

HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE: A THREE-FOLD THREAT

We can hardly turn on the television or read our newspapers without being confronted with one of the most controversial issues in recent history: same-sex marriages. As Christians, we need to fully understand the gravity of the issue at hand. It should be glaringly apparent to everyone who examines this controversy that the legal recognition of homosexual marriages will affect more than or legal system. To the faithful Christian, at least three serious aspects of life are threatened by same-sex marriages:

The Sanctity of the Home

God designed the home to be the pillar of godly society. Shortly after creating man, God instituted the home, and Adam pronounced: *“Therefore shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh”* (Genesis 2:24). Thus God’s pattern is clearly seen: one man and one wife forever. As God directed the Israelites, He stressed the importance of a godly home. The Lord commanded through Moses: *“And these words...shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children...”* (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). He instructed the Israelites not to intermarry with the inhabitants of Canaan, lest they *“turn away thy son from following me”* (Deuteronomy 7:3-4). In the New Testament, God inspired Paul by the Holy Spirit to instruct the husband, the wife, and the children to act in a godly manner (Ephesians 5-6). The importance of the home to God, then, should be easily seen.

However, homosexual marriage seeks to undermine God’s plan for the home. Instead of “one man and one woman,” the door is being pushed open for two men or two women to constitute a home. Though these homes cannot produce offspring (we will discuss this later), the legality of their marriages will allow them to adopt, as many already do. Thus, the wicked cycle of sinful lifestyles will be perpetuated, with children reared to believe that homosexuality is normal, and even encouraged to pursue such a sinful way of life. With every same-sex marriage, the foundation of this great country will erode further and further until the sinking sand of faithless living devours it.

The Moral Fabric of this Country

Since this country’s inception, the precepts of Scripture were interwoven into the legal system of this nation. However, this fabric has begun to slowly unravel. “One nation under God” is being ripped from the Pledge of Allegiance, “In God We Trust” is being erased from or currency, and prayer is being deleted from or schools.

Now comes a crushing blow: marriage. No longer does the outspoken, liberal minority want marriage to be governed by godly principles. Instead, they desire for any person who so chooses to be legally joined to another. But the question must be raised: once the door is opened, when will it stop? If we remove the moral standard of the Word of God, what will replace it? If homosexual marriages are allowed, there will be no legal ground again incestual marriages, polygamy, or any other relationship now deemed “morally wrong.” Remember, brethren, *“righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach on any people”* (Proverbs 14:34).

The Principles of Nature Itself

The simple fact of the matter is this: homosexuality is unnatural. Nature itself should teach us this principle, for homosexuals cannot reproduce naturally! For the evolution-following, God-rejecting liberal element, what biological sense does homosexual marriage make? If everyone practiced it, what would happen to this nation? In short, it would disappear! Any group of animals (evolutionists, read “species”) that

THE PLEASANT VIEW PLUMB LINE

“...then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel...” (Amos 7:8)

THE BIBLE: THE BOOK FOR ME

Text: _____

I. Because of its _____

Notes:

II. Because of its _____

Notes:

III. Because of its _____

Notes:

IV. Because of its _____

Notes:

V. Because of its _____

Notes:

GRANDMA’S SLOP BUCKET

One of the childhood memories I have of my grandma and grandad’s hose in Reader, West Virginia, was the “slop bucket” they kept by the kitchen sink. Now, for those of you who don’t know what a slop bucket is, it was a bucket that contained all the scraps from previous meals. My grandma didn’t have a garbage disposal, so following a meal, the “scraps” from dinner went into the slop bucket. When it filled up, my grandad would take it out back and bury the contents of the bucket.

Now this particular “slop bucket” had a lid—because it needed one! There was no use in exposing the decaying scraps from previous meals. Those meals were over, and those remaining scraps were sealed up and were to be buried in the backyard by the garden.

If only we all had an used or own personal “slop buckets.” What do I mean? Well, how often do you get into a little fuss with someone, and before you know it, you dump out the scraps from previous conflicts? Things that should be forgiven, resolved, and buried away, never to be mentioned again, often reappear when we find ourselves in confrontation.

Listen, when something finds its way into a “slop bucket,” that’s where it needs to stay. Put a lid on it, and when it gets full, go bury it (Ephesians 4:31-32).

regularly and primarily practices homosexuality is doomed to extinction. Romans 1:26-27 described homosexuality in just such a way, for it describes those who “change the natural use into that which is again nature.”

Dear friends, we must use every option available to prevent such wickedness in this nation of ours! I for one have faith that, though silent, those opposed to such evil are still the majority. Let’s act like it.

-Chris Perry

HOW ABOUT ACHIEVING 101%?

What equals 100% in life?

Here’s a little mathematical formula that might help answer these questions:

If:

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, and Z

Are represented as:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26.

If:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K

8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98%

And:

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E

11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96%

But:

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E

1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100%

THEN, look how far the love of God will take you:

L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D

12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4 = 101%

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that while hard work and knowledge will get you close, and attitude will get you there, it’s the love of God that will put you over the top!

-Anonymous

submitted by Sherry Buchanan

PREPARED UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK

New Testament Christianity is a religion based upon work. God worked through history in preparation for the great blessing He had in store for mankind. Christ's presence on this earth was defined by His working the works of Him by whom He had been sent (John 9:4). The Holy Spirit caused many in the first century to work marvelous miracles through His influence and power (Acts 2:17-18). And man is expected to work in the service of God as well. Ephesians 2:10 describes all children of God as "*his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*" Therefore the statement made by one preacher does ring true: that the blessings of God are free, but they are not cheap. What place, then, must these "good works" mentioned by Paul have in the lives of every Christian?

Later, Paul would write to a young preacher named Timothy and answer that very question. He said:

*"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto **every** good work."*

Therefore in answer to the previously mentioned question, the answer is that good works must have a faithful presence in the life of every Christian, and that no life is complete without them. When Paul said that this servant would be "*prepared unto every good work*" he literally meant that this servant would be ready, willing, and appropriately equipped to serve God in every conceivable way in which he/she was able. This degree of preparation infers a sense of initiative upon the part of the individual to assure this readiness, much like a young person taking the initiative to study hard in school with the intention of preparing themselves for success in the work force. The earnest Christian is going to grow and make preparation through life with the intention of successfully serving God in every conceivable way every time opportunities arise. But in what areas might we find opportunities to serve God, using our preparation and zeal to do good works?

One area of good works in which all Christians should seek opportunities to serve God is in glorification, or giving God glory. Since God is God, or Divine, He deserves all glory and praise (Psalm 108:1). And this glory can (and must) come in two ways: in private devotion and in public worship. We can give glory to God privately, for example, through a healthy prayer life. Paul told the Thessalonians to "*pray without ceasing*" (I Thessalonians 5:17), or in other words, to always be devoted to a life of prayer. Prayer provides an outlet unto the Father whereby Christians can not only petition Him for our needs, but give Him glory for all He has done. Not only must private devotion be a fixture in the lives of all, but also public worship. The assemblies of the church are not only wonderful opportunities to come together as Christians and worship God, but they are also responsibilities of all (Acts 20:7; Hebrews 10:25). Is the glorification of God a good work in which we are all prepared?

Another area of good works in which all Christians can serve is in the evangelization of the lost. Often it might be assumed that evangelism is an area which one can afford to ignore because everyone else is involved or that it is only the job of certain people in the church. One's unwillingness to share the gospel reveals that person's true feelings of it. Is he ashamed of the gospel? Is he unsure of its power in changing the lives of men? Is it of little value to him thus assumed that it would be of little value to anyone else? The gospel should be of such value and the souls of men should be of such concern to all children of God that like Peter and John the attitude of all Christians must be that "*we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard*" (Acts 4:20). Is the evangelization of the lost a good work in which we are all prepared?

A final area of good works that can be mentioned (though there are others) is in the support of the good works of others. There are so many outstanding Christian works occurring in this world that need the resources with which they can function, and without those resources their work becomes impossible. As little as anyone likes to talk about money and its importance in religion, the truth of the matter is that like most other areas of life, in the work of New Testament Christianity it is a necessity. Corporations grow and thrive because they have the resources to which they can turn in order to support their work, but the work of the church seemingly is expected to continue with little to nothing. Not only can Christians serve God by being active in works themselves, but likewise in helping to support others in their works. Is the support of various good works (either through the local church or individually) a good work in which we are all prepared?

Purchased by the blood of Christ and redeemed from the darkness of sin, Christians are expected to be given to the service of God. We are His workmanship, we are His vessels of service, and we are His band of loyal followers. Are we prepared unto every good work? If not, why not?

-Andy Brewer