

4-13-2013, COTR Texarkana

Title: Marriage???

Purpose: Provoke people to embrace God's plan for marriage and tell others the truth in love.

Spiritual Truth: God has already told us in The Bible what marriage is supposed to be.

Text: Ge.2 :18-24; Mt. 19:3-6

Topic: Marriage, Same Sex Marriage, Homosexuality, Co-Habitation

Marriage???

I. Introduction

A. Last week I was in Ms. for some R/R. Turkey pic. How'd that get in there? Lol. I preached at dad's church but I missed being with you. This is my home. I love you and I love being here.

A.1. Next week I'll start a new series called "Dumb and Dumber". We'll find the path for God's blessing by learning from the mistakes of others.

A.2. Today we're going to talk about a hot topic in America, marriage. It's at the Supreme Court. I'll answer the question, "Who has the right to get married?" Buckle the seat belt under your chair if we encounter turbulence. I'll offer a perspective you won't hear in the classroom or in the news.

B. 1st we're going to take a "True or False" quiz. (Keep track of every true statement on your fingers)

B.1. It's ok to worship God any way you want.

B.2. It's ok if school, sports, hobbies, work or people are the most important thing in my life.

B.3. If you get frustrated or angry it's ok to say, "Oh God!" or "Jesus".

B.4. It's ok to work on any day you choose.

B.5. When a person grows up they have no more responsibility for their parents.

B.6. It's ok to have an abortion if you don't want to have a baby.

B.7. If 2 people are attracted to each other it's ok to have sex.

B.8. It's ok to take things from people who have more than you do.

B.9. It's ok to make up things about people you don't like.

B.10. It's ok to try to get what belongs to someone else if you want it bad enough.

B.10.a. For every question you answered "true" your choice would break one of the 10 Commandments.

B.11. The reason we took the test was to contrast what the Bible says with what modern culture says. In today's message about marriage, the real question is who gets to decide what's right or wrong. Does the Supreme Court, the majority, professionals, the individual or God. I'll teach you what God's Word says; you get to decide what choice you'll make about marriage.

C. Title: Marriage???

D. Purpose: Provoke people to embrace God's plan for marriage and tells others the truth in love.

E. Spiritual Truth: God has already told us in The Bible what marriage is supposed to be.

II. What does God say marriage is in the Bible?

A. Genesis 2:18–24 (ESV) — 18 Then the Lord God said, "**It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.**" ...**21** So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man,

and while he slept took one of his **ribs**...**22** And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman...**24** Therefore a **man** shall leave his **father and his mother** and hold fast to his **wife**, and they shall become **one flesh**.

A.1. Marriage was God's idea. He made men and women different to complete one another. The "helper fit for him" was not another man or an animal but a woman. The Biblical purpose of marriage is 3 fold: companionship to complete us, to produce and raise children and the joy of sexual intimacy.

B. Jesus affirmed the traditional definition of marriage

B.1. **Matthew 19:3–6 (NIV)** — 3...They (*the Pharisees*) asked, "Is it lawful for a **man to divorce his wife** for any and every reason?" 4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning **the Creator 'made them male and female,'** 5 and said, 'For this reason **a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife**, and the two will become **one flesh**'? 6...Therefore what **God has joined together**, let no one separate."

B.2. Jesus agreed with God's original intent for marriage: (1) marriage is between a man and a woman; (2) marriage is intended to be a lifelong commitment.

B.3. If Jesus affirmed marriage between a man and a woman why do modern Americans think we have the right to redefine God's Word and thousands of years of human history? The issue in today's marriage debate is will I submit to God's plan or not?

III. What does our culture say "marriage" should be?

A. **The 1828 Dictionary:** marriage was instituted by God and is the legal union of a man and woman for life. The 2003 edition: (1) the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex (2) or the same sex.

B. **Video:** traditional marriage, homosexual "marriage", polyamory "marriage" (TV reality show: Married and Dating (term not in dictionary), co-habitation, family members "marrying" for tax benefits, etc.

B.1. Culture wants to redefine what marriage is to make it what we want instead of what God says it is.

C. Stats on relationships when people are trying to "find a helper fit for us".

C.1. Around 50% of traditional marriages in the U.S. end in divorce. 41% of 1st time, 60% of 2nd and 73% of 3rd. Traditional marriage is in trouble but marriages that work (FRC) have greater sexual satisfaction, less likely to be poor, commit suicide, commit crime, be abused and are healthier.

C.2. AFA: 41% of babies are born to unmarried couples. Studies show children are happier and more secure with a mom and dad in the home and are healthier, lower suicide rates and higher test scores.

C.3. Living together has problems: US News World Report (FRC) says these women are likelier to be abused, do drugs and be depressed who cohabit; (Baptist Press) Women see it as preparation for marriage, but men cohabit to avoid marriage and are 30-50% less likely to have a happy marriage.

C.4. (FRC) Homosexuals have higher levels of mental illness and substance abuse; Dr. Frank Joseph, an orthopedic surgeon reports that homosexuals median age of death is 42, heterosexuals 75; 78% have

a STD; are admitted to the hospital more frequently; 1/4- 1/3 are alcoholics; commit 50% of suicides.

D. The Bible and sex outside of marriage

- D.1. 1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (NIV) 9 Or do you not know that **wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived: Neither the **sexually immoral...nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men** 10...will inherit the kingdom of God.
- D.2. Ro. 1:24–28 (NIV) God gave them over in the **sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.** 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie...26 ... Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for **unnatural ones.** 27 In the same way the men also **abandoned natural relations** with women and were **inflamed with lust** for one another. Men committed **shameful acts** with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a **depraved mind**, so that they do what ought not to be done...
- D.3. All sexual acts are sinful, heterosexual or homosexual. Urges aren't sin but when we act on them we sin. Whether we're born with homosexual or heterosexual urges we don't have to act on your desires

IV. What's going on in America regarding marriage?

A. **Judges 17:6 (NLT)** ...Israel had no king; **all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.**

- A.1. I believe the root issue in the marriage debate is this: will I submit to God's ways or will I rebel against them? Who gets to make the rules about right and wrong, God or man? Your answer to the question will affect you for eternity. Bill O'Reilly would call me a Bible thumper. It's a compliment.

V. Conclusion: How should I respond to people who don't believe the Bible's teaching about marriage?

A. **Ephesians 4:14–15 (NLT)** — 14 Then we will no longer be immature like children...15...we will **speak the truth in love...**

- A.1. This Biblical phrase is the balance we need: caring enough to tell people the truth and having the right attitude when we do. It's hard to stand for what's right. [Picture World Magazine](#)

B. **2 Timothy 2:24–26 (NLT)** A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must **be kind** to everyone, be able to teach, and **be patient** with difficult people. 25 **Gently instruct those who oppose the truth.** Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the **truth.** 26 Then they will come to their senses and **escape from the devil's trap...**

- B.1. If you care about somebody tell them the truth even if they call you names like bigot, hater and homophobe. That's what we did on the playground.

C. **Nursery rhyme:** Sticks and stones may break my bones...your names they sure do hurt me...I care for you; I really do...that's why I must be truthful.

D. **Response: I'd like to pray a prayer of blessing over you.** Whether you're young or old, gay or straight, married or single, if you'd like to ask God to help you live according to His plan for marriage please stand.