

## Created Marriage

### Preamble - A Year Of the Lords Favour

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim (announce) good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, [2] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, **Isaiah 61:1-2**

- His grace, kindness and love towards us
- Him being present with us and giving us Encounter with him
- The growing family here and depth of relationship
- The increasing growth in prayer
- Stewarding the favour is what is important - Joseph

### ReCap

The first three chapters of Genesis are foundational to our understanding of scripture. All the key themes are there. This series focuses on the facts that human beings are:

### We are created by design in the image of Creator God

There is ONE GREAT STORY WHICH DOES MOMENTOUSLY ACCOUNT FOR WHERE WE'VE COME FROM, WHY WE'RE HERE AND WHERE WE'RE GOING. ONE 'PLOT-LINE' which reveals and reflects the true meaning of existence. The plot-line of creation, fall, redemption and final consummation contained in the Old and New Testament Scriptures... Rev

#### Dr **David Hilborn**

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
  - In the beginning God
  - He created, this is his design
  - We are not here by accident but by God's divine design
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- Created to be in friendship with Creator God
  - Created with purpose to steward God's earth and creation and be fruitful
  - Created to reach all peoples with the good news of friendship with God
  - Created Male and Female - God gives us our sexual identity
  - Created Marriage is today's subject

### Introduction

- I will speak about what the Bible has to say about Marriage today.
- I will also speak about Homosexuality and what the Bible says
- All are loved, loved deeply by God and should be by his Church
- This is tough subject to speak about, not because the Bible is unclear or I am uncertain about what to say but because:
- It deeply affects all of our lives - family, friends, co workers whom we love and respect are touched by this issue

- The Gay issue and gay rights are also deeply politicised and laws have been changed etc
  - The Churches response has had two extremes, we either ignore the issue and hope it will go away or some have taken aggressive even violent attitudes to those practicing same sex lifestyles
- We will not do either of the above
  - We love all people
  - We will work and journey with all people seeking to live a life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, no matter how long it takes

We are not self-defining creatures, nor are we autonomous moral agents. We are creatures who are fully accountable to our Creator. **Dan Mohler**

- We need a Higher Vision of the beauty and magnificence of Marriage
- There is such a low vision of marriage in our society and world today
- It has been cheapened and become a self focused thing
- Centred around pleasure and success
- The idea of covenant and commitment has been lost
- Many are in it for what they can get out of it
- Our society has redefined marriage
- We are broken and damaged and disordered
- We need a biblical picture

The greatness and glory of marriage is beyond our ability to think or feel without divine revelation and without the illumining and awakening work of the Holy Spirit. The world cannot know what marriage is without learning it from God. **John Piper**

### **1. Marriage is created and defined by God**

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. [28] God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth... **Genesis 1:27-28a**

Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. [23] The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man. ” [24] That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. **Genesis 2:22-24**

- Marriage is created and defined by God in the Scriptures
- It is the sexual and covenantal union of a man and a woman in life-long allegiance to each other alone, as husband and wife
- Marriage is Gods idea not ours. It is good
- It is for companionship - *'It is for not good for man to be alone'*
- It is for gardening, says John Mark Commer - Purpose 'A helper a partner'

- Children come from this union and family begins
  - Family is the building block for society
- It is for the glory of God

### Jesus

“Haven't you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' [5] and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh' ? [6] So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” **Matthew 19:4-6**

- Being male and female and recognising, celebrating and submitting to one another's differences is foundational
- What God has joined together let no one separate!

### Paul

Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. [25] Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ..... [31] “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” [32] This is a profound mystery---but I am talking about Christ and the church. **Ephesians 5:24-25,31-32**

- As husband and wife they display Christ and the Church
- This was mystery to be shown in and through marriage
- One man, one woman submitting too and loving one another in a lifelong commitment
- Ultimately for the Glory of God

Marriage exists to display the merciful covenant keeping love of Christ and the faithfulness of his bride. **John Piper**

Pitirim Sorokin, founder of the department of sociology at Harvard University, made very clear that marriage stands at the centre of civilisation and is what he called the “civilisational essential.” Without marriage, no social structure larger than marriage can be sustained. There can be no community, no culture, no enduring patterns of human life. **Dan Mohler**

## **2. Brokenness leading to disorder**

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. **Romans 8:20-21**

- It's subjected to frustration
- Our bodies too are broken and don't always work properly
- We all have disorder in our minds and bodies

- We all have emotional brokenness and disorder
- We all have desires we should not have
- All of us are broken in some way
- Sin coming into the world caused us to be out of sync with God, with each other and even with ourselves
- All brokenness and disorder is rooted in sin
- It's the brokenness in our lives that causes us to have desires that are rooted in sin
- We can have sinful desires without committing sin
- Brokenness and frustration is seen all through creation and in each of our lives
- One of those broken desires is same sex attraction

### **3. The Bible Condemns Homosexual Practice**

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men [10] nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **1**

#### **Corinthians 6:9-10**

- Romans 1.24-29 - Paul again teaches us that it is unnatural and sinful
- Jesus reaffirmed marriage as between one man and one woman
- Paul referred to the same passage in Genesis 2 and adds that marriage is a mystery that displays the relationship between God and his Church
- Difference between desire and practice
- Same sex attraction is not a sin
- According to the teaching of the Bible Homosexual practice is sin.
- I would also say that there is a difference between a one time act of sin and the wilful practice and acceptance of a sinful desire

### **4. Jesus Saves Us from All Our Disorders**

And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. **1 Corinthians 6:11**

- Paul is saying that this list describes many of you
  - wrongdoers
  - sexually immoral
  - idolaters
  - adulterers
  - men who have sex with men
  - thieves
  - greedy
  - drunkards

- slanderers
  - swindlers
- The good news of Jesus is that God saves sinners both heterosexual and homosexual sinners
  - All of us are guilty of the list above
  - All who trust Jesus, are counted righteous because of Christ,
  - He will help them through his Spirit to live lives pleasing to him in their disordered brokenness.
  - He did it for the Corinthians he does the same for each of us that look to him

The heart of Christianity is that God saves sinners through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The best news in all the world is that Jesus Christ died and rose again so that homosexual or heterosexual sinners — can be rescued from the path of destruction, washed, justified, sanctified and given a place in God’s all-satisfying presence, by faith in Jesus Christ. This is the heart of our message. **John Piper**

*“I tried to toss the Bible and all of its teachings in the trash — I really tried,” she says. “But I kept reading it, reading it not just for pleasure, but reading it because I was engaged in a research program trying to refute the religious right from a lesbian feminist perspective. . . . After my second or third, maybe fourth, pass through the entire Bible something started to happen. The Bible got to be bigger inside me than I. And it absolutely overflowed into my world. I really fought against it. And then one Sunday morning, no different from any other Sunday morning, I rose from the bed of my lesbian lover, and an hour later I sat in a church pew. I went there very conspicuous of the fact that I didn’t fit in. But I really had to confront this God.”* **Rosaria Champagne**

**Butterfield** was an English professor at Syracuse University, a skeptic of all things Christian, and in a committed lesbian relationship. Her academic specialty was Queer Theory, a postmodern form of gay and lesbian studies.

The struggle with homosexuality is a battle of *faith*. *Is God my joy? Is he good enough? Or am I still looking to broken cisterns to quench a thirst only he can satisfy?* That is the battle. It is for me, and it is for you. **Jackie Hill-Perry** Hip-Hop artist from St. Louis, Saved from a practicing gay lifestyle by the grace of God

- So one key to enjoying marriage while still having same-sex desires is to let Christ enlarge your vision of what a relationship can be, and what a life together can be in the service of Christ.

## 5. Our Response

**Courage** to live according to God's created order

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, [16] keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. **1 Peter 3:15-16**

- God's word the Bible must be our pattern for living
- For what we believe to be true and right
- We must guide our children from God's Word the Bible
- It will take courage to do so in our world
- We must not fear or be intimidated
- But we must be courageous with gentleness and respect

**Conviction** to hold biblical view when it comes to being made in the image of God

- If you hold a biblical worldview it will cause you to be in conflict with family, friends and coworkers around you
- We **must** Hold Marriage High Honour

Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. **Hebrews 13:4**

- God defines marriage
- We cannot redefine what God has already defined
  
- We should treat believers and unbelievers differently

**Compassionate** in the way we speak, live and treat others

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' **Matthew 22:39**

- All people need to be loved and treated as people made in the image of God
- Without true compassion for people we don't deserve to be heard and will not be heard
- The bible teaches us to walk in love, to be kind, to be gentle
- And you will need to be compassionate people in how you talk and relate - gentle, humble and loving
- Love warns. Love pleads Love comes alongside and does all it can to help a person live — forever.”
- There should be no homophobia in the Church
- There should be no name calling, no ridiculing, no bullying
- The Church should be a safe place for all people

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone. **Titus 3.1-2**

Therefore we do not recognise gay marriage as Christian marriage (but of course we acknowledge the status under the laws of England).