

05/23/04 – “SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE”

Christians, are called to be salt & light in the midst of a lost & troubled world...

Very easy to politicize & miss spiritual dynamic of current cultural issues – Decisions by civil government have moral consequences

The sanctity of marriage between **a man & woman** is an issue that affects all of us & our posterity

The Massachusetts court, by a vote of 4 – 3, ruled to legalize homosexual marriage which violates theological, social & historical precedents

God’s covenant with Abraham, Isaac & Jacob was communicated through marriage – between a **man & a woman**

Marriage is the essential bedrock of 5,000 years of culture both by **tradition, legal precedent & theology**

The Declaration of Independence states we are endowed by our **Creator** with certain unalienable rights...Presupposing God’s role in the culture

The very foundation of our country is the recognition that **there is a Supreme being to whom we are accountable**

Marriage is a sacred covenant between **a man & a woman** & is not a social experiment to accommodate cultural trends

“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” Heb. 13:4

Redefining marriage is tampering with the very heart of God - It affects everyone, Christian & non-Christian – It will negatively change our culture forever

What are the implications? – What’s wrong with it? What’s the big deal? People are free to do what they want in this country – Right? Not necessarily

If liberty turns to license, and license to licentiousness, licentiousness to lawlessness, then the whole culture implodes under its own corruption

Technology has no morals, alcohol has no morals, music has no morals, drugs have no morals, education has no morals – **People have morals**

As Christians are to make decisions in light of the Word of God, which reveals God’s law & purpose for **Holy Matrimony**

As citizens of this country, we have the right to vote & redress our government, to even challenge the legality of court decisions

“If the foundations are destroyed, what will the righteous do?” - Freedom without moral restraint is a downward slope to corruption & loss

“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” – Gal. 5:13

God initiated marriage at the beginning, and at the consummation of the age we will have another wedding

*“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the **marriage of the Lamb** has come and **His bride has made herself ready.**”* Rev. 19:7-10

Marriage is God’s idea. God designed it! It is not a contract consisting of terms, conditions and rights. It is a covenant between **a man & woman**. Most of

modern culture sees marriage as a social contract governed by the state and negotiated between two sovereigns. Scripture says “at the beginning ‘ He made

them **male and female,**’ and said, “For this reason a **man shall leave** his father and mother and **be joined to his wife,** and the two shall become one flesh”.

So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate (Mt. 19:4-6)

It is obvious by God’s intent & design that marriage is to occur between **a man & woman** & through marriage create family & progeny

Let marriage be held in honor among all – This tells us that marriage can be dishonored, defiled & turned into meaninglessness

God is the creator of sex...He’s not a prude...He invented it, knows all about it...He made us **male & female** from the very beginning

Sexuality & intimacy in marriage is to be expressed in **a covenant between a man & a woman committed for life**

Marriage is sacred to God - Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord – **Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people**

Conviction is not to be viewed as intolerant or bigoted – It is simply standing for God’s intended purpose for marriage between a **man & woman**

We need to fight the good fight in the right way asking God’s favor & wisdom “to stand in the gap”

If we get persecuted for doing the right thing the right way, so be it – We must be able to give an account for what we believe

Serious business – We need to respond in faith with an attitude of love & reconciliation – **The Lord will be our helper!**