

Protect Marriage

9-21-08

“What’s Wrong w/Same Sex Marriage?”

I. **INTRO:**

A. **Q:** Is God political? In one sense the gospel is *unabashedly* political!

1. It declares that Jesus is the **King of Kings & Lord of Lords**.
2. He sits in the seat of **ultimate authority**. All lesser magistrates are ultimately accountable to Him for how they exercise their rule.¹

B. God has ordained **3 institutions**, each created & ordained by God: the **Church**, the **State**, & the **Family**.

1. Each institution has its **distinctive tasks** to perform, & neither should usurp the other’s sphere of authority.
2. The task of the **church** is: “to preach the gospel, administer the sacraments, nurture the souls of its members, etc.” [This is not the task of the State]
3. The task of the **State** is: “to order society, raise taxes, govern business & society, maintain a standing army, protect life & property, etc.” [This is not the task of the Church]
4. The task of the **Family** is: “to be an exclusive relationship between one husband & one wife, wherein they become *one flesh*, being unified *physically, emotionally, intellectually, & spiritually*. Intended to last for life, for happiness & for procreation.”

C. **Q:** When should **Politics** be addressed from the **Pulpit**?

1. **A:** When it has to do with **ethics & morality**.
 - a) **Ethics** describe what people **ought to do**; **Morals** describe what people **do**; (Sproul)
[You can be an **ethical** person, without necessarily being a **moral** one]

D. **Proposition 8** (in Ca, also in Arizona & Florida) It contains the same 14 words that were previously approved in 2000 by over 61% of California voters: “**Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.**”

1. The measure, as submitted for the ballot by petitioners, is called the “**California Marriage Protection Act.**” The ballot title, as prepared by the **Attorney Gen Jerry Brown** is “**Eliminates Right of Same-sex Couples to Marry**”
2. Because 4 activist judges in San Francisco wrongly overturned the people’s vote (4 vs. 4 million), we need to pass this measure as a **constitutional amendment** to restore the definition of marriage as between a man & a woman.

¹ R.C.Sproul; Essential Truths of the Christian Faith; pg.262

II. **WHAT'S WRONG W/SAME SEX MARRIAGE?**

- A. Not speaking on *Homosexuality* per-se, but on why this **Same Sex Marriage** is such an important issue.
- B. Not dealing with it on a **personal** basis, but a **societal** one. (*cataclysmic social battle*)
- C. I admit our “*advertising*” on both sides have been very bad:
1. One pastor at a forum used the phrase, “*us normal people...*”.
 - a) **Normal?** We are all **broken** people!
 2. We need to stop the rhetoric.
 3. **Jesus was against adultery but how'd He deal with the self-righteous Pharisees?** He was pretty **tough** on them. **Yet** when he dealt with the adulterous woman, He was pretty **gentle** toward her.
 - a) I think **this spirit** should apply to the **contemporary debate** also!
- D. The issue is not about *right wing conservative Christians* telling Homosexuals how they ought to live. They **can & do** live exactly how they wish!
1. The issue is that **they** are trying to radically define **the Constitution**, thus forcing their view on the rest of society w/a new national policy.
- E. **Is this a Christian versus Homosexual issue?**
1. **No.** The world's **5 major religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, & Judaism** recognize & uphold the natural, heterosexual understanding of marriage.
 - a) **By contrast** these religions teach homosexual behavior is **sinful** or **wrong**.
- F. **The Bible & Marriage!**
1. Marriage is the 1st institution ordained by God & has served from the beginning as the foundation for **continuation** of the human race.
 2. **God** created Eve as Adam's partner - **Gen.2:18-25** - man & woman.
 3. **Jesus** underscored the importance & sacredness of marriage in His own teachings.
 4. **Paul** taught the marital relationship is to be an ongoing demonstration of the sacrificial love that **Christ** showed His **church**.
 - a) In **contrast**, the bible clearly shows any form of homosexuality as a sinful behavior (no evidence of it being genetic) - **Rom.1:26,27** - Unnatural.

G. **But, what if the person your debating this with doesn't care what God has said?**

1. Well, 1st if someone doesn't agree with God it doesn't change the fact of its **truth**. [Illus: If your owners manual in your car says to use **regular gas**, you can disagree & use **diesel fuel**, but it doesn't make that **right**]
2. But our argument against this **doesn't stop** here, we also have a boat load of evidence from a minimum of **10,000 years** of **societies & cultures** as evidence that...this isn't a good idea.
3. Actually, history, nature, social science, anthropology, religion, & theology all unite in vigorous support of marriage as it has always been understood: **a life-long union of male & female for the purpose of creating stable families.**²

H. **History & Marriage!**

- I. Marriage is not an American invention! It has existed as an institution since the beginning of civilization, & thus supersedes our modern laws.
 1. **Every society, at all times, has viewed the social norm of marriage as a union of male & female.**³
 2. **Studies of previous civilizations reveal that when a society weakens the sexual ethic of marriage, it deteriorates eventually disintegrates.**⁴

J. **Nature & Marriage!**

- K. Gender distinctions are not simply an artificial social construct.
 1. Men & women are **uniquely designed** to complement each other *physically, emotionally, & spiritually*. **Marriage is the means for melding the 2 sexes into a stronger & more complete whole.**
 2. While marriage has **intrinsic value** of its own, a primary purpose of marriage is **procreation**. Marriage is the best means for **producing & raising** a healthy & productive next generation. Marriage is also the way societies protect woman from predatory males & socialize men.

L. **Children & Marriage!**

1. Men & women are distinctly different. **Each gender** brings vitally important & unique elements to a child's development.

² Excerpts taken from Focus on the Family Web site; www.family.org/socialissues/

³ Suzanne G. Frayser, *Varieties of Sexual Experience: An Anthropological Perspective on Human Sexuality*, (New Haven, Conn: Human Relations Area Files Press, 1985); Edward Westermarck, *The History of Human Marriage*, Vol. 1-3, (New York: The Allerton Book Company, 1922); Helen E. Fischer, *Anatomy of Love: The Natural History of Monogamy, Adultery and Divorce*, (New York: W. W. Norton, 1992); George P. Murdock, *Social Structure*, (New York: Macmillan, 1949).

⁴ See J. D. Unwin, *Sexual Regulations and Human Behavior* (London: Williams & Norgate, 1933).

- a) To not believe this is to hold to the *Mr Potato Head Theory* of gender difference (same core, just interchangeable body parts!)
- b) If real differences **did** exist, then **men** would need **women** & **women** would need **men**.

M. Marriage & Discrimination?

1. Does marriage discriminate? **No**. Marriage is open to any 2 individuals provided they meet **certain criteria** regarding **age & blood relationship**, & provide the individuals are the **opposite sex**.
 - a) All are free to marry under this universal & age-old definition of marriage.
 - b) **Can't marry if:** you're already married, or if its a close relative, nor can an adult marry a child.
2. They are not asking to be **left alone**, or to be **tolerated**, or even **respected**, **but** are seeking to **force its views** on the rest of society.
3. They are asking each of us to radically change **our** understanding of marriage & family. Next step, to force feed it to our children, then force churches to perform such "weddings"?
4. Marriage is a **common good**, not a **special interest!**
5. Every society **needs** natural marriage no society **needs** homosexual coupling!
 - a) **That's why it can't be considered socially equal!**

N. A Civil Rights Issue?

1. It is an affront to **African-Americans** to say having past generations being prevented from taking a drink from a public water fountain or being sprayed down by fire hoses in a public park **was on par to** laws preventing a man from marrying another man. **The comparison is shameful.**
2. Civil rights leaders strongly reject this assertion. **Jessie Jackson** explains, **"Gays were never called three-fifths of a person in the Constitution...and they did not require the Voting Rights Act to have the right to vote."**⁵

O. Love & Marriage!

1. Those who would redefine marriage often insist that the only necessary qualification for marriage is **"love"**!
 - a) Yet, to accept that rationale then there is no boundaries as to what constitutes marriage; any combination or number of consenting individuals must ultimately gain the same legal & societal sanction as natural marriage.

⁵ Marcella Bombardieri, *Boston Globe*, "Jackson Wary of Same-Sex Rift," Feb. 17, 2004.

- b) While, love is vital, it is not the definitional element of marriage. We **love** many people we don't **marry**. (friends; relatives; our pets. All a form of **love**, all of them result in **commitments**. None of them is **marriage**.)

P. **Marriage & the Next Generation!**

1. A loving and compassionate society **always comes to the aid of** motherless & fatherless families.
2. A loving and compassionate society **never intentionally creates** motherless or fatherless families.
3. **No child development theory** says children need two parents of the **same gender**, **but rather** that children need their **mothers** and **fathers**.
4. **Same sex families always deny** children either their father or mother.

Q. **A Vast Social Experiment Inflicted on Children!**

1. No society, at any time, has ever raised a generation in same-sex families.
2. **America has raised millions of children in fatherless families for 3 decades & that experiment was a stunning failure by every measure!**
3. **Anthropologists** tell us that every human society is established by males & females joining in permanent unions to build life together & bear & raise their children.
4. Recent evidence from the **Netherlands** (arguably the most "gay-friendly" culture on earth) report that homosexual men have a very difficult time honoring the ideal of marriage.
 - a) Even though "**same sex marriage**" is legal there, a *British Medical Journal* reports male homosexual relationships last, on average, **1.5 years**, & gay men have an average of **8 partners** a year outside of their supposedly "*committed*" relationships.
 - b) **Contrast** that w/the fact that 67% of 1st marriages in the U.S. last **10 yrs**; & more than 3/4 of heterosexual married couples report being faithful to their vows.
5. 30 years ago we tried a **dramatic social experiment** on the family called the "**no-fault divorce**", thinking it would improve family life! - **Research the next 30 years however has judged this experiment a massive failure!!!**

R. **A Lesson from one of America's most Famous Lesbian Mom's!**

1. Rosie O'Donnell shared this story in an ABC Primetime Live interview with Diane Sawyer:⁶

⁶ Diane Sawyer (Anchor), "Rosie's Story: For the Sake of the Children: Rosie O'Donnell's Crusade on Behalf of Gay Parents Seeking to Adopt Children," ABC News: *Primetime*, (March 14, 2004).

- a) Six-year-old **Parker** asks his mother, **Rosie**: “Mommy, why can’t I have a daddy?”
Rosie answers: “Because I’m the kind of mommy who wants another mommy.”
- b) The 2 most dangerous words for a parent to utter together: “I” and “want.”
- c) Parker never asked, “Mommy, why can’t we have all the rights and protections of marriage?” (that only matter to adults). But he has said, “Mommy, why can’t I have a **daddy?**”
- d) What matters for children in marriage is whether their **mothers** are married to their **fathers**.

S. Full Acceptance Will Be Mandatory!

1. My civil rights to object to homosexuality as an idea will be gone.
2. Only months after legalizing “same-sex marriage” in **Canada**, activists there successfully passed **C-250**, a bill criminalizing public statements against homosexuality, punishable by up to 2 years in prison! Say the wrong thing; go to jail. The same will happen here.
3. Gay and lesbian people have a right to form **meaningful relationships**. They don’t have a right to **redefine marriage** for all of us.

T. Where Does It Stop?

1. If, as Andrew Sullivan says, “**The right to marry whomever you want is a fundamental civil right,**” how do we say “no” to a woman who wants to become the **third** wife of a polygamist...?⁷
2. When posed with the question “**Why draw the line at two people?,**” same-sex marriage advocate **Cheryl Jacques** of the *Human Rights Campaign* said, “**Because I don’t approve of that.**”⁸ ...well, that brings an important question to mind:
 - a) How come your “**because I don’t approve of that**” objection to polygamy is more reasonable than my “**I don’t approve of that**” objection to same-sex “marriage”?
3. Here’s a new word you’ll start hearing a lot, **Polyamory** - the philosophy, or state of being in love, or romantically involved, **with more than one person at the same time. (Poly/many; amore/loves)**
 - a) **Stanley Kurtz**, in *The Weekly Standard*, explains “**already this group marriage movement is on the cutting edge in family law, & is promoted by professors at some of our nation’s leading universities.**”

⁷ Andrew Sullivan, “Shelby Steele, Separatist: A Fisking,” *AndrewSullivan.com online*, April 3, 2004, (June 23, 2004).

⁸ Tucker Carlson and Paul Begala (Anchors), “President Bush Backs Ban on Gay Marriage,” CNN: *Crossfire*, Transcript # 022401CN.V20, (February 24, 2004).

- b) What if 6 single heterosexual moms got together & declared themselves to be “*married*” for the sake of health-care benefits? **Can business support 5-9 people in a group marriage?**

U. **End Thoughts:**

1. Society benefits from the well-being of marriage; **nearly every dollar spent by our government on social welfare is in reaction to a marriage breaking down or failing to form.**
 - a) **Good things** happen when we honor what marriage is. **Bad things** happen when we try to change it.
2. The ultimate result of **expanding the definition** of marriage is that marriage would mean **everything & nothing!**
 - a) The goal of many leaders in this movement is **not** to broaden the benefits of marriage, **but** to strip it of any meaning.

V. **Voting YES on Proposition 8 does 3 simple things:**

1. **It amends the Constitution** to restore the definition of marriage to what the vast majority of California voters already approved **and** what Californians have understood it to mean since the state codified this civil law in 1872.
2. **It overturns the decision** of 4 activist Supreme Court judges who ignored the will of the people.
3. **It protects** our children from being taught in public schools that “same-sex marriage” is **the same as** traditional marriage, and prevents **other consequences** to Californians who will be forced to not just be **tolerant** of gay lifestyles, but **face mandatory compliance regardless of their personal beliefs.** {Attorney Bob Tyler’s case in S.D. - 2 female fertility physicians that referred an unmarried, lesbian woman to another physician in order for her to be artificially inseminated. **In short**, Calif Supreme Court stated that it is more imp to prevent discrimination against a person based upon their sexual orientation & to promote homosexual behavior **than** it is to protect religious liberty.}