
SAME - SEX MARRIAGE AND BEYOND

Hebrews 13:4

INTRODUCTION

We are clearly living in a day when marriage is not only being redefined, it is also being redesigned. The Biblical and traditional understanding of marriage is rapidly being replaced with any number of progressive concepts perpetrated by liberal theologians, activist judges, radical politicians, and agents of secular humanism.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. Secular society has consistently defined marriage as the legal _____ of a man and a woman as husband and wife for 1000s of years of human history:
1. This understanding of marriage is neither exclusively _____ nor exclusively Biblical!
 2. As God's people, we fully recognize that the _____ of marriage originates in the _____ of _____!
- B. On June 12, 1967, the United States Supreme Court issued a 9-0 decision that struck down laws _____ interracial _____.
- C. In 1993 three same-sex couples challenged the _____ of Hawaii's statute prohibiting _____ - _____ marriage!
- The passage of an amendment to the _____ constitution in 1998 led to the _____ of the case in 1999.
 - The amendment empowered the state legislature to _____ marriage to mixed-sex couples.
- D. The _____ of Marriage Act (DOMA) was a United States federal law passed by congress and signed into law by President _____, September 21, 1996:
1. It _____ marriage for federal purposes as the _____ of one man and one woman.
 2. In _____ the United States Supreme Court ruled that Section 3 of DOMA, which denied federal recognition of same-sex marriages, was a _____ of the United States Constitution.

- E. On June 15, _____ the United State Supreme Court declared _____ bans on same-sex marriage unconstitutional (5-4 ruling)!
1. This ruling _____ all states to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples...
 2. And to _____ same-sex marriages in other jurisdictions.
 - As an act of _____, President Obama's White House was illuminated in _____ colors on the evening of the ruling in support of homosexuals.
 - President Obama _____ the decision and called it a "_____ for America."

II. **BURNING ISSUES**

- In a previous lesson we presented the Biblical _____ that homosexual behavior is sinful (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:24-32). How do we, as believers, _____ to the "justifications" presented by the homosexual community regarding their _____ and same-sex marriage?
- A. Conservative Christians " _____ " Scripture:
1. The sin of _____ was inhospitality, not homosexuality!
 2. The Old Testament prohibitions against homosexuality are the _____ as prohibitions against eating rabbits and hogs (Leviticus 11:6-8), and picking up _____ on the Sabbath (Numbers 15:32-36); in other words they are no longer _____!
 3. Jesus _____ condemned homosexuality!
 - Jesus _____ the continuation of the Old Testament _____ law – Matthew 5:17-20;27;28
 - Jesus affirmed the Genesis pattern of _____ and _____ regarding marriage – Mark 10:2-9
- B. As homosexuals, we are _____ adults:
1. Was the mass _____ at Jonestown among consenting _____ morally acceptable?
 2. Would it be morally acceptable for a _____ to have sex with his 19-year-old consenting _____?

3. The reality is, laws do legislate _____ and do impose a moral _____ of behavior!
 - The _____ Amendment to the United States Constitution outlawed the immoral practice of _____!
 - In _____ the Supreme Court outlawed the immoral practice of polygamy!
 - The _____ legislation of the 1950s and 1960s is yet another _____ of morality being legislated!

C. As homosexuals, we _____:

1. Because homosexuals are not _____ that way, they can (and often do) _____ – I Corinthians 6:9-11
 - Paul is _____ suggesting that every homosexual will _____ heterosexual...
 - Just that homosexuals can _____ from homosexual practice!
2. God is asking the _____ thing of homosexuals that He asks of sinful heterosexuals (fornicators), _____ from sinful practices!

D. As homosexuals, we _____ one another:

1. Contrary to what homosexuals assume, the government does not _____ marriage because two _____ love one another...
 - There is _____ little box on a marriage _____ that you must check labeled “in love.”
2. While there are same-sex _____ who feel romantically drawn to one another, and possess a _____ sense of commitment to one another...
 - The same might be said of a man and his _____, or _____ men and a woman!
 - Should those people _____ on their sexual desires and be _____ to marry?

E. Christians ought to read Matthew chapter seven, and _____ homosexuals:

1. Bible-believing Christians are _____ judging, _____ is – Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:24-32

2. In this passage of Scripture (Matthew 7:1-5), Jesus is not telling us _____ to judge, He is telling us _____ to judge!
 - He tells us that when we judge others (“the mote that is thy brother’s eye”), we must _____ the “beam that is in _____ own eye”!
 3. Jesus would not tell us to _____ judging—that would be _____!
 - He is telling us to _____ righteously – Leviticus 19:15; John 7:24
 - Righteous judgment is that which is _____ on the _____ of God’s Word – Proverbs 8:20; 12:17
- F. Homosexuality is like _____; homosexuals are a class of _____ like African-Americans:
1. Skin _____ is neutral, but _____ behavior is not!
 2. Sexual behavior is always a _____; race _____ is!
 - You may find _____ homosexuals, but you _____ find a former African-American!
- G. There is _____ in same-sex marriages:
1. Justice Kennedy declared that “the _____ to marry is a fundamental right inherent in the liberty of the person, and under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment couples of the same-sex _____ be deprived of that right and that _____.”
 - But marriage is _____ to be found in the Constitution!
 - The _____ Justice insisted that Kennedy’s statement was an argument based in _____ rather than in law.
 2. The Chief Justice went on to say, “It is striking how much of the majority’s reasoning would apply with _____ force to the claim of a fundamental right to _____ marriage.”
 3. Justice Samuel Alito said, “I assume that those who cling to _____ beliefs will be able to whisper their thoughts in the recesses of their homes, but if they repeat those views in _____, they will risk being labeled as _____ and treated as such by governments, employers, and schools.”

4. Justice Clarence Thomas warned in his dissent of “ruinous consequences for _____.”
5. Exactly what the _____ of the Supreme Court same-sex ruling will mean to Christians in general, and specifically to _____ and Christian-owned businesses, is _____ to be fully determined.
 - But there is no doubt that the _____ and energized homosexual movement will _____ this ruling as hard and far as possible!
 - Even today, Christian _____ are under pressure, as well as Christian business owners who are facing _____ due to their Biblical beliefs and convictions!

III. BIBLICAL INSIGHT

- A. God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as _____ or _____:
 - These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the very _____ and _____ of God – Genesis 1:26,27
- B. The term “marriage” has one primary meaning: the _____ of one man and one woman in a _____, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture – Genesis 2:18-25
- C. Biblical marriage involves _____:
 1. A _____ commitment – Ephesians 5:21-33
 2. A _____ relationship – I Corinthians 7:1-5; Hebrews 13:4
- D. Foreign or counterfeit _____ bonding includes:
 1. Cohabitation relationships –
 - Sex between a male and female living _____, as if _____!
 2. Same-sex relationships –
 - Sex with the same _____!
 3. Polygamist relationships –
 - Sex with more than one “_____!”

4. Polyamorous relationships –

- Sex with _____ partners simultaneously, with knowledge and _____ of all partners!

However, we must realize that ultimately the same-sex marriage debate is not a matter simply of politics, nor a matter of judicial activism. At root is the spiritual emptiness of a nation that has turned from God and lost its way.

A growing number of people are beginning to realize that our problems are not merely political, economic, racial, or even moral. Unless we find a remedy for the human spirit, our downward spiral will accelerate. The Gospel of our triumphant Christ is the only answer.

--Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer