

How Does God Define Marriage?

With the recent "gay marriages," the question of "How should marriage be defined?" has come to the forefront. The Bible clearly calls homosexual activity sin, so the answer is simple for us, but those in favor of redefining marriage ask some difficult questions, for which we need to be ready with answers.

"If they were born that way, who are we to say it's wrong?"

God doesn't make people gay--sin does. Because we are sinners from the moment of conception, we have certain sinful tendencies--excessive anger, greed, homosexuality--all are the product of sinful flesh.

"This is a civil rights issue, like withholding rights because of race."

This is not a rights issue. It's a morality issue. Homosexual activity is immoral, in the same category as incest, bestiality, and adultery. This is not a religious issue--nearly every society in history has had the same beliefs. Those that "tolerated" homosexuality destroyed themselves (e.g. Rome) or were destroyed (e.g. Greece, Sodom). Is that what we want for our society?

Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Ephesians 5:24, 25, NIV).

Why is this so important? If you don't understand marriage, it's difficult to understand your relationship with Christ, because marriage is a reflection of our relationship with Christ. Jesus is the ultimate husband, seeing to our needs and giving His life for us, His bride. A marriage without a husband or wife is like the church without Christ.

Finally, isn't homosexuality an issue of Old Testament law, which Christ has fulfilled?

No, it is mentioned several times in the New Testament as morally reprehensible, a "natural tendency" that is to be avoided. All forms of sexual immorality are reprehensible to God.

But let us always remember that, even though we have been immoral, unfaithful to Christ our Husband, He has been faithful to us; He forgives us; and He will keep us to the great marriage feast which He prepares even now.