

Wings

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



April 27, 2014

Why Marriage?

The institution of marriage, as traditionally understood, is under furious assault.

The best defense is remarkably simple, to those who will open their eyes to see it.

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

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In the 1960s, the Sexual Revolution with its message of “free love” posed a serious challenge to the role of marriage as the guardian of sex. In the decades that followed, casual divorce, cohabitation, and single parenthood exploded and became socially acceptable, further weakening the role of marriage. In the 1990s, when gays began a serious push for a redefinition of marriage to include same-sex couples, the social barriers to gay marriage were already in tatters. It was only a matter of time before the political climate caught up with the erosion of social standards.

This evolutionary process has not yet run its course. A push is already on for the legalization of polygamy and polyamory. Even some form of legalized pedophilia is within striking distance. Why not, if the original meaning of marriage is no longer recognized by a wide swath of our population?

Believers are mortified by these developments. The Bible is quite clear in its description of what constitutes a legitimate marriage (Gen. 2:23-25; Matt. 19:3-9); shouldn't that settle the matter? Of course it should—to those who believe the Bible. But a huge chunk of our population no longer has any respect for the Bible; quoting scripture carries zero weight with this audience.

Believers must understand that this is not merely an issue of what the Bible teaches. Throughout history, the traditional definition of marriage has been a universally recognized institution enjoying legal safeguards. There is something about this arrangement that has made it the overwhelmingly dominant model for organizing family life, regardless of religion or culture. What is it?

In one word: *children*.

Biologically, there is only one way for the human race to propagate itself: one man and one woman must come together to produce a new life. (Artificial insemination is no exception, substituting an impersonal means of “coming together”.) The traditional mar-

riage arrangement honors this biological fact, providing a protective environment in which this procreative process can take place, benefiting especially the mother and child.

Furthermore, the human race has learned from experience that the ideal structure for raising and training this offspring is a home maintained by the same two people who brought their little one into the world. As parents, they are emotionally, psychologically, and financially committed to making it work. The traditional marriage model institutionalizes this social reality.

The Sexual Revolution and its aftermath have damaged that institution and left a trail of destruction and chaos in its wake. Gay marriage and other alternatives will only add to the carnage.

True, many traditional marriages and families are dysfunctional. But ditching thousands of years of human experience is not the solution. Instead, our efforts must focus on training husbands and wives in how to fulfill their natural roles. Marriage should be strengthened, not trivialized.

— David King