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Homosexuality and Same Sex Marriage

I have been asked many times to share my views on the topic of homosexuality and same sex marriage. Although this is not a full treatment of the subject, it does give enough information to at least inspire biblical thinking and hopefully carries a tone of love and compassion. I apologize for its brevity, for the gravity of the topic in our time calls for something more. Possibly more will come in the future.

When it comes to the subject of “same sex marriage” and homosexuality in general, there is no way that anyone who has respect for scripture as the Word of God can honestly derive from it that “same sex marriage” is acceptable and that homosexuality is anything other than an expression of human brokenness. According to Genesis 2:21-24 and confirmed by Jesus in the Gospels (Matthew 19:5-6), marriage is between a man and a woman. The Apostle Paul, in his treatment of the downward spiral of mankind in Romans Chapter 1, demonstrates that homosexuality is a result of the fall of man (original sin) and is listed along with a host of other sinful behaviors as the consequences of mankind turning away from God and creating his own gods. That being said, I want to try and clarify at least my response to this subject with a view to the gospel and how it sheds light on our plight.

I do not see how we can bless a union of two people and call it marriage when they are a same sex couple. Scripture does not teach against friendship, even a deeply loving and respectful relationship or partnership of people of the same sex. To call that relationship “marriage” would be deeply wrong though, for marriage entails the aspect of sexual relationship and that is strictly forbidden between people of the same sex throughout scripture, both Old and New Testaments. Society does not define morality but God does through His word (scripture). Throw God’s scripture out and the only definer of morality is society, and we all know where that can lead (witness Nazi Germany). So for my part, I am called to uphold the truth scripture teaches and that is as far as I can go no matter what the world around me says.

I am not uncompassionate though about the plight of the homosexual. I cannot call however, the homosexual desire anything other than an aspect of human brokenness. Neither can I call over stimulated heterosexual lust anything other than brokenness. However the main problem in either is relationship with Christ and the refusal to recognize these things as sin. Like all human brokenness and deeds of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21), we recognize that Christ came to save us from these things. He will help us to resist them, and overcome them, some quickly, sometimes over a lifetime of struggle. If we do not want to be saved from these things, then we really don’t want Christ (at least the true Christ), for He came to deliver us from these (I John 3:5-8). Once we receive Christ, we are to submit the deeds of our body to His will and allow Him to transform our lives to something greater (Romans 6:12-23). We will eventually see victory over all sin and brokenness. In fact, the Christian already has the victory because of Christ; his or her body (the flesh) simply needs to catch up with that victory. That is a process that ultimately the death of our flesh and the gift of a new body, one that is not corrupted, will complete. So in light of this view, same sex marriage is obviously out of the question.

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To state this in more depth, from the time we come into this world, there is something broken in all of us. We are not what God originally created us to be, but something other, twisted by the introduction of a sinful nature passed on by our first human parents. This nature manifests in all kinds and all degrees of sinful thoughts, desires, and behaviors. Homosexuality is only one of many wrong desires that are a result of this broken human nature. Greed, strife, envy, heterosexual immorality, being untrustworthy and unmerciful, all are listed in the same context. Religious sins and bigotry apparently are some of the worst. It was not the harlots and prostitutes who hung Jesus on the cross but the religious establishment. Even the "best" that human beings have to offer is something less than God created us for and is not worthy of His Kingdom. In fact, we were all born, so to speak, on the wrong side of the tracks, citizens of the kingdom of darkness and under the dominion of sin and death (Colossians 1:13, Ephesians 2:1-3).

When we are born into this world, there is unrest in us, an inner knowledge, a nagging feeling that tells us something is wrong. We all try in a variety of ways to answer that unrest, but God's one and only way is to admit there is something wrong (repentance) and turn to God's solution which is Christ. The only path toward wholeness for any manifestation of human brokenness, homosexuality included, is to admit it as brokenness and offer it to Christ.

This is the biblical perspective and is the one I espouse. I do not say it will be easy, and certainly not acceptable in a culture that has lost its way. So called homosexuals are loved by God, as much as all other human beings and they too are people for whom Christ died. But He did not die for them to leave them in their brokenness. I do realize that it is not acceptable to most homosexuals to call it brokenness. The old story of the emperor who was convinced his invisible clothes were real while his subjects knew the truth is applicable here. They may say it is not brokenness all they want, but the truth cannot be hidden. That deep unrest inside will keep surfacing even if the entire world around is cheering. For only God can bring inner peace and that in Christ Jesus our Lord. My prayer is that these words will be heard with the love they are written with and not the finger of judgment. We all have a journey to walk.

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