thie relationship was the threat of her withdrawal from them if they failed to respond in the way that she wanted. Lily and Tom felt stunned and threatened by Sharon's words. " ("Harvest News")

Former Gov. David Paterson encouraged passage of Same-Sex —Marriage legislation in 2009. It passed the State Assembly on three separate occasions, but thanks to the Christian community raising our voices, it failed in the Senate (S4401) by a vote of 38-24. Yet Same-Sex —Marriage is now being championed by Governor Andrew Cuomo. He has encouraged five influential —gay rightsll groups, including the Empire State Pride Agenda, the Human Rights Campaign, Freedom to Marry, Marriage Equality New York, and the Log Cabin Republicans to form a single organization called New Yorkers United for Marriage.

Well, The marriage bill, whose fate was uncertain until moments before the vote, was approved 33 to 29 on June 24, 2011 in a packed but hushed Senate chamber. Four members of the Republican majority joined all but one Democrat in the Senate in supporting the measure after an intense and emotional campaign aimed at the handful of lawmakers wrestling with a decision that divided their friends, their constituents and sometimes their own homes.



The same-sex marriage law, which was signed by Cuomo just before midnight Friday, will go into effect in 30 days, meaning that gay couples can marry here beginning July 24. Gay couples from out of state will also be allowed to apply for wedding licenses and hold nuptials in New York.

Roughly 45,000 gay couples live in New York State, according to census estimates. Officials across the state are readying for thousands to get married, especially in the first week.

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Just five states currently permit same-sex marriage: Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as the District of Columbia.

Same-sex marriage
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
One argument in support of same-sex marriage is that denying same-sex couples legal access to marriage and all of its attendant benefits represents discrimination based on sexual orientation;
Another argument in support of same-sex marriage is the assertion that financial, psychological and physical well-being are enhanced by marriage, and that children of same-sex couples benefit from being raised by two parents within a legally recognized union supported by society's institutions.
Court documents filed by American scientific associations also state that singling out gay men and women as ineligible for marriage both stigmatizes and invites public discrimination against them.

Marriage between one man and one woman is the most foundational social institution in the world.

We do not advocate violence toward homosexuals.

We do not advocate a denial of freedom of speech for homosexuals.

What is the divine pattern, God's original intention for marriage and the home? Go back to Genesis, the book of beginnings. For example, Genesis 1:27: —So God created man in

his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. We know that God is neither male nor female. Yet we are made —in his image. In spite of the fact that we are, as individuals, made in the image of God, the full image is expressed when the two halves of humanity complement each other and become one. So a man, by himself, is not fully representative of all the descriptors of the image of God. At the same time, woman, by herself, cannot do justice to the full spectrum of the image of God. However, when the two complimentary halves of humanity unite - physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally and psychologically – the image of God is revealed. Male and female are made anatomically, emotionally and spiritually for oneness. Husband and wife, joined together, represent the full spectrum of the image of God.

In Genesis 2:24, God further declares: —For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

When you come to the teaching of Jesus in the NT, you find that Jesus endorsed this divine pattern. Quoting Genesis, Jesus asked Pharisees in Matt. 19:4: —Have you not read that at the beginning, the Creator made them male and female, and said: `For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh?' So they are no longer two but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no man separate.

From a social science perspective, marriage is an exclusive union that takes its distinctive character from being founded, unlike other friendships, on this bodily unity that sometimes generates new life. This unity is why marriage, in our legal tradition, is consummated only by acts that are generative in kind, whether babies are produced or not. Of course, marital intimacy often does produce babies, and marriage is the form of relationship that is uniquely apt for childrearing, which is why it is a matter of vital public concern and not just a —private matter.‖ In fact, marriage is a public, social contract for which the law requires witnesses. Why? It has profound implications for the common good, for the health of society.

As a comprehensive sharing of life—an emotional and biological union—marriage has value in itself and not merely as a means to procreation. This explains why our law has historically permitted annulment of marriage for non-consummation, but not for infertility; and why acts of sodomy, even between legally wed spouses, have never been recognized as consummating marriages. Only this understanding makes sense of all the norms—the pledge of permanence, monogamy, sexual exclusivity, annul-ability for non-consummation—that shape marriage as we know it and that our law reflects.

Here are some of the benefits to the children of married heterosexual parents who frequently attend church:

- Average High School GPA (English and Math): Almost half a grade point higher (2.94 vs. 2.48).
- Expulsion or Suspension from School: Nearly 3 times less likely.
- Repeating a Grade: Nearly 6 times less likely (6% vs. 34%).
- Hard Drug Use: Nearly 2.5 less likely (8.5% vs. 20.1%).
- Drunkenness: Nearly 2 times less likely (22.4% vs. 41.2%).
- Homosexual Activity: 3 times less likely (2.5% vs. 7.5%).
- Running Away from Home: Over 2.5 times less likely.
- Average Number of Sex Partners (Females): Over 3 times less (0.47 vs. 1.55).

As Dr. James Dobson notes, "More than ten thousand studies have concluded that kids do best when they are raised by mothers and fathers."

So when a marriage follows God's design, it is good for everyone — men, women, children, the community, the country, and the world. Think about it. Every civilization in history is built upon the institution of marriage. It is the foundation. The welfare of children, the propagation of the faith, the wellbeing of society, and the orderliness of civilization are all dependent upon the stability of marriage according to the divine pattern. When this God-given pattern is undermined, the whole superstructure of society becomes unstable. Any deviation from the divine pattern invites disaster.

Persuasive Answers to the Question: "Why Not Same-Sex Marriage?" by Glenn Stanton (Senior Analyst for Marriage and Sexuality, Director of Social Research & Cultural Affairs, Focus on the Family)

How will same-sex marriage hurt your marriage or family?

> Homosexuals try to imply that they just want acceptance, to be tolerated. But Americans generally are very tolerant. If a gay couple moves into our neighborhood, we usually do nothing different toward them. But that is NOT all that the homosexual agenda wants. They want society to accept an entirely different view of marriage and family.
>
> By your example, you teach my kids that their gender does not matter. Homosexuals try to advocate that gender is just a matter of some different parts stuck on the outside of the body, but that inside we are all exactly alike. This is against all that culture and society has ever believed.

Is same-sex marriage like inter-racial marriage?

No.

Same-sex marriage redefines marriage.

Thousands of studies show that intentionally motherless and fatherless homes are harmful to children.

Where does it stop?

One homosexual activist said, "The right to marry whoever I want is a fundamental right." Think about what that could imply.

When one lesbian was asked, "What if people start wanting to marry more than one partner at a time?" She replied, "That won't happen, because I don't believe in that." (so is she suddenly the authority of the world??!) But if another person does believe in it, how could we stop them, if they have the right to marry "whoever" they want? What if they want to marry their DOG??

Full acceptance will be tolerated.

A. Speech control will be next.

One Swedish pastor was brought in for questioning and threatened by police because he had preached about homosexuality.

In Canada, speaking against homosexuality is already viewed as a hate crime.

Saying "Children need a mother and a father" could be considered "Hate Speech." Massachusetts governor Romney was condemned in the newspaper for making that statement, that children need a mother and a father.

B. Educational control

Children will now be learning about same-sex marriage.

Gay-friendly curriculum is already in Massachusetts schools.

When parents expressed concern over a teacher giving explicit information about how to practice same-sex, the teacher scoffed and said, "Get use to it. It's legal now."

Several years ago, the conservative news magazine National Review laid out a litany of examples of homosexual indoctrination in New England public schools: In one elementary school, a transsexual was invited into a First Grade Class to give details of his sex-change operation. In another elementary school, children were assigned to play gays in a school skit. Two girls were to hold hands and pretend to be lesbians. One boy's line was: "It's natural to be attracted to the same sex."
Since then, same-sex —marriage has been legalized in Massachusetts. Educators wasted no time in making sure children were taught the virtues of same-sex relationships. In fact, a Lexington, Massachusetts school —treated‖ their second graders to a book entitled King and King, which is a colorful 29-page children's book in which a prince searches for a wife, only in the end to choose another prince. The story ends with the two princes "marrying" and living "happily ever after." On the last page, the princes -- now kings -- even share a kiss. This was read to 7 year olds!

C. Churches will be forced to perform same-sex weddings or lose tax-exempt status.

<u>Church</u> control

Does marriage provide a common good?

In every culture and at every time in history, heterosexual marriage was the norm.

Every culture needs heterosexual marriage to sustain the culture. No culture needs same-sex marriage to sustain that culture.

It is human arrogance to ignore or defy history.

Marriage socializes men by linking men to women.

Women inspire men.

Marriage gives society sexual guardrails.

Marriage protects women by enforcing monogamy.

Marriage provides mothers and fathers for children.

What will the effect be on children with same-sex parents?

In order to know the effects of same-sex marriage on children:

--Large samples of same-sex marriages are necessary to study
--A large amount of time (long-term work) is necessary.

How do we know what kind of families children need?

Child well-being

Studies have shown that children thrive best with:

--Two biological parents
--Two married biological parents

Is the same-sex family about the <u>needs</u> of children or the <u>wants</u> of adults?

When lesbian parent Rosie O'Donnell was asked if her son Parker (age 6 at the time of the interview) ever asked about his father, she replied, "Yes, sometimes he says, "I want a daddy." But I explain to him, "If you had a daddy, then you couldn't have me for a mommy, because I'm the kind of mommy who wants another mommy."

What is she expressing? That her WANTS come before her son's NEEDS! She's basically saying, "Sorry that you feel this lack because there is no one that you can identify with, who can teach you how to be man. But what I want is more important."

Does gender really matter?

Each gender has its unique and essential qualities.

The differences between men and women provide a balanced social atmosphere for children.

Homosexuality and same-sex marriage is an anti-human view of humanity.

Heterosexuals celebrate <u>diversity</u>.

Same-sex families celebrate <u>sameness</u>.

Societal implications

Even a secular culture recognizes the need for a special day to honor fatherhood and motherhood. What about Father's Day and Mother's Day?

Government didn't create marriage, so it does not have the right to redefine marriage.

Baptist Bible Tribune, Sept. 2010:

Outspoken homosexual activist Michelangelo Signorile wrote in a column for OUT magazine in 1994 of a strategy and goal "to fight for same-sex marriage and its benefits and then, once granted, redefine the institution of marriage completely, to demand the right to marry not as a way of adhering to society's moral codes but rather to debunk a myth and radically alter an archaic institution."

Hadley Arkes, writing in "First Things": "...need to seek more and more occasions for inducing the public first to tolerate, and then in small steps, to endorse or approve."

President Barack Obama in a statement on Father's Day: "Nurturing families come in many forms, and children may be raised by a father and mother, a single father, two fathers, a stepfather, a grandfather, or caring guardian."

"Freedoms' Alert" May 2008 (by Scott Lively)

"Homosexuals are especially fond of calling people "haters." They even invented the word homophobia, which means hate and fear of homosexuals, envisaged as a mental illness (a phobia is an anxiety disorder).....Tell me, where is the line between homophobia and acceptable opposition to homosexuality?....Professional studies show that gay sex hurts people because it goes against the design of their bodies. But homosexuals insist that presenting this fact is homophobic. A homophobe is anyone who, for any reason, disapproves of homosexuality in any way, shape, manner, form, or degree..... The gay agenda is to stop everyone from following the Bible regarding sexual matters. .. No more religious freedom...suppress scientific research.....But if I'm a "hater" for civilly opposing what they do, why aren't they haters for uncivilly opposing what I do? Such a double standard, in the context of a public debate on "civil rights," is not just hypocritical, it is surreal.....Hatred of "haters" is hateful, too."

If you don't stand for anything, you will fall for everything.

Could take away my right to perform weddings.

No state validity.

Can't act as an agent of the state.

They want to legalize in order to legitimize.

Sensitivity Training for conservatives. Do I really need a course in civility?

Divorce lawyers will be making a lot more money.

Churches will be sued.

We discriminate all the time -- we don't hang around with guys who steal cars.

The law of unintended consequences.

This will open the floodgates into other forms of marriage.

Government involvement - record keeping, property rights, money, a way to collect fees (county clerk)

Lamda - proud of being a pedophile.

Polygamy.

"Heather has two mommies."

They have heterophobia.

Gay "Pride" -- if it is a neurobiological matter, why do you take pride in something you were born with?

Gays want:

--insurance benefits

--tax benefits

--their lifestyle to be blessed

--the legal right to adopt children as couples

--if it's legal, it is therefore moral

--to shove it in your face

--for NY to set a precedent

--a stage for federal guarantee, not just a state right, but a federal law

It's rather contradictory when the Gays are so eager to marry, when the majority of them don't even practice faithfulness (they have multiple partners). Ex. The first married same-sex couple in Massachussetts stated on their wedding day, that they were open to engaging in intimacy with other lovers besides themselves.

Isn't it odd that society hardly even supports marriage nowadays, many people just live together. Yet the Gays suddenly want to do the conservative thing and "marry." Why are they so eager to practice the conservative lifestyle just in this one area?

What the Bible teaches about HOMOSEXUALITY

Homosexuality is not due to biological or genetic cause but does stem from people's depraved sin nature which is acquired from the moment of conception. Sexual orientation is not fixed before birth. (Studies on identical twins, one who turned Gay and the other who did not, and the fact that homosexuals can and do change their sexual orientation are devastating blows to this "genetic cause" theory.)

Homosexuality is not natural, but learned behavior.

"Homosexuals are not so much the corrupters of a society, as much as they are a product of a corrupt society" Dr. David Innes

The following features of a corrupt society are contributing factors to people turning to Homosexual and Lesbian lifestyles:

a) Societies denial of God and His Authority in our lives (Evolutionary teaching);
b) The breakdown of the home (the lack of exemplary male leadership in the home; Abusive parents; Absentee Parents);
c) Sexual molestation and abuse of children;
d) A child becoming introduced to pornography;
e) Societal tolerance for sexual deviations and perversions from the Judeo-Christian Ethic;
f) Distorted views of masculinity and femininity (gender blending);
g) People looking for "love" and "acceptance" in all the wrong places;
h) Those struggling with homosexual tendencies being ostracized from people who might otherwise help them.

The Christian's attitude toward homosexuals ought to be love and pity.
You will never be able to reach anyone with the Gospel unless you deal with all people with love, compassion, patience, courage, conviction, gentleness & respect.

What does the Bible teach about Homosexuality and what Bible principles must a Christian counselor be prepared to give to one trapped in such a lifestyle? The Bible teaches that…

1) Homosexuality is contrary to <u>GOD'S DESIGN</u> for <u>SEX</u> and <u>MARRIAGE</u> (Gen. 2:18-25; 4:1)

God's Design for Marriage
Genesis 2:18-25

* Let the Designer Himself show you His plan for Marital Harmony!

I. God created Eve FOR Adam…
to express the Roles He desires for the Husband & Wife (v.18-20)

A. Eve was Created to be Adam's Companion (v.18a)
("It is not good that the man should be alone")

B. Eve was Created to be Adam's Completer (v.18b-20)
("I will make him an help meet for him")

II. God created Eve FROM Adam…
to express the Oneness (unity) He desires between Husband & Wife (v.21-25)

A. Woman's ORIGIN shows the oneness God desires in marriage
(v.21-22) "And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman"
(Marital unity is illustrated by creation)

B. Adam's TESTIMONY shows the oneness God desires in marriage
(v.23) "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh"
(Marital unity is identified by Adam)

C. God's PLAN shows the oneness He desires in marriage
(v.24) "Leave…and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh"
(Marital unity is instituted by God)

Conclusion: God created marriage to illustrate the relationship and unity that Christ has with His bride (the believing Church) (Ephesians 5:29-32)

2) Homosexuality led to the <u>DESTRUCTION</u> of an <u>ENTIRE SOCIETY</u> (Gen. 19:1-29)

Note: Certain attitudes and circumstances provide fertile ground for homosexual behavior to grow. Ezekiel 16:49-50 -

a) <u>Pride</u> (self-centeredness) (v. 50 - *"haughty"* = to exalt one's self)
b) Plenty of <u>Goods</u> (*"fullness of bread"*)
c) Plenty of <u>Time</u> (*"abundance of idleness"*)
d) <u>Inconsideration</u> of the helpless
* e) Lack of male leadership and example (Ex: Not ten righteous people in Sodom)

The Days of Lot

Luke 17:28-30

Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

3) Homosexuality was a <u>CAPITAL OFFENCE</u> in ancient Israel and was considered an *"<u>ABOMINATION</u>"* by God (Lev. 18:22, 20:13; Deut. 23:17; cp. I Kings 14:24, 15:12, 22:46; II Kings 23:7; I Tim. 1:10)

Leviticus 18:22
Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination.

Leviticus 20:13
If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood *shall be* upon them.

Deuteronomy 23:17
There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.

1 Kings 14:24
And there were also sodomites in the land: *and* they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

1 Kings 15:12
And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.

1 Kings 22:46
And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land.

2 Kings 23:7
And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that *were* by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove.

1 Timothy 1:10
For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

4) Homosexuality is an <u>OBSESSIVE</u> behavior often directly associated with <u>VICIOUSNESS</u> and <u>VIOLENCE</u> toward others (Judges 19:22-30)

5) Homosexuality is the result of willfully <u>REJECTING</u> a Biblical <u>KNOWLEDGE</u> of <u>GOD</u> (Romans 1:18-25, 28)

6) Homosexuality is an <u>UNNATURAL PERVERSION</u> of sexual <u>PASSION</u> (Romans 1:26-27)

7) Homosexuality requites (rewards) its deviant participants with <u>LETHAL CONSEQUENCES</u> (guilt, bodily injury, communicable diseases and viruses, eternal condemnation) (Romans 1:27b; I Cor. 6:9-10)

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

8) Homosexuality is a sin that can be <u>FORGIVEN</u> and <u>FORSAKEN</u> (I Corinthians 6:9-<u>11)</u>

*"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor <u>effeminate</u>, nor <u>abusers of themselves with mankind</u>…shall inherit the kingdom of God. And **such <u>were</u> some of you**: but ye are **washed** (cleansed), but ye are **sanctified** (set apart and made holy), but ye are **justified** (declared righteous) in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."* (I Cor. 6:9-11)

The answer for the victim of Homosexuality is to receive a real, vital relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Only then will the Holy Spirit live inside the person and change the person from the inside out. After salvation, the person will never again feel a compelling need to search for love and acceptance in all the wrong ways and places; Only then will the person gladly submit to God's standards for proper sexual relations within the committed, life-long relationship of heterosexual marriage; Only then will the person be released from the lies of the Adversary, and the bondage of sin.

Conclusion:

Action Step 1: Pray: We need to pray for God's mercy on a nation that is speeding toward Sodom, and hurtling toward Gomorrah. 2 Chronicles 7:14

Step number 2: Practice the biblical principles for a healthy marriage.

Action Step 3: Participate: We need to participate in our —government of the people, by the people, and for the people as Abraham Lincoln described it. Now some might say: —I don't think Christians should get involved in politics Let me ask you a question: Who created government in the first place? Romans 13:1-7 tells us plainly and unmistakably that God ordained the institution of government. Since God created the institution of government, would He want His people to stay out of it? No. If Christians don't —render to Caesar (Matt. 22:21) and if we don't function as —salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16) in the arena of government, then we disobey the commands of Christ and allow Satan to prevail by default. So we need to participate in the political process and impact our government as stinging salt and shining light. Here is what we need to do:

Spread the word: Try to persuade your family, friends, and acquaintances to take an active role in standing for marriage.

Action Step 4: Proclaim: We need to proclaim the promise found in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

"QUESTIONS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY"

1. Are gays and lesbians born that way?

2. What is the real agenda of the homosexual movement?

3. Is homosexuality the worst sin imaginable?

4. Can one be a practicing homosexual and be saved at the same time?

5. Is homosexuality a "civil right" on the same level as the civil rights of minorities and women? (the prejudice issue)

6. Does government have the right to outlaw homosexuality or restrict their civil rights?

7. Should gays be allowed in the military?

8. Should our children be taught that homosexuality is an alternative lifestyle?

9. Should homosexual "couples" be allowed to marry and adopt children?

10. Are we being judgmental and unloving when we condemn homosexual behavior?

11. Can a homosexual change?

12. Will homosexuality increase as the end draws nearer?