

Marriage—Exploring The Depths of God’s Creation, Pt 1

(shared at MVCC on 2/2/2014)

Intent: Most of our today’s debates and arguments regarding marriage hover around the issues of “rights” and “feelings”. My intent in this sermon is to delve below these relevant issues and educate the public, especially the Christian community, as to God’s purposes for this beautiful union.

*Thanks to the leadership of FCR (Family Research Council) for resources that helped me in my preparation of these messages.

[Grammy Awards Hijacked]: Last Sunday night a mass wedding took place at the Grammys on a stage set to resemble a giant chapel with stained-glass windows. During this “wedding service” Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, a hip-hop duo, sang their hit tune “Same Love,” a song embraced by the LGBT community last year. Here are a few lines from their song...

“The right-wing conservatives think it’s a decision/ And you can be cured with some treatment and religion/Man-made rewiring of a predisposition,” ...“Playing God, aw nah here we go/America the brave still fears what we don’t know/And God loves all his children, is somehow forgotten/But we paraphrase a book written 3500 years ago.”

Well Mr. Macklemore and Mr. Lewis you’re right (in part). God does love all His children, but according to the Bible we are born His “creations” and we are adopted as His children only when we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ by faith (John 1:12). And in regards to this idea of “same love”...God’s love can’t be compared to the selfish, conditional love we often show to one another. What you two have forgotten or have never known is what God desires to reveal through the pure, mutually submissive, and consummated love of a man and a woman in the union of marriage. And instead of “paraphrasing” the Bible, I’m going to take you to the roots of the words in Hebrew, the original language of the Bible, to show what God intended when He put man and woman together in this union called marriage.

Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV)

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God said, “Let us make ‘man’ (adam in Hebrew means mankind or a “species”. God made a new kind of creation—mankind/humankind. So God created (adam) - human-kind) in the image of God—male and female.

Man was made last of all the creatures with all the other animals on day six of creation. Our bodies are made of the same earth as the animals, but “adam” was different. Humankind was created with flesh and spirit. Unlike the rest of the animal kingdom, “Adam” (humankind) was made, designed, created to glorify God the Father. Our bodies, our minds, and our souls bear the image of God, and God’s intent is that in our living, thinking, and loving we would glorify Him.

Now we must remember that our God is neither male nor female, but Spirit. God contains a full spectrum of characteristics—BOTH masculine & feminine. He’s distributed His qualities and characteristic across the species called ADAM. We don’t often think of God in terms of feminine imagery. Here are a few examples:

God’s “Womb”: We often don’t consider this feminine imagery related to God.

Job 38:29 (NIV)

29 From whose womb comes the ice? Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens?

Deuteronomy 32:18 (ESV)

18 You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth.

Isaiah 46:3 (ESV)

3 “Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb;

This word for “womb” is rechem (רֶחֶם). “Rechem” is a word used exclusively to speak of the home of a child for its first 9 months of existence, and the root of “rechem” gives us our words for compassion and mercy—Feminine qualities. God said let’s make this new species, male and female in our image.

God’s “Breasts”: This is not something we usually imagine when we think of God. But remember God is not male or female, but He does inherently possess all qualities both masculine and feminine.

Isaiah 66:12-13 (ESV)

12 For thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees. 13 As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

The Hebrew word for “breast” is (sha-diam). When you break the word down is Shad means (“who”) and dia means (“enough”) in Hebrew. These qualities of God are feminine in language and were intended to show that our God is completely sufficient to nurture the fledgling nation, Israel, to a life of fruitfulness. Our God is almighty (masculine), but He is also the one who is enough (feminine).

Understanding that God inherently possesses both masculine and feminine characteristics and qualities are essential to understand marriage as God intended it. So let’s see how this plays out in the creation story.

Genesis 2:19-23 (NIV)

19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed

up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

Adam had the difficult job of naming all the animals. The Bible does not say it, but it’s quite possible that they passed by him two by two as he named them. If not it would cause confusion later. But in all the land there was not found a suitable helper/mate/companion for man.

So God took action. Remember: A-dam, the species, contained all the fullness of God... adam (humankind) is then split apart – [ba-qa] in Hebrew. God takes a rib from man’s side and replaces it with flesh and creates woman. As others have said, “This was the original “splitting of the adam”. And now what appears before him is “womb-man”—for out of the womb of Adam’s side God created woman. He didn’t create a new species from the ground, but split A-DAM spreading His qualities across this species that includes both man and woman.

You may ask what does this have to do with

marriage. At that moment [a-dam] humankind was divided: We now have “ish” (Hebrew for man), and “ishsha” (Hebrew for woman). Men do not possess the full spectrum of the image of God. Females also do not possess the full spectrum of the image of God.

This is why marriage between a man and a woman—an (ish) and an (ishsha) is so important, crucial, and foundational to us and more importantly to the Lord. When male and female become “one flesh” in the consummated loving relationship called marriage (Genesis 2:24), they will represent and reflect to the world the full spectrum of God’s character and qualities. The coming together in the union of marriage of “Ish” and “Ishsha” is the restoration of A-DAM—which is by God’s design the best union to reveal His eternal qualities and characteristics to the world.

Dr. Eggeichs of Love and Respect makes the comment in his video series that men and women are the only species that mate facing one another. He uses this image for another purpose but it hit me that in that special moment of committed consummate love in marriage (ish) is facing (ishsha) and each is looking into the eyes of the completeness of the image of God. This union is the restoration of A-dam.

The first social connection on earth was male and female—husband and wife. This beautiful union between “ish” and “ishsha” is God’s idea because it best reflects to the world His divine nature and character. Do you want to see God? Find a good marriage between a man and a woman, spend some time with them, and the characteristics of God will become most evident.

So if you’re the arch enemy of God, that being Satan, here’s what you do to counter God’s intent in marriage. You introduce sexual disorder into humanity to distort, confuse, malign, mislead, falsify, garble, and interfere with God’s plan of using this beautiful union of marriage to reveal Himself, and His character to all of humanity. Destroy marriage and garble this union and God’s most important mirror to reflect His divine qualities to the world is lost. Satan has introduced many things to destroy marriage...

He confuses the young with molestation, sexual assault, and ploys like that used by Disney to introduce a lesbian couple on a children’s show this past week. He confuses teenagers and young 20’s with vanity, cohabitation, adultery, divorce, no fault divorce, violence against women (rape). He confuses and wounds women by perpetrating violence against babies in the womb (abortion). That perversion escalates in the introduction of homosexuality, bestiality, pedophilia, transgenderism, bi-sexuality, polygamy, polygyny, polyandry and pornography. Through multiple forms of sexual perversion and violence, Satan confuses men and women making it less likely that they will enter into the one relationship that God knows will best reveal Himself to the world.

Satan’s goal in all of this chaos is not to tick off a bunch of conservative or pacify a bunch of liberals, but his goal is to eliminate mankind’s ability to see, understand and desire to embrace the IMAGE of God on earth, his playground.

When the tickets for the NFC and AFC championship games went on sale a few weeks ago it was reported that the home teams refused to sell tickets to certain zip codes around the country. They wanted to eliminate the possibility of opposing fans from certain areas coming in and supporting their team. They wanted to protect home field advantage. The demons today are working through any and every medium possible to create and protect Satan’s home field advantage here in this world. Satan works through biblically weak church leaders, teachers, senators, house reps, lawyers, Hollywood, Supreme Court justices, pimp, johns and porn “stars”. They are using every medium possible to distort God’s best tool to portray His divine qualities to all the world.

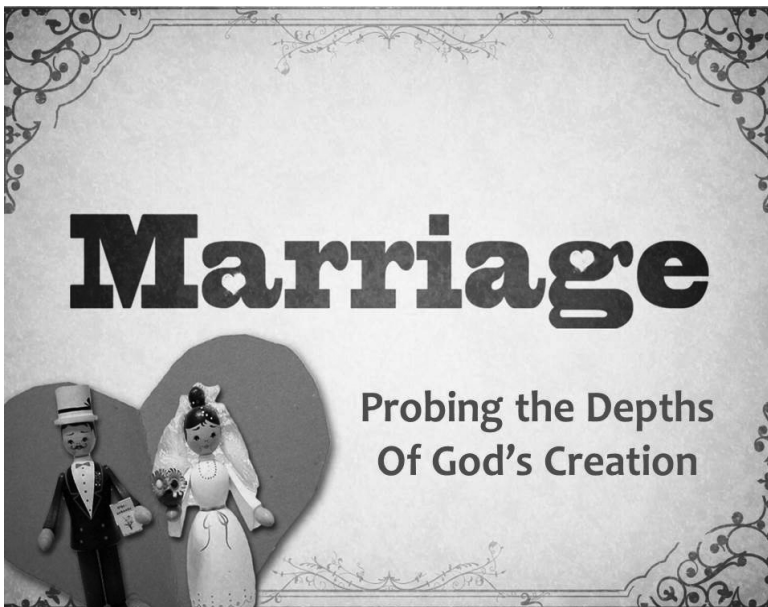
This union called marriage, between a man and a woman, is worth praying for, fasting for, fighting for (in appropriate ways), legislating for, and speaking up for...Just like Seattle’s CenturyLink Field and Denver’s Mile High stadium were almost solid blue and orange respectively for the championship games, that’s where we’re headed without believers educating the next generation and standing up for marriage as God defined it. Ultimately this is not a battle over people’s rights, but a battle to stifle the voice of God as He works to make Himself known to the world. I challenge you to stand for marriage between “Ish” and “Ishsha.” Remember as a species (A-DAM) you were created to bring glory to God...not yourselves.

So with this in mind maybe I could offer Macklemore and Lewis a new verse to their all to popular song “Same Love”...a verse that would be biblically correct.

“Right wing or left, it matters not our opinion/Christ-centered believers live by conviction/anyone can be healed/certainly not by religion/but by God’s transformation of the flesh’s predisposition,”... “Playing God, aw nah here we go/America the humble should fear the ONE we do know/And God loves all His creation, desiring to save so as never to lack so states the book written over 3500 years back.”

May we always seek to bring glory to God with our words, our thoughts, and our bodies.

—Pastor Mark Jenkins, Mountain View Community Church



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