

WHO DECIDES IF IT IS A MARRIAGE?

April 14, 2013

In Gen. 2:20-25, Moses recorded for us the very first wedding ceremony ever performed, “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. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 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.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

Over the past several weeks, we have been hearing a lot about the homosexual agenda and, in particular, homosexual marriages. Our government, it seems, is almost obsessed with this crime against God and nature, since they have placed it at the very top of their priority list. The people of our nation are divided over this topic, but the gap has closed and there have been more and more people “coming out” in favor of this abomination in recent time. So, why is this subject even a big deal to people? Should Christians and believers in God even waste their time on defending traditional marriage? It is a big deal because God is the Originator and Creator of the world’s oldest institution, marriage, and His creation has no authority to change it!

God has given all authority concerning heaven and earth to His only begotten Son, Jesus the Christ (Eph. 1:22; 1 Cor. 15:24-28); therefore, we must conform to His teachings concerning marriage. During His ministry, Jesus was often tried by His enemies. On just such an occasion, He was asked a question concerning marriage. The Pharisees asked Him, “Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause” (Mt. 19:3)? Though the question is regarding marriage, divorce, and re-marriage, we want to pay particular attention to Christ’s first statement in the answer, “**Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female**” (Mt. 19:4).

The Master Teacher brought to the forefront the Father’s law concerning marriage from its very conception. He made them male and female, not two males or two females! Proponents of the ungodly lifestyle will state that the participants love each other and no one should stand in the way of that. Coupled with that sentiment they will conclude, quite vehemently, that the government does not have the authority to legislate morality.

In response to those beliefs, notice that those involved in incestuous relationships claim that they have a deep love for their “partners” and that it transcends cultural taboo. What about the pedophile that says he or she cannot help how they feel toward the innocent children of our communities? All decent people of the world will readily condemn both of these despicable practices without hesitation, but those same people will cast their support behind another activity that is just as sinful. Does the government have the authority to legislate morality? It is done on a daily basis! We have laws that guard against stealing, murder, assault, reckless endangerment, incest, pedophilia, as well as many others. Yes, the government has the authority to make illegal the immoralities that harm its citizens and God authorized it to be that way (Rom. 13:1-5).

However, if the government makes legal an act that God condemns, it is still sinful and illegal according to Him. An example would be the legalization of abortion. God still condemns that practice and those that participate in it (Pro. 6:16-19). All that claim to be followers of Christ need to keep in mind the words of Paul, “Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (Rom. 1:32). Prior to making that statement, Paul listed many sins that God condemns, and homosexuality was one of them!

It is God that decides if a marriage truly is a marriage and only He can join two people in the bonds of matrimony. In every dispensation of time, God has warned against corrupting His laws. Since it is a big deal to Him, it should be to us as well. The faithful better wake up from their slumber and be determined to change the culture in which we live, or be ready to give an answer for their actions when they stand before the judgment bar and face the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!