

A Constitutional Amendment

Introduction

Good evening everyone. Welcome to this evening's worship of our Lord at Central Church of Christ. If you would, please, turn in your bibles to Genesis Chapter 2. This is where our first text will come from tonight. I've chosen a rather controversial and uncomfortable topic for this evening. In response to a big nationwide push for gay marriages, this past week, President George Bush began a push for a constitutional amendment that defines marriage as being a union between a man and woman. When I first heard this, I gave it a hardy AMEN! After all, we read in Genesis Chapter 2, verses 23-24:

[Gen 2:23-24 KJV](#)

- (23) And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.
- (24) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

There is no mention of any other type of union here. It's a man and woman.

Why Stop at Marriage?

I began to ponder, however, that if we are going to go through the horrific effort and expense to attempt to define what a marriage is, why stop there? If it's the sanctity of marriage that we are trying to save, why not add a bit more teeth to this amendment? If you would please, turn over to Matthew Chapter 5. During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus offers these words on divorce:

[Mat 5:31-32 KJV](#)

- (31) It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:
- (32) But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

If we want a constitutional amendment on marriage, let's go ahead and really define it. Let's make it really binding. The way the Lord meant it to be. Because right now, we follow verse 31 a lot closer than we do verse 32.

But Why Stop There?

If we are going to go through the expense and effort to define what marriage is and make a binding institution after the fashion that our Lord has instructed us, why not make the roles of wife and husband clear as well? We could just include a paraphrased copy of Ephesians Chapter 5. Turn over the Ephesians Chapter 5 and read with me from verses 22-33:

[Eph 5:22-33 KJV](#)

- (22) Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
- (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

(24) Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

(25) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

(26) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

(27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

~~(28) So of the man to love, his wife as his own body, as he himself doth love himself.~~

(29) For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord

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(30) For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

~~(31) That~~ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

(32) This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

(33) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife

see that she reverence *her husband* as the church doth reverence herself, that she sanctify and cleanse her

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that if every man and woman read these lines before they got married, and realized the true commitment was that they were making, our divorce rate would plummet. Because a woman has to ask herself “Can I hold this man in reverence, and, just as importantly, does he love me more than he loves himself?” Every man has to ask himself “will I nourish and cherish this woman, am I willing to lay

Would you promise not to use two words? One is swell and the other is lousy." "Sure, granny," said the nice little girl. "What are the two words?"

If we should ask one of our children to draw a picture of a "Christian Family," we would surely get a group picture sociologists have labeled the "nuclear family": a mother, a father, and a child or children. Three or four generations ago, that picture likely would have included a grandmother and grandfather; an uncle or an aunt, perhaps; even a cousin or two. Our current age, with its urban sprawl, has disbanded the "extended family." Granny is no longer on the day-to-day scene, pitching in with household chores, taking the kids for new shoes, and trying to enrich little girl's vocabularies.

Titus Chapter 2 offers some insight as to the duties of a grand parents. They don't limit the teaching to grand children, but I think a good point is to made here non the less:

Tit 2:2-5 KJV

- (2) That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.
- (3) The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;
- (4) That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,
- (5) *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Why a Constitutional Amendment

We started with a Constitutional Amendment who's stated purpose is to preserve the sanctity of marriage. We end up with an Amendment that preserves the sanctity of the family. And that's really what it's all about I think.

People will say, and there is probably some truth to it, that George Bush is trying to get the attention of the public off other matters by bringing same sex marriages to the forefront during an election. So be it.

But in the last two weeks, over 6000 gay couples have been married in San Francisco. An abomination to god, no doubt. This constitutional amendment is supposed to be a response to this. Well, if that's really the case, why hasn't a constitutional amendment been offered to solve other equally ungodly problems:

In 2001, the divorce rate in America was close to 50%. That's right. Almost half of all marriages that occurred in 2001 are likely to end in divorce. And, even more disturbing, the divorce rate among non-denominational Christians is 34%. Among Catholics, it's 21%. That's horrifying to me.

In 1998, an estimated 1,100 children died of abuse and neglect—an average of more than 3 children per day. That's how many died, brothers and sisters. Not how many were abused. Three children a day die of abuse in the United States alone.

Suddenly, in my eyes at least, a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union of a man and woman doesn't look all that important.

Family is the Key

My fellow Christians, family is the key. And not just what we call a nuclear a family, either. Turn with me to Matthew Chapter 12. In verses 46-50, Jesus teaches about family:

[Mat 12:46-50 KJV](#)

- (46) While he yet talked to the people, behold, *his* mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.
- (47) Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.
- (48) But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?
- (49) And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!
- (50) For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

The bible has already defined homosexuality as a sin. I'm really not even willing to debate that fact with anyone. I'll just give the verses and let them make up their own mind. There is not ONE mention of a homosexual marriage in the bible. And the fact is, if we could just teach people what Jesus has taught us, then all of these issues become moot. Because if my family is here before me, and I see a child within this family being abused, or know of acts of homosexuality, or other fornication, or any other sins against my Lord, It's my duty as a Christian to speak to my brother or sister about it. And then, no law of the land is needed.

Conclusion

They want to pass a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. The only problem I have with that is the cost, the time, and the distraction it might cause from other more important issues.

If this issue is pushed forward, who knows how much good or how much damage could be done by it. But we as Christians must keep our eyes on our own goal. We need to remember what Paul told Timothy in second Timothy chapter 2, verses 23-26

[2Ti 2:23-26 KJV](#)

- (23) But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.
- (24) And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient,
- (25) In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;
- (26) And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

A constitutional amendment will not teach people that homosexual behavior is a sin. Only we, as Christians, teaching with patience and gentleness in our hearts, can do that. Nobody was ever saved by a constitutional amendment. All that are saved, are saved by the grace of God, through faith. Faith achieved by studying the word of God.

I normally don't like to bring any kind of politics into the pulpit. But it seems that we, as Americans, are headed towards a big fight over this subject in the near future. I felt it

important to point out, that as Christians, while this Amendment supports what God teaches, we cannot allow a petty debate to take us away from our Christianity.

Invitation