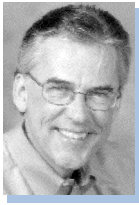


Marriage: Homosexual or Heterosexual *— consider carefully*



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IS THE CONTEMPORARY DEBATE over marriage between homosexuals really just a private, personal matter? Can one be rationally opposed to homosexual marriages without being homophobic? Does God care either way? And do we care if He does? If yes, then how would that impact us?

Today the whole question of a change in understanding the nature of marriage and of human sexuality is perceived from a host of angles.

For some it is legal. For some it's political. For others it's sociological and simply a matter of the process of social customs and a social institution. For some it is simply following a dictum from a religious authority figure or a denominational majority vote.

If no intelligent Creator God made all things or had rational purposes when He designed us, then such responses are understandable. With no design in life, we are left to our own.

Dr. Dennis Kinlaw, former president of Asbury Seminary, makes the strong point that since there is a God who intentionally made us male and female, then He really should not be left out of the discussion. In fact, what He thinks and has stated in His Word, could well be (I believe it is) the missing element in all the confusion, the key to unlock the closet of chaos.

God has spoken. Scripture is clear that human sexuality and marriage are more than theology, biology, sociology, politics, law or even well-intentioned morality. The Bible story of creation lets us know that our sexuality is not the result of impersonal, natural evolutionary processes. Rather, it is part of the blessing of God and given with a loving design and concern for eternal good.

Here's why. The Bible affirms the quality of both the man and the woman. The first female is taken from the first male, and all subsequent males come from the female. Their equality before each other is established in such a way that their relatedness, the fact that each is made for the other, is dramatically portrayed. Their very self-

definition is in terms of each other, and the fulfillment of the one is to be found in the other. Thanks for staying focused with me a bit longer on this matter. It is one of utmost importance and must be given great care, wisdom and attention.

Distinct sexuality provides an amazing potential. Because of the differences between a male and a female, a woman's femaleness is by definition the potential for motherhood—even if in certain individuals biological complications prevent pregnancy.

But she has no capacity within herself alone to realize her potential. She needs the issuance of her male companion for that, even if it is accomplished in a non-intimate manner as is possible through today's biomedical practices.

The male, by his very maleness, has the potential for becoming a father. But he, like his counterpart, has no capacity in himself alone to find that fulfillment. He needs her. She needs him.

Each has the capacity to confer upon the other a fulfillment of his masculinity or her femininity. This is God's norm, and with exceptions due to our fallen bodies not functioning in their original perfectly-designed ways, the greater richness for each is found in their mutual love of their offspring.

The significance of all this is ignored at great peril. Regrettably for some, it is willingly ignored because of spiritual lies, emotional injury or personal gratification. Equally regrettably, but with more responsibility, some who claim God's name just don't care or have allowed their faith to be culturally co-opted.

Here is the significance that must not, cannot, be ignored. The very future existence of the human race and the fulfillment of the divine purposes for God's own creation hang on respect for and honor of our sexual differentiation. So we find Genesis telling us that God commands the first couple, a male and a female, to be fruitful, to multiply, and to fill the earth. The capacity to do that is considered by the Genesis account to be the result of the blessing of God. God has a profound interest in His creation of the distinct sexuality of a man and a woman.

A same sex relationship can never fulfill the potential that God ordained and made possible through a heterosexual one. The homosexual relationship is by definition absolutely sterile. That very sterility is God's own statement that it is not an intended part of His order for His creation.

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother, and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). And it is in that fulfillment of God's command and loyalty to His design that the children who are the result of this covenant will find the security that they need for wholesome personal development. This relationship is what has always been known as marriage.

If the Scripturally-defined marriage and family is destroyed, God's prime tool to enable us to think of Him as He is will no longer exist. The idea of a homosexual marriage finds no Scriptural basis, no God-honoring design and is not compatible with His written Word. Such a union cannot accomplish God's ways.

The biblical view of human sexuality is not an outmoded perspective made irrelevant by time. It is a key to social health, personal wholesomeness and to our human future in God. And it must never be permitted to be hijacked as simply a political/legal issue expediently or conveniently neglected by those who claim to love the Lord our God.

From my heart,
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