Marriage Matters

What God Has Joined Together

Session 1: Who Defines Marriage?

Matthew 19:4-6 *He [Jesus] 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."*

What is marriage?

Special interest groups insist that a redefinition of _____ is essential to preserving a healthy, free society that honors the principal of _____ and rights the wrongs of prejudicial _____.

The real issue is whether or not words have _____ and whether that meaning reflects _____.

For Christians this is not simply a matter of maintaining the _____ definition of marriage; it is a matter of _____ faithful to Christ.

As Christians we must never _____ what God does not _____. We cannot pronounce _____ what God has declared evil.

The authority to name the _____ known as marriage belongs to the originator of that relationship.

Marriage is not a social convention _____ by humanity but an institution founded by God.

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The Authority to Define Marriage

As King of kings and Lord of lords with absolute authority, any _____ pronouncement Jesus makes is binding upon all of humanity.

By appealing to _____, Jesus makes it clear that His words on the subject of marriage apply to all of mankind.

Christ Defines Marriage

According to Jesus, marriage must be defined in terms of God's _____, which is clearly exhibited in the pattern of _____.

- *God made the first couple, _____ and female.*
- *Marriage is between two people of the _____ sex.*

The purpose for creating them male and female is that they might hold fast to one another and be united in a _____ embrace.

- *Hold fast means to "stick to like glue" and refers to an _____ bond intended for _____.*
- *This unity finds its most intimate expression in a particular _____ activity for which they were specifically fashioned.*
- *The female anatomy was specifically designed for joining with the male anatomy in a _____ way.*

From creation, marriage was intended to be the _____ relationship between one man and one woman.

The marital union is consummated in the act of physical _____ for which the husband and wife were specifically _____.

Notes

God _____ for the husband and wife to live together in a _____ that cannot be _____.

- *The term "separate" does not mean "to undo" but "to _____."*
- *The reality of divorce is that the marital union is _____ torn apart.*

What God has _____ _____, let no man sever.

Both sides in the debate over the definition of marriage are woefully _____ to deal with the profound _____ of biblical marriage.

Session 2: The State of the Union

By "state of the union" I am referring to the _____ _____ of the marital union in contemporary society.

- *There are serious social problems stemming from the most basic component of social life – the _____.*
- *The broken homes and single parent households once considered _____ are now _____ pursued.*

> *"Whoever troubles his own household will inherit the wind."*
>
> Proverbs 11:29

Proponents of redefining _____ would have us believe that their success would be a matter of little _____.

Notes

Legalizing same sex marriage and thereby changing the definition of "marriage" will have far reaching _____.

Contrary to their stated agenda, the push to legalize same sex marriage is not a _____ _____ issue.

One of the cases before the _____ _____ concerns California's Proposition 8.

- *In 2000 the citizens of California voting overwhelmingly for Proposition 22 defining marriage as between a man and a woman.*
- *In May of 2008, four liberal judges declared the legislation "_____."*
- *In November of 2008, the citizens of California voted for Proposition 8 to _____ the constitution with these words:*

  > *"Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in the state of California."*

- *Despite the propaganda of the opponents of Proposition 8, the issue is not about equal rights.*
- *Section 297.5 of the California Family Code states:*

  > *"...registered domestic partners shall have the same rights, protections, and benefits, and shall be subject to the same responsibilities, obligations and duties under law..."*

- *Legalizing same-sex marriage is about forcing a redefinition of _____ upon society so that the homosexual unions are forced to be considered the _____ as heterosexual unions.*

Notes

Once the door of "redefining marriage" is opened, there is ____ _____ to what may eventually be considered "marriage."

> *"The definition of marriage is plastic. Just like heterosexual marriage is no better or worse than homosexual marriage, marriage between two consenting adults is not inherently more or less 'correct' than marriage among three (or four, or six) consenting adults."* Jillian Keenan

This reasoning is possible because we have become a relativistic, amoral society, assessing issues in pragmatic terms rather than moral terms.

Consequences of the Agenda

The agenda is about forced validation and paving the way for legally _____, mandated _____.

Ruling in favor of redefining marriage to include homosexual couples will impact :

- *Anti-discrimination laws*
- *Churches*
- *Religious adoption agencies*
- *New categories of hate-crimes*
- *Children's education*
- *Personal liberties*

Redefining the term "marriage" is a part of a much larger _____.

Redefining marriage is about _____ _____ so that others can be forced to give up their rights to _____ _____ and _____ _____ in the name of equality.

Notes

Who Is To Blame?

Sadly, Christians have made their own _____ to the cause.

- *Divorce*
- *Apathy*
- *Poor biblical instruction*

The church needs to regain the sense of awe that should accompany her understanding of marriage as a union _____ by God to proclaim _____ and His church.

Christians must be prepared to kindly but _____ stand with the Word of God.

Session 3: The Particulars of Marriage

The act of becoming "one flesh" is not sufficient to constitute a _____ marriage.

The act of "uniting in one flesh" was intended by God for _____ alone but man has perverted it.

> *Pervert: to alter something from its original course, meaning, or state to a distortion or corruption of what was first intended.*

Marriage is a _____ which was ordained by God Himself in the act of creation.

- *The marriage _____ is a covenant ceremony.*
- *A woman _____ a man's wife by a covenant made before God.*

In the New Testament the _____ covenant is reflected in the relationship between _____ and His church.

Notes