

Marriage: The Cornerstone of Society

February 1st & 2nd, 2014

Genesis 1:26-31

Today, Marriage is a God given institution worth fighting for!

- ❖ God created marriage between a man and a woman for the purpose of having children and for the enjoyment of the companionship of a loving home and family!

“And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. ...” Genesis 1:31

God created marriage as a cornerstone of society!

1. Healthy marriages and families are necessary for a healthy society

- ❖ Jesus addressed the seriousness of the covenant of marriage.

Luke 16:18 “Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.”

- ❖ Jesus addressed divorce and the breakdown of marriage.

Matthew 19:3-6 “And Pharisees came up to Him and tested Him by asking, ‘Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?’ He answered, ‘Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.’”

- ❖ Jesus affirmed that the Law and Prophets spoke God's Word

Malachi 2:14-15 “... Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did He not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.”

“Traditional Marriage is Essential for a Healthy Society

The natural family, composed of a father, mother and their children, has always been the foundation of every healthy and successful society. Throughout recorded human history and across all cultures, traditional marriage, defined as the union of a man and a woman, has always been essential to creating, promoting and protecting the family.

Time and again, scholars have found this to be true, including some like the renowned British anthropologist, Joseph Daniel Unwin, who originally set out to prove the opposite. He quickly concluded, *“In human records, there is no case of an absolutely monogamous [his term for traditional marriage] society failing to display great [cultural] energy. I do not know of a case on which great energy has been displayed by a society that has not been absolutely monogamous.”* ...

Societies create, perpetuate and protect social institutions because they provide “social goods,” which is the term for benefits to society as a whole and to the individual members of a society. Among the most important social goods produced by the institution of man/woman marriage are those that benefit children. Marriage is and always has been primarily about children and what is best for them, because the rising generation literally is the future of every society.

Marriage has proven to be the most effective way to transform a man into a husband/father and a woman into a wife/mother and to ensure that a child will know and be cared for by his biological parents.”¹

2. The Biblical Covenant of Marriage is being attacked in our culture today!

*“Marriage: “The act of uniting a man and a woman for life; ... Marriage is a contract both civil and religious, by which the parties engage to live together in mutual affection and fidelity, till death shall separate them. ...”*²

❖ Same-sex marriage is contrary to God’s Word.

Leviticus 18:22 “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.”

Romans 1:26-27 “For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.”

“Just last year the state of Colorado decriminalized adultery. The president of the Independence Institute testified for the decriminalization, stating that ‘it is a conservative value to get rid of bills that are useless’...

But is a law against adultery a ‘useless’ statute? Only in the sense that it is no longer enforced. But the original statute was hardly useless. It was a profound moral statement about the sanctity of marriage and the crime of violating the marriage vows, thus subverting marriage and the family and endangering children and weakening the larger community.

The argument for removing the laws was simple: the state has no business legislating morality. But every legislature legislates morality. ... The removal of morals legislation and the celebration of that removal is itself a profound moral statement.”³

3. God gives us four pillars on which to build healthy marriages and families.

📖 *Ephesians 5:21-6:3*

❖ Mutual Submission

“submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:21

❖ Love

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,” Ephesians 5:25

❖ Respect

“...let the wife see that she respects her husband.” Ephesians 5:33

*Respect: “To view or consider with some degree of reverence; to esteem as possessed of real worth.”*²

❖ Honor

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’...” Ephesians 6:1-2

*Honor: “A testimony of esteem; any expression of respect or of high estimation by words or actions; ...”*²

Hebrews 13:4

“Let marriage be held in honor among all, ...”

Endnotes:

¹ “Traditional Marriage is Essential for a Healthy Society.” www.familywatchinternational.org. Family Watch International. Web. <http://www.vtmarriage.org/resources/fwi_policy_brief_marriage.pdf>.

² Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

³ Mohler, Jr., Albert. “The End of Morality Laws? Not Exactly.” www.albertmohler.com. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., 13 Jan 2014. Web. <<http://www.albertmohler.com/2014/01/13/the-end-of-morality-laws-not-exactly/>>.

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