

**I. Introduction: What is a Family?**

- A. What is the place of the church in cultural battles?
1. The primary work of the church is to glorify God through worship and evangelism. Acts 1:8 2:42 I Co. 2:2
  2. Christians are called to be good citizens -which includes being a blessing to our community and nation. Rom. 13:1ff I Pet. 2:13ff Jer 29:7 Pr. 11:14
  3. While the church and state are separate institutions, our government leaders are accountable to God. Rom. 13:1ff Pr. 20:26 I Pe. 2:13ff
  4. We have the right and duty to proclaim principles from the Word of God as they apply to moral issues within our culture. Luke 3:19 Eph. 5:11 I Co. 13:6
  5. Believers may differ concerning strategy, approach, gifts and callings.
- B. The movement of Western culture to redefine marriage to include same sex couples is dramatic, significant and historic (in a bad sense).
1. Shouldn't we just live and let live?
  2. The 'gay' agenda is not tolerant of biblical Christians.
  3. For many, whatever is legal must be moral (i.e. abortion).

**II. God established and defined marriage and the family at creation. Gen. 2:18-25 1:27**

- A. Gender is determined and defined by God Who created us male and female. Gen. 1:27 Deut. 22:5 23:1 Your gender is not a personal decision.
- B. God set the pattern for marriage from the beginning. Gen. 2:18-23 Mt. 19:4f
1. For most, it is not good to be alone. Gen. 2:18
  2. God made a woman to complete the man (and the man to complete the woman).
  3. God establishes the roles for women and men in marriage.
  4. Those united in marriage are jointed by God in a lifelong covenant of companionship. Mt. 19:6
- C. God gave directives for marriage. Gen. 2:24
1. Leave -- marriage creates a new independent family unit.
  2. Cleave -- marriage is permanent and intimate. Mt. 19:6 Mal. 2:16
  3. One flesh – sexual union is to take place exclusively within the marriage covenant.
    - a. Sexual union is a unique symbolic expression of the oneness of marriage.
    - b. Children are the blessed fruit of their parents' love. Gen. 1:28 Ps. 127
    - c. Sexual union is intended to be delightful. Pr. 5:15f Song of Solomon
  4. Any sexual expression outside of marriage is a sinful violation of God's design – adultery, fornication, lust, homosexuality, etc. Ex. 20: 14 Lev. 20:15 18:22
  5. Because of the fall, sin has entered into the world corrupting everything, including marriage and sexuality. Gen. 3:16 Ecc. 7:29

**III. How did our culture stray so far away from God's design?**

- A. We are witnessing the culmination of a generation-long downward slide (devolution) of our hedonistic culture. II Ti. 3:4
1. Easy no-fault divorce degrades the marriage covenant. Mt. 19:6 Mal. 2:16
  2. The sexual revolution resulting in the widespread acceptance of fornication and cohabitation further damages marriage. Heb. 13:4 I Cor. 6:9
  3. Obscenity has gone mainstream. Mt. 5:28

4. Abortion on demand is a murderous rejection of the blessing of children and of God's design for marriage and sexual union. Ps. 139:13ff Ex. 20:13
  5. Acceptance and promotion of homosexuality along with other deviant lifestyles is the final step into moral degradation.
- B. The growing wickedness of our culture is God's judgment upon us. Rom. 1:20-32**
1. Moral impurity is the consequence of failing to worship and honor God. v. 20-25
  2. Sexual anarchy is the result of religious apostasy as God gives them over to unnatural, shameful and degrading passions v. 26-28
  3. Homosexuality is an unnatural deviation, a disoriented expression of rebellion against God and His order for mankind. Lev. 20:15 18:22
  4. Deep down, those who defy God know their sinful acts deserve wrath. v. 32a
  5. Yet they harden themselves and shamelessly celebrate their sin. v. 32b Isa. 5:20 3:9
  6. The result will be more Divine judgment. Ge. 19 Lev. 18:22-25 Ga. 6:7-8 Jude 1:7
- C. There is cause for concern about the state of marriage within the church. I Pet. 4:17**
- D. The biggest problems with *family values* in America will not be solved by legislation.**

#### **IV. The gospel offers hope for homosexuals (and other sinners). I Cor. 6:9-10**

- A. What should our attitude be towards homosexuals? Mt. 11:19**
1. We should not fear or hate them.
  2. We should have compassion upon those who struggle against this temptation.
  3. Our goal is not to merely turn homosexuals into heterosexuals but rather to transform them into holy servants of Christ.
- B. Why are people homosexual?**
1. God does not create anyone to be homosexual. Mt. 19:4 Gen. 1:27
  2. Nor is anyone forced into homosexuality by his environment. Mark 7:21
  3. Certain people, because of nature or environment, may more be tempted by this particular sin; just as some are especially tempted by other sins. Ro. 1:29-31
  4. We are all oriented to sin. Rom. 3:23 8:7-8
  5. Homosexuality is a choice. Ro. 1:27
- C. Hope begins when homosexuality is acknowledged as sin – because God forgives and transforms sinners of all kinds. I Co. 6:9-10**
1. Homosexuality is not the unforgivable sin. Ps. 51:4
  2. Christ sets us free from slavery to sin -- such *were* you. Rom. 6:11ff II Co. 5:17
  3. We all need God's grace. I Co. 6:10

#### **Discussion questions**

1. What is the role of the church in addressing social and political issues?
2. In what ways can Christians be a blessing to our culture?
3. How will living in a culture which embraces homosexual marriage affect Christians?
4. What does the creation account in Genesis 1-2 teach about marriage and gender?
5. How and why has our culture abandoned the biblical view of the family?
6. How is homosexuality related to the rejection of God?
7. What impact can we expect if California passes Proposition 8?
8. What would you say to someone who claims he or she was born homosexual?
9. What hope can we offer to homosexuals? Can they really change?
10. What would you say to a professing Christian who is battling homosexual temptation?