

“The Truth About Homosexual ‘Marriage’” Part 2 10/18-19/08 6 pm; 9 & 10:45 am
 Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25

Series, “*What is Truth?*”

INTRODUCTION

Today is part two of what we began last week, “**The Truth About Homosexual Marriage.**” If you missed that message, I urge you to go to the church Web site and listen to it and/or read the message notes that I used. It is important background to what we will cover today.

Tuesday, November 4, election day, we will vote on Proposition 8. It reads, “*Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid and recognized in California.*”

Since this issue unmistakably crosses into the territory of God’s Word, we’re going to look to the Bible to see what God says is “**The Truth about Homosexual Marriage.**”

OPEN to Genesis 1:26 (**PAGE** 3)

I. God’s Design for Marriage

This is the short version of the creation of man; the culmination of creation on day #6.

READ Genesis 1:26-28a

*Now, let’s turn to **Genesis 2:18** for a more expanded version*

READ Genesis 2:18-25

Man-woman marriage is by *design*:

A. People are *designed* in the image of God

Not physically, but in terms of being thinking, feeling, creating, choosing people.

This is what makes us different from animals. We are made in the image of God.

B. Male and female are according to God’s *design*

Both genders mirror different aspects of God’s nature on Earth. Both genders bear the image of God, though they reflect Him in different ways.

So we see that “The original purpose of marriage was to mirror God.” (The Truth About Same-Sex Marriage, Erwin Lutzer)

Men and women *are* different ... physically (anatomy), emotionally, how they think. There are definite overlaps, but the distinctions, the unique “wiring” of male and female cannot be denied.

C. Female is *designed for* and from male ... to be “suitable” i.e., “corresponding to”

He said it was not good for Adam to be alone ... not good for him to be without a person corresponding to him.

In creating the woman, God took one of Adam’s ribs, thus He “separated femininity out of masculinity, forming two separate people. Femininity and masculinity would now lie at the heart of who we are as people.

“Our sexual desires are rooted in creation, proof that sex was created by God as an expression of unity and love between a man and a woman.” (The Truth About Same-Sex Marriage, Erwin Lutzer)

D. Childbearing is part of the male/female *design* and the marriage *design*

It takes both a man and a woman to produce a child: two men cannot produce a baby; two women cannot produce a baby.

E. “Heterosexual” marriage is by *design*

“Hetero” means “*different*,” “Homo means “*same*.”

This pattern is then upheld throughout the rest of Scripture. It is God’s intentional and exclusive *design* for marriage.

This is why in Romans 1, same-sex sexual relations are called “**exchanging natural relations for unnatural ones**” (v. 26)

So, we don’t just take what Scripture says and say, “*Well man-woman marriage is just one way and one view of how marriage can be.*”

It is the way God has designed marriage to be.

So, upholding traditional marriage is not unfair or hateful, as some see it. It is a matter of God's design, God's clear intentions, God's Truth.

II. God's Design for Parenting (Genesis 1:28)

We're covering this for your understanding of God's design and intent on parenting.

Same-sex partners in California *already have* the right to adopt children, to be artificially inseminated, and other means of having children together.

Prop. 8 has no effect upon this.

We saw in Genesis 1:28 that God's first command to Adam and Eve was **“be fruitful and multiply.”**

God's design for parenting is that one man and one woman, in the context of marriage, bring children into the world and become father and mother to those children.

According to God's design, children need both the masculinity of the father and the femininity of the mother.

God's instructions regarding parenting are to father and mother ... how to raise their children: provision, nurture, teaching.

“God intended that every child have a mother and a father who are an example of commitment, caring and love...” In the USA where first-time marriage divorce rates are between 33% and 40%, where there is sexual immorality, and the redefinition of the family, living God's ideal is a challenge.

“However – and this is important – we must work toward the ideal even though we know we shall not achieve it, rather than work against it, defying the Designer Who made us all.” (The Truth About Same-Sex Marriage, Erwin Lutzer)

“Judith Stacey, a sociologist and an advocate for same-sex marriage, agrees that sons of lesbians are less masculine and daughters of lesbians are more masculine. She also found that a *‘significantly greater proportion’* of young adults who were raised by lesbian mothers ... report *same-sex* sexual attractions. (The Truth About Same-Sex Marriage, Erwin Lutzer)

Father and mother parenting is God's design.

III. Other Issues

A. What about civil rights?

Doesn't denying same-sex marriage deny civil rights?

It does not. Let's watch this video clip ...

Show video of African-American pastors defining civil rights (born black) and contrasting that with homosexuality (choice).

There is a difference between how a person is born and what behaviors they choose.

However, let me state clearly and openly, no one who is choosing to be "gay" should ever be the victim of abuse (verbal, physical or otherwise). It is not excusable.

B. Won't denying homosexual marriage make discrimination legal?

Yes and no.

Webster's Dictionary defines discrimination as *"to discern or expose differences, to use good judgment; to make a difference in treatment or favor on a basis other than individual merit."*

Based on the Bible, social science and history, acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle or homosexual marriage is not good for a society. In fact, it brings harm to a society.

So, in this sense, to be discriminating regarding homosexual marriage is wise.

What Proposition 8 does is to restore the meaning of marriage to what it has always been and protects it as an essential institution that has benefited mankind since the beginning of time. Every culture in the world understands that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Proposition 8 does not take away any rights from gay and lesbian domestic partners. Gays and lesbians in California already have all the legal rights and benefits of marriage. The California Family Code says, *"domestic partners shall have all the rights, protections and benefits"* of married spouses. There are NO exceptions to this. Proposition 8 will not change that.

You may ask, *"If same-sex domestic partners already have all the rights, protections and benefits of married spouses, why do we need Prop. 8?"*

Here's why:

If same-sex relationships are allowed to be classified as "marriage," many things will change:

1) Children in the public schools will be taught that homosexuality and same-sex marriage is normal and in every way acceptable and equal to man-woman marriage.

This is not my opinion, this is the law. SB777 and the California Education Code (§51933).

Let's take a look at what happened in the Massachusetts public schools when same-sex marriage was adopted.

SHOW video clip of Gay Agenda in Schools (4 min.)

These parents asked their elementary schools for two things: 1) parental notification of such content and, 2) be allowed to have their children opt out of class when homosexual content was being covered. *The schools refused to grant these requests.*

So, the parents brought a law suit that worked its way through the state and federal court system, losing all the way.

Then, last week, the US Supreme Court refused to hear their appeal. This means that lower court decisions will stand. So, in Massachusetts, 1) Parents have no right to be notified when discussions regarding homosexuality and homosexual marriage take place, 2) parents will not be allowed to have their children opt out of class when that content is being taught.

This will happen in California if same-sex marriage becomes legal.

2) Christian adoption agencies may be forced to adopt children to same-sex couples. Catholic Charities in Boston, Massachusetts closed down its adoption program because the state of Massachusetts insisted that every adoption agency in the state must allow same-sex couples to adopt.

3) It may grow to affect churches and Christian ministries:

- Recently, a Methodist camp in New Jersey lost part of its tax-exempt status because it refused to allow two lesbian couples to use their facility for a civil union ceremony.

- In Quebec, Canada, a Christian (Mennonite) school was informed that it must conform to the official provincial curriculum, which includes teaching homosexuality as an acceptable alternative lifestyle.

At last report, the Mennonites were considering leaving the province rather than permit the imposition of the state-sponsored curriculum on their children.

Also in Canada, a pastor was arrested for preaching what the Bible teaches about homosexuality. He was convicted of hate speech and put in jail.

4) It will continue to degrade the right of religion and conscience when conducting business:

- Recently, a wedding photographer in New Mexico faced a hearing with the state's Human Rights Commission because she declined the business of a lesbian couple. She didn't want to take photos of their commitment ceremony. She was fined \$7,000.

- A few years ago in CA, two doctors were sued by a lesbian for refusing to give her artificial insemination. They refused based upon their religions convictions. But they then paid for her to see another doctor, and the woman now has three children. But, she felt her civil rights were violated, and a few months ago, the Supreme Court of California agreed.

The pattern is clear. Legalizing same-sex "marriage" has brought in its wake state regulation of other parts of society.

Advocates of same-sex "marriage" insist that theirs is a modest reform: a simple expansion of marriage to include people currently excluded. But the price of same-sex "marriage" is a reduction in tolerance for everyone else.

("Same-Sex 'Marriage' and the Persecution of Civil Society," http://www.jennifer-roback-morse.com/articles/Same_Sex_Marriage.pdf)

CONCLUSION

Remember: God calls us to love. God Himself is love, Jesus came to us out of sacrificial love.

And this room is filled with enough "*falling short of God's glory*" that there's no room for condemning anyone.

Love, sympathy, grace and truth.

Every person needs Jesus!

"Father God, please fill me with Your wisdom and truth and use me as an instrument of Your grace and love. In Jesus' name, Amen."