

Culture in Conflict

MARRIAGE: Defined by God or Man?

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In the beginning after the creation of Adam, the Lord God said “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof. And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Genesis 2:18- 24 Here begins the institution of marriage as defined by the Lord God.

We all know the Bible tells about the fall of Adam and Eve but we also know that fall was initiated by the deceitfulness of Satan to warp God’s words. That same deceitfulness is still ever present in our society today as Satan exercises control over those who do not believe in the Word of God or those that are blinded by their own lusts are attempting to replace good with evil. One particular arena where the good is under attack is the definition of marriage. Marriage is clearly defined by God as being between one man and one woman. The following scriptures make clear God’s intentions of marriage:

”So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it...” Genesis 1:27

“And He (Jesus) answered and said unto them, have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”. Matthew 19:4-6

Man had succeeded in following and adhering to God’s definition of marriage up to and through the 20th Century. In the 1828 version of Noah Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language, marriage was defined as “the act of marrying a man and woman for life; wedlock; the legal union of a man and woman for life.

preventing the promiscuous intercourse of the sexes, for promoting domestic felicity, and for securing the maintenance and education of children”. In the 1913 edition, that same dictionary defined marriage as the act of marrying or state of being married; legal union of a man and a woman for life, as husband and wife; wedlock; matrimony. In both the 19th and 20th century versions, references were made to Hebrews 13:4, Matthew 22:2, and Revelation 19. This nation clearly understood that God ordained marriage and that it was clearly meant to be between man and woman.

However, as this nation reached the 21st century, not only did it completely ignore God’s definition of marriage, it completely redefined the term. In the 2006 Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition, marriage is defined as “the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law. The state of being united to a person of the same sex in a relationship like that of a traditional marriage”.

The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was enacted on September 21, 1996, and was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. Under this law no state is required to recognize as a marriage a same-sex relationship that is considered a marriage in another state. **This law passed both houses of congress by large majorities.**

“God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God?” – Thomas Jefferson, 1781



Marriage is a contract both civil and religious, by which the parties engaged to live together in mutual affection and fidelity, till death shall separate them. Marriage was instituted by God Himself for the purpose of

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On July 8, 2010, in the cases of Gill v. Office of Personnel Management and Massachusetts v. United States Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. District Court Judge, Joseph Tauro ruled that Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional. That section reads as follows:

SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 7. Definition of ‘marriage’ and ‘spouse’

“In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress, or of any ruling, regulation, or interpretation of the various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States, the word ‘marriage’ means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word ‘spouse’ refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife.”

Judge Tauro’s ruling would mean that same-sex spouses of federal employees would be extended the same rights as traditional spouses of federal employees. For example, same-sex spouses would be able to file joint income tax returns and claim spousal social security benefits of their federally employed spouse. While the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed appeals in these cases just over four months later, on February 23, 2011, Attorney General Eric Holder announced that the Department of Justice would cease legal defense of section 3 of the DOMA at the direction of President Barack Obama. President Obama concluded that section 3 of the DOMA was unconstitutional.

According to its own website, the responsibility of the DOJ is to enforce the law

and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial



administration of justice for all Americans. “Enforce the law” is stated in the very beginning as one of their paramount responsibilities.

It doesn’t take a law degree to see we have a problem here. Man, fueled by sin is attempting to make decisions based on sin. In no way can man define marriage without the influence of the almighty God. More and more of God’s Word and goodness are being erased from our society. Redefining marriage is nothing more than another attempt to remove Godly morals from our nation.

The President took an oath of office to uphold the constitution. This oath states, “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and **defend the Constitution of the United States.**” [U.S. Constitution \(Article II, Section 1\)](#). The Defense of Marriage Act is a law. A president cannot decide to not uphold a law because of personal feelings.

Immediately after this decision was made to no longer protect DOMA because of its supposed unconstitutionality, Attorney General Eric Holder went even further by determining what the standard of review should be in determining cases involving sexual orientation. He wrote, “*the President and I have concluded that classifications*

based on sexual orientation warrant heightened scrutiny and that, as applied to same-sex couples legally married under state law, Section 3 of DOMA is unconstitutional.” He concluded by saying, “*While the Department will continue to*

enforce DOMA, it will not defend it, unless and until Congress repeals Section 3 or the judicial branch renders a definitive verdict against the law’s constitutionality.”

How can a law be enforced and not defended at the same time? Members of our government just can’t decide one day to not uphold a law when they have sworn to defend it. God is not the author of confusion and it seems there is a lot of confusion going on in the minds of our leaders. The Word tells us to pray for our leaders and we need to follow that commandment and pray that our leaders make sound and just decisions based on the laws of the land instituted by God. We will continue to see gross misconduct in the decisions of our government as long as our leaders are misguided by corrupt thinking.

On March 4, 2011, Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), released a statement suggesting that the House would take up a court defense of the DOMA in the wake of President Obama’s decision. Speaker Boehner

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“But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.” – Abraham Lincoln, Proclamation Appointing a National Fast Day, March 30, 1863

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went on to say *"It is regrettable that the Obama Administration has opened this divisive issue at a time when Americans want their leaders to focus on jobs and the challenges facing our economy. The constitutionality of this law should be determined by the courts -- not by the president unilaterally -- and this action by the House will ensure the matter is addressed in a manner consistent with our Constitution."*

Christians have to ask for discernment so we are not deceived. Why are Godly morals being attacked? We live in a nation that welcomes sin. How can we defeat this sin? We have to remember that we are in the world and not of it. No longer can we compromise God's Word or sit in complacency. We have to be on the offensive if we expect to

take back this nation for God. Each of us has a position in this battle and now is the time to arm ourselves with the weapons given to us by God. This is a spiritual battle and we have to fight it in the spiritual arena.

According to the Bible, homosexuality is immoral and unnatural, and the only way to destroy this knowledge is by normalizing homosexuality and attacking any and all opposition to it. The best way for society to normalize homosexuality is by placing same-sex marriage on an equal plane with traditional opposite-gender marriage. Romans 1:18-32 illustrates this pattern. First, the truth is known because God has made it plain. Then the truth is rejected and replaced with a lie. Finally, the lie is then promoted and the truth

suppressed and attacked. The vehemence and anger expressed by many in the gay rights movement to any who oppose them is, in fact, an indication that they know their position is indefensible. Trying to overcome a weak position by raising your voice is the oldest trick in the debating book. There is perhaps no more accurate description of the modern gay rights agenda than that found in Romans 1:31, *"Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful."*

Redefining marriage will ultimately place immorality on the forefront and open the door to more sin which will continually place our nation in a downward spiral.

"The highest glory of the American Revolution was this; it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity." – John Quincy Adams, July 4, 1821