

“One man and one woman as one”

Craig Crawshaw

Gen 2:20-24; Matthew 19:4-6 and related Scriptures

INTRODUCTION

Today, the long-accepted traditional view of marriage being between one man and one woman forever as one is being challenged and attacked as never before. The divorce rate for all marriages, including those called “Christian” tragically holds at around 50%. And polls tell us that a large majority of our populace believes that divorce is an unfortunate but acceptable option when there are “irreconcilable differences.”

The homosexual lobby is strong and their agenda is to convince our population that homosexuality is a “right” and not a “wrong.” And, they are winning. Laws, ordinances, courts and public opinion lean heavily towards the opinion that homosexual behavior and lifestyle should be an accepted way of life and considered morally appropriate. Even many who call themselves “Christian” have adopted the belief that the homosexual lifestyle, including marriage between two of the same sex, is at least to be tolerated, if not accepted.

Dear fellow-follower of Jesus - we must not be taught what to believe on the “marriage issue” by opinion, media, agenda, politics or even our own personal feelings. As Christians, we must be instructed by the only voice and opinion that matters – God’s. If God in His Holy Word allows homosexual behavior, then so must I. If God in His Holy Word condemns homosexual behavior, then so must I. And remember – we are not talking about how we feel about homosexuals or treat homosexuals. God loves all, and so should we. Rather, we are talking about our position on homosexual behavior, and particularly our position on marriage between same-sex partners.

So what does God teach in His Holy Word about marriage and about homosexual practice? That should be the issue for us who call ourselves followers of Jesus and that should be what determines our position on the issue. When it comes to engaging our contemporaries on the issue of marriage we should be well informed on what God says – and with love and grace, be able to share His view, and hopefully, influence.

GOD’S INSTITUTION AND PLAN FOR MARRIAGE:

Genesis 2:20b-24 But for Adam there was not a found a helper suitable for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man 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.” For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Jesus, commenting on this Scripture from Genesis said:

Matthew 19:4-6 Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning 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 they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.

1. God created the first institution: marriage between a man and woman
2. Husband and wife are literally “joined at the rib” – made one

3. A marriage creates a new authority, separate from parents
4. Marriage is to be forever, for God has made the union

Since that first marriage in the garden of Eden, the Bible mentions hundreds of marriages – all between a husband (man) and wife (woman) and most “begetting” an offspring

GOD’S VIEW OF DIVORCE

Malachi 2:14-16 ...*The Lord has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. ... Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. “For I hate divorce,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says the Lord of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”*

Matthew 19:8-9 [Jesus:] Because of the hardness of your heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman, commits adultery.”

1. Divorce is treachery against your spouse (3x in Malachi 2)
2. Divorce is a “ripping” of the Spirit, leaving only a remnant
3. Divorce is hated by God – it is never His perfect will
4. Divorce has only been allowed as God’s permissive will because of our sin
5. Jesus sees divorce as a very narrow option

THE BIBLE’S MOST SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION ON MARRIAGE:

Ephesians 5:21-25, 28 And be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her ... So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

1. Each subject to one another
2. Each wife subject to their own husband
3. Each husband loving his own wife
4. Marriage is a type of the love/subject relationship of Christ and the church

BIBLICAL CONTORTION OF “ONE MAN AND ONE WOMEN AS ONE”

1st mention of homosexuality in the Bible:

Genesis 19:4-5 Before [the two angels] lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.”

In response to this, the angels spoke for God, saying: “**We are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it.**” (Gen. 19:13)

Genesis 19:24 Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven, and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities.

2nd mention, found in the law of Leviticus

Leviticus 18:22 You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a woman. It is an abomination. (also 20:13)

Some would teach that the new covenant in Jesus has done away with the Law, and that grace and forgiveness has replaced the laws of the Old Testament. But remember that Jesus taught:

Matthew 5:17-18 Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

We are no longer under the ceremonial law of the Old Testament, because Jesus as the Lamb of God is the fulfillment of the ceremonial law. But the moral law of the Old Testament is still in effect, for Jesus did not come to abolish God's perfect law.

Instructing pastor Timothy, the apostle Paul wrote:

I Timothy 1:9 The Law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching.

1. Practicing homosexuals are called (1) unrighteous, (2) lawless, (3) rebellious, (4) ungodly, (5) sinners, (6) unholy, and (7) profane (as are the other practicing sinners mentioned)
2. The homosexual lifestyle is contrary to sound teaching

Hear what God says about the lesbian and homosexual lifestyle:

Romans 1:18, 24-27 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness . . . Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever, Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

Here, the lesbian/homosexual lifestyle is called by God:

1. Suppressing the truth in unrighteousness
2. Lusting in the heart to impurity
3. Dishonoring their body
4. Exchanging the truth of God for a lie
5. Worshipping the creature rather than the Creator
6. Degrading passion

7. Unnatural function
8. Indecent acts
9. Error

Yet hear the spiritual hope for homosexuals:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals ... will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

TO CONCLUDE: SOME OF MY FAVORITE QUOTES ON MARRIAGE:

"If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, it's because they take better care of it."
Cecil Silig

"LOVE is knowing all about someone, and still wanting to be with them more than any other person. LOVE is trusting them enough to tell them everything about yourself, including the thing you might be ashamed of. LOVE is feeling comfortable and safe with someone, but still getting weak knees when they walk into a room and smile at you."

"There is virtually nothing you can do that has more power to enhance your life than to build and protect a great and happy marriage."
Linda Waite

"A good marriage is the union of two good forgivers." **Ruth Bell Graham (wife of Billy Graham)**

"One of the great illusions of our time is that love is self-sustaining. It is not. Love must be fed and nurtured, constantly renewed. That demands ingenuity and consideration, but first and foremost, it demands time."
David Mace

"Do not pray to marry the one that you love, but pray to love the one that you marry."
Spencer Kimball

"Choose your love, then love your choice."

"To every marriage more than a week old, there are grounds for divorce. The trick is to find, and continue to find, the grounds for marriage."
Robert Anderson

"A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person."

THE CHALLENGE IN OUR FAITH ENGAGE

1. Only God's view !
2. Loving and gracious !
3. Standing firm against the tide !