

- Our Great God and Creator is responsible for the creation and institution of many wonderful things. He instituted the family, government, the church, and marriage. He created these institutions without any flaws or imperfections, but sadly, man has a nasty habit of twisting these wonderful blessings into something that they ought not be. We can see this as being true in each of the institutions that I have mentioned.
- As I'm sure we are all aware, on June 26th, the Supreme Court of this nation declared that marriage is not longer limited to the design of our Creator. Instead, 5 out of 9 individuals declared that marriage must be available to all people, regardless of their sexual preference. If you are on social media, then you have seen the widely varied reactions of your friends. Our friends of Christian faith mourned the supposed death of this Christian nation, while your friends of the world rejoiced that love had finally won. Certainly, it was a polarizing day in this country and it has been such in the following 10 days.
- This evening, I would like for us to consider 3 things that we, as Christians, need to remember about Marriage: God's Holy Institution. Hopefully through our study our minds will be put to ease concerning the things that we are now experiencing and may experience in the future.

3 Things that Christians need to Remember About God and Marriage.

I. God created the institution of marriage.

A. Marriage is the oldest institution of God's creation.

1. When asked as question concerning marriage, our Lord Jesus refers them back to the very beginning. **(Matt.19:4)**
2. Jesus recognized that marriage was something that had existed from the very beginning. **(Gen. 1:15-25)**
3. Marriage is the closest of human relationships, and it is to be taken seriously. Jesus's Apostles recognized this. **(Matt. 19:4-10)**
4. God's institution of marriage is viewed very seriously in God's eyes. So much so that the Holy Spirit uses it as a illustration for the relationship between Jesus and the church. **(Eph. 5:22-33)**

B. God knew what he was doing when He designed and instituted marriage as He did.

1. He knew what was needed in order for mankind to thrive in the marriage relationship.
2. He designed for man to take the leadership role and to provide for his family.
3. He designed for woman to care for her home.
4. He put man and woman together in this relationship so that they could reproduce in a peaceful situation.
5. Whenever one of these characteristics is changed or altered, then bad things tend to happen. God's way works.

II. Government does not have the authority to change or alter marriage in any way.

A. Government was instituted and given power and authority by God to do 2 simple things: Uphold what is good and punish that which is evil. **(Rom. 13:1-4)**

1. We must recognize that our government is not the government of the Israelites.
2. I have heard too many people declare that this nation that we are a part of is God's Christian nation, and brethren, I must tell you that this is not God's Christian nation. It might have been founded, for the most part, upon Christian principles, but God never ordained this country as His. We are not Israel 2.0.
3. Therefore, this means that we should not expect for every decision to be made according to the Bible, that didn't even happen in Israel. This country is not a theocracy, it is a democracy.
4. Just like the institutions of the family, the church, and marriage it has been tampered with and made into something that God did not originally institute. We ought to still follow where government acts righteously, but when they overstep their authority and begin to take the place of God, we ought not bow down and treat them as such.

B. Furthermore, the governments authority is not all encompassing. It does not have authority in all realms of this life.

1. This means that the government does not have the authority to change what God has created.
2. Even if they do "change" the definition of marriage, it really is not changed because God has not made a change. They are overstepping their power to uphold the good and punish the evil, and in reality, those who are a part of our federal government couldn't even tell you what is good and evil according to our God.

3. If government went a step farther and abolished marriage, we would still be permitted, according to God's timeless laws, to have a man and woman leave their parents and become one flesh. That cannot be taken away from us. Freedoms in God cannot be taken away by man.
4. No man or woman or men or women, have the right or authority to change that which God created in a certain order. Those who try to do so and those who celebrate such will be brought down.

III. We must continue to stand for God's Truth regardless of society's actions.

- A. We live in a world that is upside down when it comes to morality.
 1. This was true in the days of Noah. **(Gen. 6:5,6)**
 2. This was true in the days of the prophets. **(Isa. 5:20,21)**
 3. This was true in the days of Jesus. **(Sermon on the mount, Matt. 5)**
 4. This was true in the days of the Apostles and their contemporaries. **(II Tim. 3:1-7,13)**
 5. This is still true for today. We live in a world that is morally bankrupt.
- B. The days may look evil, but we as God's people have the duty of continue living as He would have us to.
 1. We must use God's Word to fight against the evil days we are living in. **(II Timothy 3:16,17)**
 2. We must speak the truth of God's Word in a way that shows our love for the souls of those in sin. **(Eph. 4:14,15)**
 3. We must be the salt and light of this world that it desperately needs. **(Matt. 5:13-16)**
 4. We must always fear God rather than men because He is the ultimate Judge of our souls. **(Matt. 10:28)**
 5. Changing our culture begins with us. It begins with us being salt and light and influencing this world to be more like Jesus Christ through proper use of the Word of God.

Unfortunately, we live in a world that does not submit itself to the God of heaven. Even when the world leaves the path of God, we still have the responsibility to follow Gods standard in all that we do. May we remember that God is always in control and His authority will continue to reign. May He help us to respect His authority in all things and glorify His name.