

Redefining Marriage

What is Marriage?

- Marriage is a life-long union between a man and a woman

God's Plan for Marriage

Genesis 2:18–24 (ESV) — 18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ... **21** So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. **22** And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. **23** Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” **24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Jesus' Affirmation of Marriage

Matthew 19:4–6 (ESV) — **4** He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, **5** 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’? **6** So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Key Elements of God's Plan for Marriage

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- A comprehensive, permanent, exclusive union of sexually complementary human beings
 - Comprehensive – “one flesh” – emotional, social, physical and spiritual union; that in principle can create new life (i.e. children)
 - Permanent – “let not man separate”
 - Exclusive – “if she marries another she will be called an adulteress” (Rom. 7:3)

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- It is rooted in our nature as human beings

Marriage is Rooted in the Nature of Human Beings

- Two of our most powerful desires are for sexual satisfaction and for children
- Both of these desires are fulfilled in a single act
- That act requires one man and one woman
- It naturally results in children that are highly dependent on others, requiring many years of care and supervision to become mature, healthy, fulfilled human beings

Marriage is Rooted in the Nature of Human Beings

- The continuation of humanity depends on new human life being generated.
- The health of society depends on those children being raised in a healthy, nurturing environment.
- Those best equipped to raise children are those who are most closely related to them.
- If God had not given us 1 man, 1 woman, for life marriage from the beginning, we would have had to invent it!

Marriage is Rooted in the Nature of Human Beings

- If God had not given us one man, one woman, for life marriage from the beginning, we would have had to invent it!
- If God didn't give us one man, one woman, for life marriage, then man DID invent it... OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
- No society in human history has failed to restrict and regulate human sexual relationships, in order to acquire and maintain the advantages of marriage

Genesis 1:28 (ESV)

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply** and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

ALSO: Gen. 8:17; 9:1, 7; 28:2; 35:11; Jer. 3:16; 23:3; Eze. 36:11

1 Corinthians 7:2–4 (ESV)

2 But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. **3** The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. **4** For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

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- Expectation that children will be raised by both of their biological parents

Civil Society Needs Traditional Marriages to Create and Raise Citizens

“The critical public or ‘civil’ task of marriage is to regulate sexual relationships between men and women in order to reduce the likelihood that children (and their mothers, and society) will face the burdens of fatherlessness, and increase the likelihood that there will be a next generation that will be raised by their mothers and fathers in one family, where both parents are committed to each other and to their children.”

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- Expectation that children will be raised by both of their biological parents
- Submission of all human beings to the rule of their Creator

Hebrews 13:4 (ESV)

4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Effects of Redefining Marriage

- It makes marriage primarily about the emotional needs/wants of adults, and makes it no different than any other relationship or contract

“NY Times” Style Column Profiles a Marriage with Unusual Beginnings

Partilla and Riddell were married to others when they met—at their children’s pre-kindergarten class. In fact, their families had become friends and even vacationed together. But rather than “deny their feelings and live dishonestly,” they chose to abandon their spouses and children: “All they had were their feelings, which Ms. Riddell described as ‘unconditional and all-encompassing. . . . It was a gift . . . but I had to earn it. Were we brave enough to hold hands and jump?’ ”

Effects of Redefining Marriage

- It makes marriage primarily about the emotional needs/wants of adults, and makes it no different than any other relationship or contract
- It removes, in principle, any boundaries to what a marriage can or should be.
 - Polygamy
 - Incest
 - Open Marriages
 - Leasing of Spouses

German Ethics Council

“In the case of consensual incest among adult siblings, neither the fear of negative consequences for the family , nor the possibility of the birth of children from such incestuous relationships can justify a criminal prohibition.”

“The fundamental right of adult siblings to sexual self-determination has more weight in such cases than the abstract protection of the family.”

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Effects of Redefining Marriage

- It makes marriage primarily about the emotional needs/wants of adults, and makes it no different than any other relationship or contract
- It removes, in principle, any boundaries to what a marriage can or should be.
- It divorces child-bearing from the concept of marriage, eliminating the expectation of a child being raised by its biological parents

Effects of Redefining Marriage

- It treats male and female as interchangeable
- It treats mothers and fathers as though they are interchangeable

Matthew 22:30 (ESV)

30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

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- It drives those who believe in Biblical marriage to the margins of culture.

Driving Christians to the Margins of Society

- I can not serve in any government position in San Antonio, TX or fulfill any contracts for the city.
- I am unfit for an executive position in Mozilla
- I might not be able to run a bakery in CO.
- I might not be able to run a bed and breakfast in NY.
- I might not be able to run a T-shirt company in KY.
- I might not be able to run a photography business in NM

San Antonio Non-Discrimination Ordinance

“No person shall be appointed to a position if the city council finds that such person has, prior to such proposed appointment, engaged in discrimination or demonstrated a bias, by word or deed, against any person, group or organization on the basis of ... sexual orientation...”

Brendan Eich

- Invented the JavaScript language that is on nearly every web page
- Founded Mozilla 15 years ago
- Was forced to resign as CEO of Mozilla because he had donated \$1000 to support traditional marriage six years ago

Baker in Colorado

Jack Phillips is a baker who declined to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple because his Christian belief is that marriage exists only between a man and woman. Now a Colorado judge has ordered him to bake cakes for same-sex marriages, and if Phillips refuses, he could go to jail.

Phillips told the men, "I'll make you birthday cakes, shower cakes, sell you cookies and brownies, I just don't make cakes for same-sex weddings."

Judge Rules Christian Photographer MUST Photograph Gay “Weddings”

“At its heart, this case teaches that at some point in our lives all of us must compromise, if only a little, to accommodate the contrasting values of others.... I would say to the Huguenins, with the utmost respect: it is the price of citizenship.”

T-Shirt Company in Kentucky MUST Print Gay Pride T-Shirts

Not only did the judge rule that Adamson's actions constituted unlawful discrimination in violation of the Fairness Ordinance, he also ordered him "to participate in diversity training to be conducted by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission within twelve months of the issuance of this order."

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- It throws away marriage as it has been known in every culture since the beginning of time
- It throws away marriage as ordained by God

The Last Time we Redefined Marriage

- Over thirty years ago, “no-fault” divorce laws began to be implemented across the country
- This ended the expectation that marriage would be permanent
- Now people can divorce their spouses for any reason, or no reason at all
- About 80% of divorces are unilateral
- How have marriages and children fared in the past 30 years?

The Results of Redefining Marriage

- 1 in 3 children live in a home without their biological father, resulting in...
 - Greater poverty
 - Higher youth crime rates
 - More juvenile delinquency
 - More teen pregnancy and sexual activity
 - More child abuse
 - Higher rates of drug use
 - Higher rates of childhood obesity
 - Lower academic success

Two Views of Marriage

Biblical/Traditional View

- Distinct from other relationships and contracts in kind
- Permanent
- Exclusive
- 1 Male + 1 Female
- Commitment
- Ordered toward creating and raising children

New View

- Differs from other relationships and contracts in degree, not kind
- Not necessarily permanent
- Not necessarily exclusive
- Many possible combinations
- Compatibility
- Ordered toward individual personal fulfillment

Psalm 127 (ESV)

1 Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. **2** It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. **3** Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. **4** Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. **5** Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.