

Scripture Reference: Genesis 2:19-24

Date: May 19 2013

Title: "Adam and Eve, Man and Wife"

Focus: A Biblical Defense of Marriage (Marriage Series 2 of 3)

Intro:

There is no dispute marriage is under attack.

As of May 2013 twelve states, most in the North East, have legalized gay marriage.

In February 2011 President Obama ordered the Justice Department to stop defending the Defense of Marriage Act, a duly passed Federal law that recognizes marriage as a state existing between one man and one woman.

In May of 2012 the President came out in support of gay marriage.

In 2011, among 44 states reporting, the divorce rate was 53%.

An increased number of people are forgoing marriage and simply cohabiting.

This is not good. As goes marriage, so goes the home. As goes the home, so goes society.

Body:

Marriage Originates with God

Society needs to stop tinkering with marriage. It is not theirs to tinker with.

The book of beginnings, Genesis, establishes that God is the founder of marriage and He established it as between one man and one woman.

Some would dispute that Moses' words relate the establishment of marriage. But note, man shall be "joined" to the woman.

Historically the understanding of a man and woman in a committed relationship is marriage.

Even common-law marriage recognizes that one man and one woman who have not undertaken a marriage ceremony are "legally married for all purposes and in all circumstances."

Since marriage originated with God, it is not an institution of man.

What this means is even though society recognizes it, mankind did not establish it.

God ordained and established marriage. It is His institution. Humanity recognizes it for the sake of legal and social purposes.

Since God Established Marriage, His Intent Must be Considered

Have you ever asked yourself what is God's intent in marriage?

Simply stated, it is God's intent that marriage be a vehicle of His self-disclosure. In marriage He makes Himself known.

Because we have already redefined it, this is not our concept of marriage.

In marriage, as in all of creation, God's intent is that He be glorified.

Paul addressed marriage in his letter to the church at Ephesus. Speaking about the roles and responsibilities the husband and wife each have in the marriage relationship, he said marriage is a "*mystery*" of "*Christ and the church*."

Ephesians 5:31-22; *“FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.”*

The union of marriage transcends legality and social convention. It exceeds pragmatic issues. It is the mystical oneness of man and woman.

Even from a secular perspective this is recognized. In marriage a person becomes something other than what he or she would otherwise have been.

Man brings who he was created to be and woman brings who she was. Each bearing the image of God. But, one distinct from the other.

This is why homosexual marriage cannot be marriage. Two like people cannot reveal what they do not possess. i.e. White and White cannot make grey, they can only make White.

The distinctiveness of man merged with that of woman creates a condition conducive to shaping and fashioning a person into the fullest expression of God's image.

God's intent with marriage is that it fashion a person into godliness.

Husbands are to "love [their] wives, just as Christ also loved the church." (Ephesians 5:25)

Wives are "be subject to your own husband, as to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:22)

Furthermore, as a life-long commitment marriage reflects God's faithfulness. That He never leaves or forsakes a person.

Closing:

Marriage is more than we think of it as being. Instinctively we are drawn to it. We know it offers benefits. But what is to be gained is more than we can conceive of.

Marriage must to be honored and defended

We honor marriage when we care for our marriage and cause it to be healthy. When people see marriage as it should be, and want that.

We need to defend marriage. It needs to be defended against divorce, mediocrity, and redefinition.