

Same-Sex Marriage—Our Response

Introduction:

- 1) The Supreme Court has ruled that same sex marriage is legal.
- 2) Though many oppose this practice, it is here and probably won't be turned back, so what are we to do?

I. MAINTAIN OUR CONVICTIONS.

A. The Scriptures Are Clear.

1. The 1st century culture turned from God and this resulted. **Rom. 1:20-27**
 - a. Uncleaness, dishonors the body, vile (dishonorable) passions, against nature, shameful, error.
 - b. It is clear that this is seen as a big deal. It reflected a culture which had become degraded.
2. Do not be deceived. **1 Cor. 6:9-10**
3. God's judgment came on Sodom and Gomorrah for this. **Jude 1:6-7**
4. Don't forget the warning of **Isa. 5:20**.

B. Objections.

1. God wouldn't judge a person for something he didn't choose.
 - a. No one has proven that most homosexuals are made that way.
 - 1) An oft-cited study of identical v. fraternal twins had a least three major flaws.
 - a) The lead researcher was himself gay, thus suggesting possible bias.
 - b) Since identical twins have the same DNA, it should have been near 100% for one and both, instead of around 50%.
 - c) The sampling size was not large enough.
 - i. There were less than 200 men involved in the entire study and these were recruited through advertisements in gay interest publications.
 - b. "Proven" science is not always proven.
 - 1) Climate change; eggs and cholesterol; etc.
 - c. Homosexuals have changed. **1 Cor. 6:11**
 - d. However one might have gotten to the point of the strong same-sex attraction, they do not have to act on it any more than the unmarried who are attracted to the opposite sex. **Heb. 13:4**

2. “Biblical marriage? You mean polygamy, concubines, marrying a slave?”
 - a. In order to belittle people who appeal to the biblical plan for marriage, some will bring up various Old Testament practices.
 - b. First, even when such was going on, homosexual conduct was condemned. **Lev. 18:22**
 - c. Second, we are not under the Old Testament law today. **Rom. 7:1-4**
 - d. Third, God’s original intent was one man and one woman for life. **Mt. 19:3-9**

C. The Subjective Approach.

1. A “pastor” said that we should approach this as the Anglican priest who performed the wedding for C.S. Lewis did.
 - a. Both the R.C. and Anglican Churches refused to bless his intended marriage to a divorced woman.
 - b. But one priest was more open to it and after praying and asking Jesus, he was convinced it was the right thing to do.
 - c. He went on to say we should pray and ask Jesus what to do
2. When God has spoken but we feel the need to ask for more, are we not reflecting a lack of appreciation for the truth and opening ourselves up to deception? **2 Th. 2:9-12**
3. Appreciate the concrete authority of the faith once for all delivered. **Jude 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17**
 - a. But have you noticed how this has become the go-to justification for so many things?
 - b. It’s time to stop asking the One who has spoken and start listening.

D. Be Strong.

1. Our convictions will be tested.
2. Both individually and collectively we will be tested. **Mt. 10:28, 32-33**

II. BUT WE MUST NOT OVERREACT.

A. Don’t Become Obsessed with One Issue.

1. This is a big deal and when society legalizes, legitimizes, and even glamorizes a practice, we can expect more of it.
2. But there is a whole big world of sin out there we need to be concerned about.
3. Divorce is still a bigger threat to God’s plan for marriage. **Mt. 19:6, 9**
4. Singles disrespect God’s marriage laws every day. **1 Cor. 6:9f; Heb. 13:4**
5. Bible authority and obedience are not taken seriously by many in the religious community. **Mt. 7:21-23; Heb. 5:8f**

B. Politics.

1. As much as I disagree with the judges involved and the officials pushing this on us, I must still obey **Rom. 13:1, 7; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:13f, 17.**
 - a. Must watch the way we speak of these people. Peter and Paul wrote during the reign of Nero, a wicked, cruel, and immoral man.
2. I'm not saying you can't exercise your right of petition, voting, etc., but don't forget the real solution to this problem is found in the gospel. **Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 6:11**
3. And if we become too involved in the search for a political solution, we may end up forming alliances with people who are guilty of other evils.

C. False Teachers.

1. The warning is clear. **2 Jn. 1:9-11**
2. But out of concerns for moral issues (abortion, gambling, gay marriage, et al), Christians sometimes allow themselves to become too closely aligned with false teachers.
3. When articles from groups such as desiringgod.org are shared, the potential for harm is so great, for Calvinism has poisoned more people than homosexuality.
4. Fight the good fight, but be careful that you don't give endorsement to people who will themselves lead people away from Christ. **Mt. 7:21-23**

D. Watch Your Language.

1. As said before, we need to be strong and uncompromising on this subject. This conduct is described as shameful, dishonorable, against nature.
2. However, those engaged in it are people made in the image of God whom Jesus died for and if we use street language and come across as hateful, we will probably have no chance to teach them and we may lose opportunities with other people.
 - a. We can be uncompromising without being unnecessarily offensive.
3. Take the approach of Jesus with the Samaritan woman in Jn. 4. Cf. **Col. 4:5-6**

E. No One Can Make Us Sin.

1. I deplore what is happening in our nation and I am confident it will lead to more sin.
2. However, it should not cost me my soul.
3. Divorce has been legal, easy, and affordable for my entire adult life, but I'm still married.
4. I'm not dismissive of this horrific move in our culture, but we and our children can still choose not to be involved in any of the immoral acts that will keep us from heaven. **1 Cor. 6:9-10**

5. It may take more effort as our culture becomes more accepting and it inundates our entertainment, but it can be done. **2 Pet. 2:4-9**
6. Especially important to teach our children, grandchildren to think like God would have them to think and avoid becoming conformed to the thinking of the world around them. **Rom. 12:2**

Conclusion:

- 1) As a nation and culture we are in a spiritual decline, but let's close with two important reminders.
- 2) We know it is evil and we can rise above it.
- 3) Jesus came to save sinners, including homosexuals. Let's take this message of salvation to our lost and dying world.