

## **Saving America** **Matthew 19:3-10**

3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" 4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." 7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" 8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." 10 His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

America is sick, terribly sick. The real problems are not economic, or political. They are spiritual.

A little over a week from now the Supreme Court is going to hear arguments on marriage and if it should be destroyed and done away with.

No that is not what you will hear on the TV. They will talk about rights, equal rights and how that men should be allowed to call their relationship a marriage in the same way that a man and a woman does. And we will hear such touching stories about how that homosexuals are being deprived of their rights.

Our generation is the first to try to give legitimacy to that type of marriage. It is not that homosexuality is new. Like all other immoral behavior it has been here since the beginning. You can read how it ruined the Greeks and later the Romans. But we are the first generation to want to claim that it is equal to traditional marriage. The real desire of the LGBTP group is not for homosexual marriage but for the dissolution of marriage as we know it today.

They want Christians to stop calling sexually immoral behavior sin. In their view there is not a God and thus whatever we say is moral is moral, regardless what the Bible says.

“Creech and Mitchell Gold, a prominent furniture maker and gay philanthropist, founded an advocacy group, Faith in America, which aims to mitigate the damage done to L.G.B.T. people by what it calls “religion-based bigotry.”

Gold told me that **church leaders must be made “to take homosexuality off the sin list.”**

*Bigotry, the Bible and the Lessons of Indiana*; New York Times, April 3, 2015

How do you suppose they will do that. Maybe like they have done in Canada and somewhat in Britain. By passing ever increasing severe hate crime laws, where thoughts can become crimes and your opinion could land you in court with heavy fines.

Yes America is sick. Sick because they are even considering such a ridiculous idea that two homosexual could have anything like marriage as described by Jesus in our passage this morning.

- I. Immorality comes naturally.
  - A. The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"
  - B. Here we have the religious leaders trying to trap Jesus.
    - 1. They are doing it by questioning Jesus concerning one of the immoralities of their day.
    - 2. Divorce was allowed for almost any reason.
    - 3. They had wrongly interpreted Moses law.
    - 4. It is no wonder that many church leaders today have wrongly interpreted in our day.
    - 5. People see the Bible they way they want to instead of listening to the Holy Spirit.
  - C. Divorce had become an institution by the time of Jesus although Malachi speaks of this sin 400 years before.
    - 1. Malachi 2: 1 . . . And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously." 17 You have wearied the LORD with your words; Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil Is good in the sight of the LORD, And He delights in them," Or, "Where is the God of justice?"
- II. Going back to God's pattern
  - A. 4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."
  - B. At the beginning.
    - 1. You remember back in Genesis.
    - 2. 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." 19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field.

But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

C. He made them male and female.

1. Jesus infers here that in all that God did here there is a God designed reason.
2. He did not create helpers for Adam but one helper.
3. He did not create a helper just like Adam.
4. But a helper comparable to him.
5. When Adam named the animals don't you suppose he noticed that the animals all had mates.

D. Leaving and cleaving

1. God intends for the man and the woman to leave their previous relationships and replace that with a new relationship, husband and wife.
2. Two separate people are joined in marriage in order to become a new family.
3. This is what Satan hates, the family.
4. It is what holds societies together, without it society crumbles as ours is doing today.
5. When did the crime rate begin to skyrocket? In the 60's when the family was first under attack.
6. As the family has continued to be dismantled all the societal degenerative indicators have shot through the roof.
7. President Johnson and the political planners undertook the war on poverty and ever since then the poverty rate has gone up to where today one in five of all American households are on government subsistence.
8. The largest contributing factor to all the social ills is the breakdown of the family.
9. And raising all the fast food workers salaries to \$15 an hour will not solve it.

III. Misunderstanding God

A. 7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?"

B. God does not approve everything that He allows.

1. There were a number of items that God regulated rather than demand an

end to.

2. But that did not mean that God approved them.
3. God allowed slavery but did not approve it and instead He severely regulated it.
4. God allowed divorce but He tightly regulated it.
5. Divorce was to save the woman's life and to give her protection by requiring a written bill of divorcement.
6. A man could not just throw a woman out and later claim that she had left him.

C. God never allowed homosexuality nor did He regulate it. It has always in all times just as wrong as adultery or any other sexual activity outside of marriage.

D. But Jesus here clarifies God's law on marriage and divorce.

1. 8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.  
9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

E. The amazement of the disciples.

1. 10 His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

IV. Where do we begin?

A. We need to begin in the church

1. This is the one place where marriage should always be a sacred institution.
2. We must preserve it for our children.
3. If we will preserve it we must make our marriages what God intended.

B. But we need to push back against our society's push to destroy the institution of marriage.

C. It was given by God and defined by the first participants as outlined by Jesus.

D. We need to show the love of God like Jesus did to the woman taken in the act of adultery.

E. We need to extend God's grace to all sinners, for that is where we came from.

F. It is not that we are better than others. It is a matter of right and wrong. And we need to stand while there are still some people who know the difference.