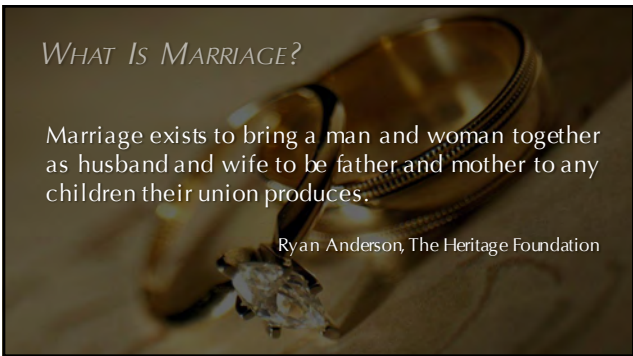




*What Is Marriage?
Should Same-Sex Marriage
Be Permitted?*

ANSWERING THE TOUGH ONES



WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

Marriage exists to bring a man and woman together as husband and wife to be father and mother to any children their union produces.

Ryan Anderson, The Heritage Foundation



WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

1. Man and woman
- Universality of gender distinction.

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

1. Man and woman
2. Husband and wife
 - Public accountability for sexual behavior
 - Protects women from sexual predators
 - Ties the male to the commitment to protect and provide

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

1. Man and woman
2. Husband and wife
3. Father and mother
 - Gender diversity required
 - Nurtures children in a complementarian environment
 - Fulfills the natural right for children to have both a father and a mother.

GENESIS 1-2

1. Men and women were created *for a purpose*.

GENESIS 1-2

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:26-28

GENESIS 1-2

1. Men and women were created for a purpose.

- Fill the earth
- Subdue it
- Rule over it

GENESIS 1-2

1. Men and women were created for a purpose.

2. Not good for man to be alone.

GENESIS 1-2

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" . . . But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 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 then closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

Genesis 2:18, 21-22

GENESIS 1-2

1. Men and women were created for a purpose.
2. Not good for man to be alone.
 - Alone vs. Lonely
 - "Helper suitable for him"

GENESIS 1-2

1. Men and women were created for a purpose.
2. Not good for man to be alone.
3. *Etzer* (Helper / Completer)
 - Gender diversity necessary to complete God's design
 - Complementary image bearers

JESUS AND MARRIAGE

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 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'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Matthew 19:3-6

BIBLICAL DEVIATIONS


Difference between descriptive and prescriptive

- Abraham and the tale of two sons
- David, Solomon and a fractured nation

The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, "You are not to go back that way again." He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

Deuteronomy 17:16-17

A Biblical Response to Homosexuality

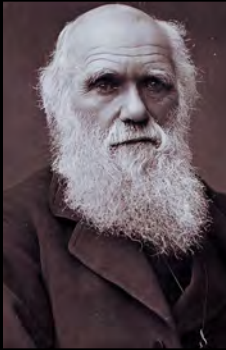




HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Charles Darwin
On the Origin of the Species

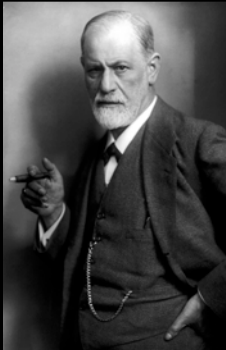
Established naturalism as a belief system; moral absolutes no longer required.



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Sigmund Freud
Father of Psychoanalysis

Argued that sexual restraint was directly tied to neurosis; advocated dropping it.



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Alfred Kinsey
The Kinsey Reports

Championed sexual experimentation; forerunner of the sexual revolution.



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

No Fault Divorce
1970-2010

Divorce no longer required evidence showing a breach of the marital contract.



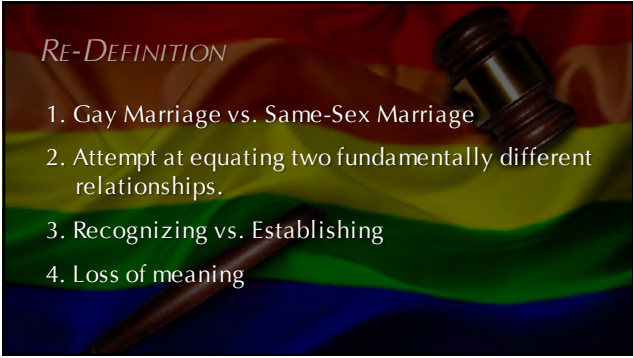
Seismic Paradigm Shift

Metaphysical Identity → Sexual Identity



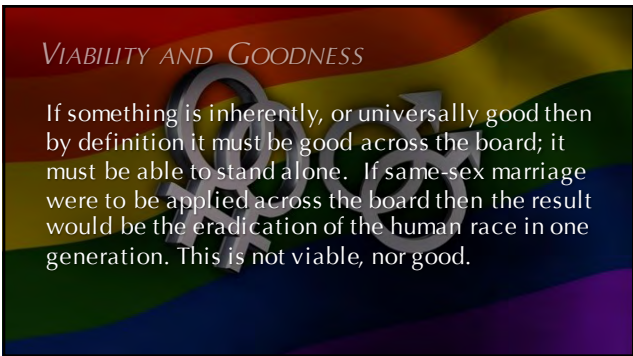
RE-DEFINITION

1. Gay Marriage vs. Same-Sex Marriage
2. Attempt at equating two fundamentally different relationships.
3. Recognizing vs. Establishing
4. Loss of meaning



VIABILITY AND GOODNESS

If something is inherently, or universally good then by definition it must be good across the board; it must be able to stand alone. If same-sex marriage were to be applied across the board then the result would be the eradication of the human race in one generation. This is not viable, nor good.



INVERSION

1. Genesis 1 and Romans 1
2. Elevation of self and the supremacy of sexuality
3. Rejection of purpose



ANSWERING THE TOUGH ONES A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO HOMOSEXUALITY



Challenge

Why is it wrong for two same-sex adults to live in a consensual, loving relationship?

Response

1. Sensitivity. Recognize the complexity of the issue. Many of those asking these questions have been conditioned by our culture to identify themselves by their sexuality, something that is extremely personal . . . this is *always* a pastoral issue. Our response should be full of grace and truth (Eph 4:15; Jn 1:14).
2. Empathy. Do not demonize homosexuality. Christians have consistently treated people who struggle with homosexuality as outcasts. Work hard to overcome this and establish the fact that homosexuality is no different than any other sin and that Christians who *struggle* with homosexuality are fully included in the family of God.
3. Authority. Determine the person's source of authority. What assumption is being made that is the basis for accepting homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle, ie. social pressure, personal experience, Scripture's teaching on the issue is antiquated, etc.?
4. Scripture. If the person recognizes Scripture as the authority for belief and practice:
 - The Old Testament establishes the natural created order as the unique relationship between a man and a woman who come together as a husband and wife to be a father and mother to any children their union may produce (Gen 1:27-28, 2:20-24).
 - The Moral Law states that homosexuality is sin (Lev 18:22, 20:13).
 - The New Testament upholds the Moral Law and clearly states that homosexuality is sin (Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9-10; 1 Tim 1:8-11; Gal 5:19; Col 3:5; Acts 15:20, 29).
 - Jesus affirmed the created order of man and woman (Matt 19:4-6) and explicitly prohibits sexual immorality, of which homosexuality is a sub-category (Matt 15:16-20; Mk 7:20-23).
 - In a biblical hermeneutic, if the Moral Law of the Old Testament is upheld in the New Testament then it is considered a "universal truth," one that transcends time, culture, language, etc.
5. Identity. Establish the fact that those who are in Christ are no longer identified by their sin. Referring to someone as a "gay Christian" is as awkward as calling someone an "alcoholic Christian," or a "gossiping Christian." If one is in Christ he is now identified solely as a child of God (2 Cor 5:17, 21) and is therefore being "transformed into his image" (2 Cor 3:18).
6. Choice. Inevitably the person will say something to the effect of, "homosexuals are born gay / they do not have a choice." While there is no biological evidence that genetics has anything to do with homosexuality, it is clear that some people are born with a predisposition to homosexuality, just as alcoholics are predisposed to alcohol, or addicts are predisposed to their drug of choice (substance, sex, anger, etc.). We are all affected by our sin nature; however, predisposition does not excuse acting out or accepting a lifestyle that God clearly condemns. Change is possible for those empowered by the Holy Spirit, something Paul refers to in 1 Cor 6:9-11: ". . . that is what some of you *were*."

Regarding Same-Sex Marriage As the "New Civil Rights":

Point 1: Race is sacred. We are against racism because it is an abuse of something sacred.

Point 2: Sexuality is sacred. We are against same-sex marriage because it is an abuse of something sacred.

Question: How do you treat one sacred and desecrate the other?

If the person does not recognize Scripture as the authority for belief and practice, then the nature of the conversation has shifted from answering a question about homosexuality to defending the veracity of Scripture. Graciously ask probing questions that will help you determine the person's worldview then engage the person's need, whether it be interpretive methodology or simply an understanding of the gospel.