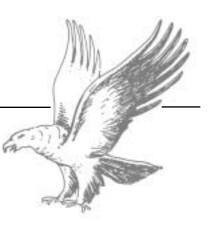


"Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31



June 10, 2012

Gay Marriage

The current uproar over gay marriage is only the latest stage in an evolution that began long ago. The real solution is neither quick nor easy.

"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Heb. 13:4).

The current uproar over gay marriage is a relatively recent phenomenon. From a Biblical perspective, the issue is not even debatable. God's position on homosexuality is quite clear to anyone who takes His word seriously (Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Lev. 18:22). Of course, with the general decline in respect for the Bible across society, what the Bible says about homosexuality no longer carries much weight, so it's not surprising to see this testimony ignored. Consequently, we are now debating a major social question that was unthinkable only a generation ago.

Ironically, the groundwork for gay marriage was laid long before, with the rise of no-fault divorce laws, cohabitation, alternative reproduction options (such as artificial insemination), and a general collapse of gender roles within straight marriages. All of these changes created an environment in which marriage came to be viewed a just an arrangement of convenience rather than a divine covenant.

Let's face it—far too many young people today enter adulthood with a badly distorted impression of marriage, based largely on their own experiences in dysfunctional families. It's easy to convince these young people—where most of the support for gay marriage resides—that, what's the big deal, it's probably not going last anyway, gay or straight. That's not a gay marriage issue. That's a marriage issue. Marriage itself is no longer held in honor.

So what do we do now? Simply passing more laws—regarding marriage, divorce, or gay marriage—will not change the hearts of the people, where the real struggle must be won. Instead, we must change the popular perception of marriage. Our task is to convince our culture, one person at a time, that traditional marriage *is* honorable, that a male/female couple *can* live happily ever after, and provide the best environment for raising kids.

We do that in two ways: First, we must vigorously teach on the benefits of

traditional marriage. Gay marriage advocates trot out statistics on divorce, domestic violence, child abuse and other indicators of broken marriages to show that the traditional model no longer works. But that's only part of the story. The game is not as one-sided as we are being led to believe, and people deserve to hear the other side articulated.

Second, we must model what we preach. Elders and preachers must aggressively but gently intervene in struggling marriages under their oversight, not merely to salvage them, but to transform them into the image of divine harmony that God intends they be. Obviously, these changes will not happen overnight, and we must exercise patience in dealing with the people involved. But it must be done.

It may be too late to stem the tide of gay marriage. But whatever happens on that front, we must do all we can to prepare the next generation, and the one after that, to understand what marriage is, and to prepare civilization for what follows after this assault on traditional marriage has run its destructive course.

– David King

