

Marriage, the Image of God

Miles McPherson - February 10, 2008

Pastor Miles was at a park yesterday watching his son play flag football.

A woman with her son came up to Pastor Miles because her son wanted to meet Pastor Miles, seeing as how they go to the Rock. Pastor Miles noticed the woman also had her daughter with her, but the whole time the daughter was just clinging to her mother's leg almost hiding from him. This is a reflection of a connection children have with their mothers. It is a special connection; one that a father may not have with their child the same way a mother does, because children come from their mother.

We begin in **Genesis 1** this Sunday as we look at the topic of marriage, in the image of God.

In **Genesis 1** we see that man is made in the image of God. When God created Adam, he saw that it was not good for man to be alone, and He created Eve from Adam. And God saw that was good!

The Marriage Battle

Though clearly we see from the beginning of Scripture, God created man and woman to be united in marriage with one another, our current culture is striving to take the marriage covenant in a different direction. We are in a spiritual battle, as society pushes more and more for marriage to be legal between couples of the same sex.

In this discussion it needs to be clear that Christians are not and should not be against homosexuals as individual people. Rather it is the homosexual agenda that we must stand up against.

The homosexual agenda is being pushed upon this nation, to the point where it may become illegal for pastors to preach against homosexuality from the pulpit, that is where even such preaching is deemed a crime. In some countries this is already the case. Keep in mind this battle is not about gay people, rather it is a spiritual battle in which we are fighting the devil!

Right and Wrong

We have to know what the basis of our right and wrong is, before we can just decide whether something is right or wrong.

In the Bible we find absolute truth. We can know an objective moral truth. Truth is not relative; otherwise truth can be whatever we want it to be.

Our truth cannot constantly be changing. In regards to homosexuality, there are Christians who are homosexuals, it is not about whether or not God loves homosexuals, and He of course does. However just like every other Christian we have to follow God on God's terms. God designed us with a specific intent, and the devil seeks to destroy that.

The malady of creating our own wrong and rights leaves it up to us, and that puts us on shaky ground. We must refer to Scripture and know what God says on the moral matters and follow that, because that is solid ground.

Man and Woman in God's Image

God calls sex a one-flesh union, two people becoming one, a holy union. However, sex outside the context of marriage is not a holy union.

Male and Female are distinct expressions of the Image of God.

Genesis 1:26-27 states, Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God intentionally created us male and female for a marriage relationship. **Genesis 2:18** states, *Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."*

God made mankind in His image. He separated them, and they will strive to become one again.

Genesis 2:21-23 states, 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. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 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."

Sex is a union of shameless one-ness between man and a woman. God calls sex a one-flesh union, two people becoming one, a holy union. However, sex outside the context of marriage is not a holy union.

The devil wants to see us have sex with as many people as we can, because that will scar us at the core of our beings. He wants to break our conscience down, wearing out our God conscience to the point where we have no idea of right or wrong anymore.

Biblical marriage promotes life, for the raising of children by mothers and fathers. Homosexual behavior reduces life. Why? No one can be born out of a homosexual relationship. Marriage is not a governmental issue. It is something the church is the custodian of.

Marriage is designed to be a lifelong commitment. It is clear among statistics that homosexual relationships are mainly about sex, this is attributed to the fact of the amount of sexual partners a homosexual person has a year, regardless of whether he is in a monogamous "marriage" relationship.

Exercise Biblical Responsibility

Knowing what we know about the marriage covenant, according to the absolute truth of Scripture, as God created it, we must stand up for it, keeping it a holy union as God intended it to be.

We need to exercise our Biblical responsibility and our legal right to speak truth and help bring change to our country in this pivotal time. We cannot just sit back and watch these things happen. We must pray and act!

<http://www.therocksandiego.org/messages/2008-02-10/>