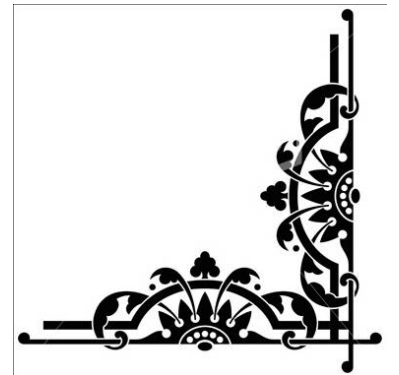


The Meaning of Love in Marriage

Age-22



What is love?

This is an unusual way to begin a discussion on what is legitimate in marriage. But it is the most essential component within the decision of what to legalize. What is love? We are afraid to question anyone's claim to be in love believing that if it truly is love we are obligated to sanction it, for who would be so cruel as to deny happiness that comes from love? But is everything claimed to be love truly love?

What is love? Love is a passion—an emotion combined with an action—which produces what we would call an expression or visible proof. This is not a dictionary definition, it is a definition based upon observation. I will prove it. Someone who claims to love their infant child and yet leaves it on the floor starving until it dies has proved that regardless of their words, they did not truly love their child. Why? Their actions provide the evidence. Love is more than a small feeling inside; it is the outward demonstration of what is inside.

What is the highest form of love? Think through the love story that resounds the deepest inside you; or think of someone you have known who truly, beyond doubt, loved another person. What was it in those relationships that convinced you of the sincerity of their love for the other? Sacrifice. I will bet that in every instance it was one major act of sacrifice or continual smaller sacrifices for the other which convinced you that it was true love. Love worth desiring and love worth giving and sharing always involves sacrifice.

Let us put this in the context of marriage. If a married couple is mean and spiteful to one another, we by observance note that it cannot be a good marriage. Why? Because they show no love *for the other person*. When there is not the self-sacrifice for the other, something is wrong. We expect that in a marriage a man will sacrifice because of his deep care for his wife, and the wife will show her husband respect and honor and so sacrifices; both are striving to love one another.

By this understanding we can agree that marriage was not intended to be a selfish acquirement of another individual in order to gratify personal needs. Though the inherent needs within a person will be met through a natural marriage, it was meant for so much more! People of all forms of relationships say they want to marry because of love, but even many heterosexual marriages do not come near to understanding the full meaning of love.

What is the purpose of marriage?

We understand now that marriage must contain self-sacrificing love. But to grasp all that self-sacrificing love includes within a marriage (and so define 'marriage') we must

look to where marriage originated from and then observe what should result from marriage. Naturally, marriage has existed since the formation of humankind. From the first historical records we can find of the human race, marriages between one man and one woman have existed. Who set this up? The One who created humans. Why did he set it up this way? Just to be cruel to those who want to engage in homosexuality or other sexual relations? Perhaps there was a deeper reason for marriage than just pleasure.

God, when he created men and women, created them distinct and different for a purpose. It was not merely a fluke that two types of one thing emerged. And into each one he placed a deep longing for the other so that there would be a natural draw toward the opposite. As with all creatures on earth, God gave them this natural attraction to the opposite so that they would reproduce and perpetuate their kind. In fact, he specifically instructed people to increase in number and fill the earth.¹ He intentionally united the man and woman to become one family unit because built within that structure is potential reproduction, the balanced environment for child training, and both the protective and the nurturing components which are essential to raising children.²

So we see, marriage was not just intended to share true love (by which I mean self-sacrificing love) toward the other person, it was also meant to give true love to the children that should result from the marriage. If in marriage the couple is impartial to the needs of their children or to the care of children in general, then that marriage does not contain true love.

But there is more...

The creator of life and of marriage has more purpose for marriage than child production and care. This purpose also finds its foundation upon self-sacrificing love. Perhaps there is a theme here? God created marriage to be a physical example of the spiritual relationship between God and Man. God loves the humans he created. And just as above we noted that love is proven by selfless giving (sacrifice), God sacrificed himself in the form of Jesus Christ by leaving his heavenly dwelling and laying aside his glory for the sake of the people he loved.³ And he went further; Christ gave his very life.⁴ The greatest love is that one would lay down his life for another.⁵ Christ died so that those who chose to love him back he may bring to heaven to live with him.⁶

All through the bible, God uses the example of marriage as a way to portray this ultimate, sacrificial love which he showed to humankind. The husband is supposed to care for his wife, sacrificing his personal desires, just as Christ cares for his people, and the wife is supposed to respect and follow her husband, sacrificing her desires, just as God's people are supposed to respect and follow Christ.⁷ If you mutate or change the roles of the two people involved in the marriage it loses the very essence of what it is

supposed to portray—the physical example of the spiritual relationship between God and Man. Therefore, anything outside of the union of one man and one woman defies the purposes for marriage.

But what if I don't believe in God?

I am aware that some will say to me: “There is no god and we are phenomena of billions of years of evolution.” Therefore I will briefly argue on your level by putting marriage and sexual relations in view of ‘survival of the fittest’ which is how you believe you have come to be on this earth—through previous forms fighting to survive and improve their lifestyles. Even in light of evolution, were it true, homosexuality, etc. would be foolish to those striving to ‘survive as the fittest.’ By observance we can note that those who engage in homosexuality do not reproduce and therefore cut off potential for a surviving race. This is illogical in light of evolution as even animals search for those with whom they can reproduce their kind. (I am trying to use your own arguments to help you understand.)

We can also observe that 50% of homosexual men will contract a fatal disease in comparison to roughly 2% of heterosexual men,⁸ homosexuals are in general vastly more depressed than heterosexuals,⁹ and homosexuals tend to die 30 years sooner than heterosexuals.¹⁰ All of these go to show that, even in an evolutionary society, homosexuality fails to complete its purpose. It does not perpetuate the human race, it spreads fatal disease and crippling ailments, it does not bring greater happiness, and it cuts the lifespan by 43%. Thus, I sum it up and say: homosexuality and the practices therein would be a step back in evolutionary progression, if that were how we came to be.

Conclusion of what makes a legitimate marriage:

Returning to the basis of our argument, we can conclude that in order to be considered a legitimate marriage—according to what it was designed for—the following elements must be present: (1) The ability to reproduce; (2) A balanced and healthy environment for child rearing; (3) The elements of protection and nurturing within the family unit; (4) A demonstration of self-sacrificing love for the sake of the other person, the children, and the society; (5) An accurate portrayal of the relationship between God and Man—one sacrificing to care for the other and the other sacrificing to respect and follow the one.

What are illegitimate forms of marriage? And why are they illegitimate?

Why is homosexual marriage not legitimate? Why is a polygamist marriage arrangement not legitimate? Why would marriage based on bestiality not be legitimate? No law can actually make these legitimate. By their nature of self-gratification, their purposeful disregard of societal necessities, and most important, their

blatant rejection of God's creating purposes, these forms of 'marriage' go against the very core of marriage and the foundational meaning of love. Below we will show how all of these traits are present in the above illegitimate forms of marriage, predominantly in homosexuality.

It is argued: "But surely a heterosexual marriage where one is abusive to the other does not fulfill the purpose of marriage and is wrong! How can you oppose a homosexual marriage where at least there is not abuse and sanction an abusive marriage?" I reply: Neither an abusive marriage, nor a homosexual marriage fulfills the true goal and purpose of marriage. Because we speak against a homosexual marriage does not mean that we sanction an abusive heterosexual marriage. An abusive relationship does not contain the self-sacrificing love from both persons and also falls short of the created intent for marriage.

So why do people engage in these illegitimate sexual relations?

Selfishness. They do it to gratify desires which they do not find adequate strength to subdue. Homosexuality and all other forms of sexual action outside of marriage between one man and one woman are, at their root, selfish. A person feels a compulsion, something that their body craves and, rather than using self-control and keeping in mind the needs of those around them, they go in search of what will gratify that desire. But desires, as we know from experience, never lessen or are completely satisfied, they only grow. So when a person loses the thrill of an initial homosexual or other unnatural engagement, they search for something more thrilling or erotic. The more that people give in to a desire or seek for a greater thrill to satisfy their cravings the wilder and riskier they're willing to go in order to fulfill the current need. Also, the more people simply respond to what their body demands, the less they're able to resist their bodily urges later. (How sad to have your body—a bunch of nerves and animalistic instincts—tell your mind—the highest form of earthly intelligence—what to do).

This is how one can progress from a first unnatural relation with another of the same gender into actions that are naturally appalling to humans, such as sexual violence to heighten stimulation, consumption of human waste during experience, child involvement, and engaging sexually with human corpses or with animals.¹¹ And why do people do such shocking things? It is because of selfishness and the lack of strength to say 'no' to their own growing and demanding desires. And this selfishness, the pursuit of self-gratification, stands in direct opposition to very foundational purpose of marriage—self-sacrificing love.

What happens to people who engage in illegitimate forms sexual relations? And what happens to the society surrounding them?

To answer that, we must observe the trends among those who practice these sexual relations. Is life better as a practicing homosexual? They claim it is. However, heroin addicts say life is better because of their drugs and alcoholics say life is better with their bottle.¹² But observing them and the impact which these have on their lives, can you agree? Therefore let us observe the results of the homosexual's life:

Personal affects to the homosexual:

- Shorter lifespan: "The median age of death for gays and lesbians is in the mid-40s while for married heterosexuals it is in the 70s."¹³
- Plagued by fatal disease and illness: "Annual incidence of hepatitis A in...homosexual men was 22 percent, whereas no heterosexual men acquired hepatitis A."¹⁴
- Mental trauma and strain: FRI notes that, "The 'gay life' is short, lonely, and filled with cheating, insecurity, disease, and danger. Although held captive by sexual addiction rather than brick and bars, homosexuals exhibit many of the same psychological traits as those imprisoned in death camps."¹⁵
- Violence: "In line with traditional psychiatric opinion, violence goes hand-in-hand with the 'gay' lifestyle. Almost all the exposure by homosexuals to violence and disease is encountered in the gay subculture."¹⁶
- Depression and suicidal tendencies: According to the Family Research Institution, "Acceptance did not necessarily make homosexuals' lives better: 35% of gays (v. 11% of heterosexual men) and 37% of lesbians (v. 24% of heterosexual women) had either seriously considered or attempted suicide. Of homosexuals who had attempted suicide, the most frequent reason – which accounted for 47% of all attempts – was disagreements with a lover."¹⁷

Affects on children:

- Can reproduction even take place? No, so there is a lack of consideration for children.
- Are children within homosexual homes brought up balanced, stable, and well-supported?
 - FRI: "In a study FRI published earlier this year, interviews with 57 children with gay parents revealed that living in a homosexual home was a trying experience for children. In addition, the largest comparison study done to date -- 58 kids with married parents, 58 kids with cohabiting heterosexual parents, and 58 kids with homosexual parents -- reported that the children with homosexual parents did less well at school, less well socially, and often gave evidence of personal distress."¹⁸

- In fact, there are additional dangers to children: "Sex addicts generally need instant gratification. They have a very low threshold for delaying gratification, and it's much easier to manipulate a young boy into having sex than it is to manipulate another man."¹⁹

Affects on the overall society:

- Greater cost for the treatment of diseases: "The San Francisco Department of Public Health saw 75,000 patients per year, of whom 70 to 80 per cent were homosexual men."²⁰
- Loss of private rights of citizens to stand by what they see as a positive influence on society and to oppose what they see as a negative influence on society.²¹

I realize that piles of statistics and artistic graphs are often useful when proving the validity of statements such as those listed above and perhaps should have been included. However, I am also keenly aware that while the older generations are very influenced by these forms of communication, the younger generations are more readily influenced by stories and explanations which grip their hearts and cause them to dwell on those things again later. So, I have provided as an appendix a large variety of sites which proved useful to my study and conclusions concerning the definition of marriage that I hope those who are impacted by statistics will find useful.²² Rather than to simply regurgitate the surface results of these chosen lifestyles, I have searched for the deeper root cause and attempted to explain it in such a way that it may grab not only the hearts of those who previously agreed with my stance on marriage, but also those who are already deep within the homosexual lifestyle. To this end have I written my paper and I pray that it succeeds.

Are there other places we can look to see future results of our decisions about marriage? What has happened in these countries? To the practicers? To children? To society?

I visited many sites which prove, repeatedly, that other countries are experiencing the same results within their homosexual communities as we are, theirs are just more extreme since it's been publically permitted for much longer. Instead of mapping these out in detail, it seemed more beneficial to complete the argument which has been presented and allow you, through your own reading,²³ to also be overwhelmed as I was by the reports and stories listed. And then, when you have read them all, realize that all these disease epidemics, all the horrible child-molestations, and all the instability within those societies lie primarily in the selfishness of people. They think only about themselves and how to gratify their sexual desires, and they now live in the horrors which they have created, as do we.

Am I being narrow minded?

If someone feels like raping your sister, or abusing your child, are you ok with that? Does the fact that you're not make you narrow minded? No! Why? Because for the protection and welfare of those individuals, especially those who cannot defend themselves, you are willing to stand up for what's right! So, in light of what homosexuality does to the society around it, and the risk it puts on children, plus the devastating effects it has on the actual practitioners, which is considered more loving: To sacrifice the label of "tolerant" in order to protect people? Or to avoid conflict and let the consequences of peoples' selfish feelings dictate our society?

- "If a 'sexual feeling' is categorized as a civil right, then should we not include the following 'sexual feelings' under the protective umbrella of civil rights: pedophilia, incest, bestiality? Having a certain 'sexual feeling' does not mean one needs to be governed by it. We are human beings and we can decide not to act on sexual drives or feelings."²⁴

Question: Are feelings the basis for what society should deem as 'right' or 'wrong'?

Consider it personally...

Now let us bring this home. Think of yourself. In your own relationship and your 'love' for the other person, who are you more willing to sacrifice? Do you sacrifice your time, your priorities, your possessions, your emotions, and yes, even your *desires*? Or are you quicker to sacrifice their emotions... their time... their desires... in order to gratify yours? Is it *true* love? Your answer, the answer that you knew deep down in your stomach regardless of what you said, will determine if your marriage or relationship is what it was intended to be by God when he established marriage on the earth. Marriage, outside what it was created to be—one man and one woman—will never contain the true, self-sacrificing love toward each other, toward children, and toward society which it was meant to express.

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