



What do you think about the proposed Gay Marriage law?

I'm not sure there's enough room in one newsletter to do justice to all aspects of that question, but here are a few of my thoughts:

First of all, this is one of those situations where I need to say,

It really doesn't matter what I think. The only thing that matters is: What does God think?

We live in a society where we are encouraged to give our opinion on everything. American Idol contestants are chosen based on "What we think." Talk Radio thrives on "What we think." We are encouraged to write comments about every article we read in the online newspaper - and if we don't feel like posting a comment we are encouraged to give our "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" reaction to the comments that are made. We have the opportunity to "like" all sorts of pictures and posts on Facebook and are urged to do so (and maybe even feel guilty if we don't).

In this environment where extreme importance is placed on our personal opinions, it is so very crucial to remember that if God has spoken on the particular subject then our opinion doesn't "amount to a hill of beans." (If you're not sure what that old saying means, go ask your parents.)

And God has certainly spoken on both the subject of homosexuality and the subject of marriage. In Leviticus chapter 20 God calls homosexual acts "detestable." In Romans chapter 1 He refers to them as a "perversion" - not the way He designed things to be.

After God created the first man, Adam, and brought all the animals to him, Adam realized there was still something very necessary missing in his life. So what did God create to fill that "empty spot"? Another guy? No! He created the first woman, Eve. Right away in the second chapter of the Bible God describes marriage: *"For this reason* (the reason that man and woman are incomplete without each other) *a man shall leave His father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."* Jesus quoted that verse when asked about marriage and divorce in Mark chapter 10.

It seems to me that a logical, argument can be made for just about any side of an issue. You've probably heard some of the "logical" arguments people have made in favor of gay marriage. But you cannot make a biblical argument for gay marriage. The Bible is quite clear that God created man for a lifelong relationship with a woman, and vice versa. The Bible is also quite clear that homosexuality is not something God is "ok" with.

In confirmation classes, I try to impart lots of biblical principles to the students. One principle that I hammer away at over and over is this:

"Do what God wants and good things will happen. Don't do what God wants and bad things will happen."

That's a basic truth of life.

Gay marriage (or a gay lifestyle apart from marriage) is not God's will. If it becomes legal and thus is encouraged as a viable option, you can be assured there will be bad consequences for adults, kids,

society in general. It really is as simple as that.

But there are a couple thoughts I have that may be worth sharing as well:

The first is an attempt to answer the objection:

But if they are born "that way" aren't we discriminating?

First of all, it appears to me that homosexuality is primarily a choice - one that society is currently promoting. But, *for the sake of argument*, let's say there is a physical propensity toward being homosexual. The following is from Rev. John Piper as quoted in *World Magazine* (with some explanatory comments added by me in italics)

"Having a physical root makes nothing right. Physically based, aggressive tendencies may lead to violent behavior, but we don't condone it. Physically based lethargic tendencies may lead to laziness and neglect, but we don't condone it. Frenetic tendencies may lead to disruption and workaholism *which we try to correct*. A gloomy bent may lead to suicidal thoughts, *and we try to fix that*. An anxious bent may lead to paranoia *and we try to fix that*. Addictive tendencies may lead to alcoholism or bondage to gambling or deadly smoking - *all conditions that we try to discourage and correct*. A low frustration threshold may lead to outbursts of rage *which we discourage*. Strong sexual desires may lead to adultery or polygamy - *which is prohibited due to the detrimental effect on society*.

In other words, in a world where the effect of sin permeates to the roots of nature and disorders all of life, we cannot define as good and natural whatever has physical roots. There must be a higher norm than fallen nature. There are many physically based abnormalities in the world. Therefore having a physical base or root is not sufficient reason for condoning anything as natural or good. "

The other thought I'd like to share is that there's one thing that really bothers me about our opposition to homosexuality and gay marriage. I fear that most of the opposition doesn't often come from a sincere desire to help others do God's will. More likely it comes from a desire to point fingers at a sin that is "safe" for us to oppose, because it's a sin that doesn't ever tempt us.

If we are truly so concerned about doing God's will, why aren't we loudly voicing our opposition to, for example, lying? As just one example, we find politicians lie to us quite frequently, *and we expect it!* Don't we even *like it* when they lie to us - as long as what they tell us is something that we want to hear? Or why don't we voice our opposition to gossip, for example?

The answer seems obvious to me. We choose homosexuality as a lightning rod for our opposition, because we cannot ever see ourselves engaging in it. But lying, gossiping, etc...? It's hard to oppose something you can see yourself doing - even though you know you shouldn't.

We need to remember that our opposition to gay marriage must not come from a "holier than thou" attitude. We need to first repent of that attitude - and the sins we find ourselves drawn to.

And then... we can and should let our legislators know we'd appreciate their vote to keep marriage defined the way God has defined it: One man, One woman. Period.

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