



FOUNDATIONS FOR MARRIAGE

19th Annual
MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT
May 15-16, 2015



Session 1: A Foundational Issue

Introduction

Luke 6:47-48 *Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.* ⁴⁹ But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.” (ESV)*

While Jesus is not referring *specifically* to _____ in this passage, the subject is included in “His words.”

Following Christ’s teaching on marriage is _____ on a *stable foundation*.

Trying to build a _____ relationship on any *other foundation* is a *disaster* waiting to happen.

Marriage belongs to the creation mandate and is intended for the whole human race.

“Whoever troubles his own household will inherit the wind...” Proverbs 11:29

As a nation we have strayed from God’s _____ and _____ the wind!

The further we _____ from His created order, the deeper we descend into _____.

In Romans 1, Paul chronicles this _____ into chaos.

Civilization is not advancing but _____.

The Current State of Affairs

Certain features have traditionally belonged to a _____ understanding of marriage.

The _____ union of a man and a woman

A union sealed by a ceremony of mutual commitment before _____

A union _____ in the presence of witnesses

A union resulting in _____ assets

A union with the _____ means of procreation

Only in the present age have people begun to think the _____ features of such a fundamentally important relationship are superfluous.

While the Supreme Court is now deliberating whether to _____ marriage to include same-sex couples as a constitutional right, the perspective was quite different 130 years ago.

The case of *Murphy v. Ramsey*, 1885:

“Certainly no legislation can be supposed more wholesome and necessary in the founding of a free, self-governing commonwealth, fit to take rank as one of the coordinate States of the Union, than that which seeks to establish it on the basis of the idea of the family, as consisting in and springing from the union for life of one man and one woman in the holy estate of matrimony; the sure foundation of all that is stable and noble in our civilization; the best guaranty of that reverent morality which is the source of all beneficent progress in social and political improvement.”

While the justices recognize that this is a _____ issue, given the social climate and the court’s penchant for perplexing decisions, a revolutionary ruling is quite possible.

If you remove the _____ aspect from marriage, you have removed an essential feature that gives marriage its definition.

_____ and marriage are so fundamentally linked that opening up marriage to same-sex couples requires a radical redefinition that destroys the very foundation of marriage.

Session 2: Washed Out Foundations

The Rubble of Marriage

Society is imploding the _____ of marriage and they’re pointing to the mess with pride.

In our individualistic, self-absorbed society, the greatest sin has become _____ discrimination. This has become the battle cry for change.

If discrimination is made the issue, how can we _____ other ways in which we discriminate to protect those in a marital bond? Where will it end?

If the Foundations Be Destroyed

Psalm 11:1-3 In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, “Flee like a bird to your mountain, for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart; “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

The “foundations being destroyed” refers to the crumbling of the order of _____ and the ruin of the established institutions.

The Psalmist is advised to _____ for all seems lost.

The Psalmist justifies his refusal to run for He takes refuge in the _____ Lord enthroned in heaven.

What Can the Righteous Do?

We must not _____.

We must not _____ from the issue.

The world will not be satisfied until we join them in calling _____, good.

Session 3: A Realistic Approach

While knowing and defending _____ about marriage should be our first priority, that does not mean we have nothing to contribute to the civil dialogue.

A Principled Objection to a Legal Redefinition of Marriage

What's wrong with protecting the rights of homosexuals with the legal right to marry?

- *Homosexual behavior has not been a crime since 2003.*
- *The state does not prohibit making homosexuals from make public ceremonial commitments to one another.*
- *The state does not prohibit homosexuals from living together and sharing their benefits with one another.*

The issue is not about private rights but _____ recognition.

The homosexual community wants the right to the title of marriage.

The Role of Government in Marriage:

Since the practice of marriage _____ organized society, neither secular human history nor the precedents of governmental courts shed light on the origin or understanding of marriage.

Since marriage existed _____ the constitution and has always been independent of the government, how can traditional marriage be deemed restrictively unconstitutional?

The role of government has always been to simply _____ marriage and protect the benefits of a union that's of great value to society.

The Supreme Court is contemplating handing _____ over to the state concerning the very foundation of our society.

Earthly government does not have the _____ to do is redefine a historical institution that derives its existence from an authority beyond all earthly power.

The foundation of marriage is _____, not culture, society or the government.

Recognizing The Church's Failure

The church has played a part in _____ the dignity of marriage.

The church not only failed to _____ the issues of the sexual revolution, the rise of no fault divorce and the crisis of gender identity, too often she was influenced by these trends.

If the church does not _____ and return to the only true foundation for marriage, what hope does society have?

The world will not be satisfied until we join them in calling _____, good.

Session 4: The True Foundation

Founded in Creation

Both Jesus and Paul appeal to _____ as a foundation for marriage and spousal roles.

Because of the Fall, what often seems “natural” is actually _____.

To discern what is truly “_____” we must to look at creation.

Genesis 1:26-28

Mankind's _____ is determined by God.

Mankind's _____ diversity is determined by God.

Mankind's _____ is determined by God.

Genesis 2:7-9a, 18-24

God _____ man and breathed life into him.

God determined where man would _____.

God determined that it was not _____ for man to dwell alone.

God determines to make woman a “helper fit” for him.

Helper not a demeaning word but a word of honor!

The word, “fit” refers to correspondence; a different yet a suitable counterpart.

While men and women are _____ in personhood, each bearing God's image, they are distinguished by gender according the roles they were designed to fulfill.

While God creates the _____ the same way as Adam, by forming out of the ground, the creation process for Eve is unique.

God parades the animals before Adam so he would realize his _____.

God fashions Eve _____ Adam and specifically _____ Adam.

Unlike the animals, Adam does not have _____ over Eve.

God formed Adam but, from Adam, He _____ Eve.

God brought Eve to Adam for the first wedding.

Adam recognizes God's good purpose and rejoices in the _____ of mankind as male and female.

Male and female are designed by God to be fit _____ both sexually and socially.

God designed marriage to be the continuing foundation of society.

A male and a female are required to make a “one flesh” relationship.

Session 5: Christ's Word on the Subject

An increasingly popular objection to the traditional Christian position on marriage claims that Jesus never said anything about _____.

“As for Jesus, he said nothing on the subject of homosexuality. You could argue, and many have, that he didn't have to make pronouncements. He was an observant Jew who would have regarded homosexuality as a sin. The truth is, we will never know his views on this subject. We do, however, have very clear statements from Jesus on how we are to behave towards one another: Judge not lest you be judged.”

This same formula is now being used to try and justify same-sex marriage. Jesus didn't explicitly condemn it, therefore, who are you to say it's not permissible!

1. It is absurd to imply that, if Jesus didn't specifically condemn something, He endorsed it.
2. Jesus condemned “sexual _____,” a word in the Greek that covers every kind of sexual activity outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
3. The argument fails because Jesus affirmed the whole of the _____ (Matt 5:18-19).

Matt 5:18-19 *“For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”*

Leviticus 18:22, *“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.”*

4. Jesus commissioned the Apostles giving them authority to speak on His behalf.
5. Jesus is the _____ made flesh.

Christ's supposed silence on the subject is same-sex marriage is deafening (Matt 19:4-6).

Matthew 19:4-6 *He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (ESV)*

Jesus _____ marriage as God's institution, which originates with creation itself.

God's design _____ marriage.

God made them male and female – counterpart sexes.

He created them for a _____ designed for a lifetime that they might be united as one flesh, from which would come children.

A _____ shall leave his parents and hold fast to his _____.

Any deviations from this creation model are the result of sin.

God's design for marriage is woven into the story line of redemption itself.

The _____ of a man and a woman forms the basis for the whole trajectory of human history.

The marital union was designed by God to reflect the _____ of the union between Christ and His church.

This grand narrative culminates with the consummation of the ages when Christ will prepare a _____ for his Bride, the Church.

If you remove _____ and _____ as the starting point for marriage, the whole institution collapses upon itself.

Session 6: Building Marriages On the Right Foundation

The most important action we can take in affirming and promoting marriage is to _____ out what we say we believe.

Marriage is _____ and we need to live like it.

The problem is not with marriage; the problem is with _____.

Marriage is a good alternative to a life that would otherwise be lived in unchecked selfishness and unrestrained _____ in sin.

Marriage is _____ than us.

Husbands and wives should see each other as the good and gracious _____ of God.

God designed His male and female images with differences that they might _____ one another in the marital union.

God gives us our spouse to

humble us

help us learn to be other-centered

to correct our deficiencies

to complement one another for His glory, not compete for control.

We should not be fighting our spouses in marriage – we should be fighting our sin in marriage.