

Why Marriage Cannot Be “Redefined”

1. _____: **God Made Marriage, and It Belongs to Him**

Gen 1:27a So God created man in His [own] image

God “owns” marriage. Marriage does not belong to us, and therefore we have no right to change it. God created the universe, including marriage.

☐ *We cannot take control over something we have no right over.*

The first reason that marriage cannot be redefined is that the idea of marriage originated from God. Marriage is seen today as a relationship between two people that love each other. However, no thought has gone into where the idea or principle of marriage came from in the first place.

The presence of the concept of monogamous marriage as a life-long commitment is explained by the Bible and no other place. To acknowledge marriage is to acknowledge the creation of marriage.

2. _____: **God Designed Marriage Clearly**

Gen 1:27c male and female He created them.

Marriage, by God’s specific design, is a uniting of an adult male with an adult female. If you change the equation of one man + one woman, you do not have marriage. Do the math.

3. _____: **God Designed Marriage for Primarily for _____**

Gen. 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

The third reason that marriage cannot be redefined relates to its inherent purpose. Marriage, by design, is reproductive-centric. Marriage is designed for the primary purpose to bear children. In order to bear children, you need a man and a woman of childbearing age. Having children is not an option in marriage, but the very point of marriage. Once this point is rejected, and children become optional and not central, the entire basis of marriage is changed to something else (friendship, companionship, sexual fulfillment), which inevitably perverts the point of marriage. (See Romans 1:22-27)

4. **Compatible: God Made One Gender to _____ the Other**

Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, “[It is] not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

Marriage is a union of two different genders to accomplish one plan. God gives man a mission, and then gives man a wife to help him as he performs that mission. The proclamation and practice of this is rare today. The church has abandoned traditional marriage long ago for two-career pursuits. According to God, even before the presence of sin, a

man cannot be what God wants him to be without his wife helping him. The more the wife is distracted by her own pursuits, the less effective the man will be.

Further, God designed marriage to have a man and a woman to have the direct and constant influence of both in raising children. Kids need both male and female influence, as they are decidedly different influences.

5. _____: **God Initiated Marriage**

Gen 2:22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

God has much to say about preparing for marriage, and involving others in your decision to marry. It is interesting that God just didn’t let things happen in the Garden of Eden. Instead, He established a pattern, and actually initiated the relationship without a single date! Love or feelings are not the primary driver for marriage, but rather maturity, timing, and counsel.

6. _____: **Marriage Is a Life-Long Joining**

Gen 2:23-24 And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Marriage is the lifelong joining of a man and woman by God into a single entity.

7. _____: **God Gives Rules to Promote & Protect Marriage**

God gives clear and specific commands, both positive and negative, regarding marriage. They require and assume a man and a woman.

Within marriage, and only within marriage, is God’s purpose, permission, plan, and blessing for physical intimacy. Marriage is the only relationship in which sexual intimacy is allowed (and, by the way, encouraged: See Gen 1:28; Prov 5).

Surrounding marriage are many commands to protect it. Marriage is not to be violated in any form. The following are prohibited by God:

- *Forced sexual intimacy – rape*
- *Sexual intimacy prior to marriage – fornication:*
- *Sexual intimacy with any other person apart from one’s spouse once married – adultery (Ex 20:14; Lev 18:20; Deut 5:18; Rom 13:9)*
- *Sexual intimacy with a person of the same gender – homosexuality (Lev 20:13)*
- *Sexual intimacy with close relatives – incest (Lev 18:6-18; 20:11; Deut 22:30)*

- Sexual relations with animals – bestiality (Lev 18:23; Deut 27:21)
- ☐ Relabeling sin in no way changes it from sin to something good.

8. _____ & Consequences

God speaks to the violation of marital relationships on a very in-depth way.

- Wrongful accusation of the loss of virginity by a woman from her husband was chastising, fines, and the prohibition of ever divorcing his wife (Deut 22:13-19)
- Loss of virginity before marriage by one partner was grounds for divorce and punishable by death (Deut 22:20-21)
- Adultery was presented as self-destruction (Prov 6:32)
- Adultery was a picture of spiritual unfaithfulness (Jer 3:8-9)

The following carried the punishment of DEATH:

- Rape (Deut 22:25-27)
- Adultery (Lev 20:10; Deut 22:22-24)
- Incest (Lev 20:11-12, 14, 17, 19-21; Deut 27:20)
- Homosexuality (Lev 20:13)
- Bestiality (Ex 22:19; Lev 20:15-16)

9. _____ : The Basis for Sin is the Flesh (Often Labeled “Love”)

Gal 5:17-21 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told [you] in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

10. _____ : God Never Intends for the World to _____ Us

Lev 20:22-23 You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out. ²³ And you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore I abhor them.

1 Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that [is] in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (cf. Col 3:1-4, etc.)

11. _____ : Nothing _____ Throughout Scripture

Ps 127:3-5 Behold, children [are] a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So [are] the children of one's youth. ⁵ Happy [is] the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate. (cf. Psalm 128:1-6)

1 Tim 2:15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

1 Tim 5:9-10 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, [and not unless] she has been the wife of one man, ¹⁰ well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.

1 Tim 5:14 Therefore I desire that [the] younger [widows] marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Titus 2:3-5 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things--⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ [to be] discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

12. _____ & the Church

Marriage, the uniting of one man and one woman, pictures the relationship between Christ and the church. Any other relationship does not do so. It assumes gender distinction and accompanying, compatible but differing roles.

Eph 5:22-33 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord [does] the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects [her] husband.