

# Marriage, The Image of God

Pastor Miles McPherson – February 10, 2008  
Genesis 1:26-27, 2:18-25

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Men and woman are two distinct expressions of the image of God. The 'one flesh union' of marriage between a man and woman is the most complete expression of the Image of God a human can experience. It enables them, as one, to rule like God, love like God and reproduce like God. Same sex marriage offers a different version of marriage. Are both viable options?

## 1. Male and Female are distinct expressions of the image of God.

**God or Government?** Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 5:1-2; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6

A. SB777 says promotes gender confusion, teaching children that gender is based on self-perception and not biology, thus distorting the image of God.

## 2. God intentionally created us male and female for a marriage relationship.

**God or Government?** Genesis 2:24-25

## 3. Jesus affirmed male and female marriage.

**God or Government?** Matthew 19:3-11; Mark 10:2-12

## 4. Sex is a union of shameless oneness between a married man and woman.

**God or Government?** Genesis 2:24-25

## 5. The oneness of sexual intimacy experienced in marriage is symbolic of biblical salvation, and the fullest expression of the Image of God.

**God or Government?** Ephesians 5:22-33; Deuteronomy 22

## 6. Biblical Marriage promotes life, for the raising of children by moms and dads.

**God or Government?** Genesis 1:28; Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 22:6

A. Homosexuality as a behavior reduces life. Genesis 18-19, Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

- 1.4% of women and 2.8% of men identify themselves as "homosexual" or "bisexual"<sup>4</sup> account for 70% of HIV cases<sup>5</sup>
- Homosexual men are 1000x more likely to contract AIDs than the general population<sup>6</sup>

• Homosexual Youth are:

- 4x more likely to suffer major depression<sup>7</sup>
- 3x more likely to suffer generalized anxiety disorder<sup>7</sup>
- 4x more likely to experience conduct disorders<sup>7</sup>
- 4x as likely to commit suicide<sup>7</sup>
- 5x more likely to have nicotine dependence<sup>7</sup>
- 6x more likely to suffer multiple disorders<sup>7</sup>
- 6x more likely to have attempted suicide<sup>7</sup>

• On average, gay men live 50 years less than a man that isn't gay, Lifestyle removes 20 to 30 years<sup>8</sup>

## 7. Marriage and the Image of God was given to the church and not the government.

**God or Government?** Genesis 2:24-25

A. Same Sex marriage is an attack on God's symbol of the Salvation and the power of the full image of God.

Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

## 8. Marriage is designed to be a life long commitment.

**God or Government?** Matthew 5:31-32; Matthew 19:3-11; Malachi 2:14-16; Mark 10:2-12; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16; Deuteronomy 5:18, 21; Ephesians 5:21-33

A. The average married gay person has six partners per year in addition to their significant other<sup>1</sup>

B. 75% of self-identified gay men have had 100+ partners in their lifetime<sup>2</sup>

C. Homosexual marriages last approximately 2 years<sup>2</sup>

From studies done in Norway and Sweden:

- 5 homosexual marriages performed for every 1,000 heterosexual marriages<sup>3</sup>
- Average homosexual marriage lasted less than 2 years (24 months)<sup>1</sup>
- Gay men are 50% more likely to divorce within an eight year period than heterosexual couples<sup>3</sup>
- Gay women are 167% more likely to divorce than heterosexual couples<sup>3</sup>

Marriage is the foundation of our society, without it, our culture will crumble. Twelve leading family scholars recently summarized the research literature this way: "Marriage is an important social good associated with an impressively broad array of positive outcomes for children and adults alike...Whether American society succeeds or fails in building a healthy marriage culture is clearly a matter of legitimate public concern."  
*William J. Doherty*

<sup>1</sup> Kennedy, D. James; Newcombe, Jerry. *What's Wrong with Same Sex Marriage?* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004): 22

<sup>2</sup> M.S. Bell, A.P. Weinberg, *Homosexualities A Study of Diversity Among Men & Women, An Official Publication of Institute for Sex Research (Kinsey) Publisher: Simon and Schuster (1978)*

<sup>3</sup> Gunnar Anderson et al., "The Demographics of Same-Sex Marriage in Norway and Sweden," *Demography* 43, 2006, p. 79-98.)

<sup>4</sup> Robert T. Michael, John H. Gagnon, Edward O. Laumann, and Gina Kolata, "Sex in America: A Definitive Survey" Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1994, p. 176.

<sup>5</sup> CDC HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet, HIV/AIDS Among Men Who Have Sex With Men, Center for Disease Control, [www.CDC.gov/hiv](http://www.CDC.gov/hiv)

<sup>6</sup> The HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Division of HIV/AIDS, through December 2001.

<sup>7</sup> Theo G.M. Sandfort, T. Graaf, R. Bijl, R. Schnabel, P. 2001. *Same-Sex Sexual Behavior and Psychiatric Disorders: Findings from the Netherlands Mental Health Survey and Incidence. Archives of General Psychiatry* 58: 85-91.

<sup>8</sup> Hogg RS, Strathdee SA, Craib KJ, O'Shaughnessy MV, Montaner JS, Schechter MT. 1997. Modeling the impact of HIV disease on mortality in gay and bisexual men. *Int. J. Epidemiol.* 26:657-661.

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