



Stand Up – God’s Plan for Marriage (What the Bible Says About Being Gay)

A sermon by Pastor Byron Chesney – Preached on Sunday, September 6, 2015
At Highland Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN www.hbcknox.org

The subject which I’m addressing today can be a very touchy subject. There are a lot of passionate feelings on both sides of the issue and a lot of rhetoric as well. It has ripped families apart, destroyed relationships, caused loss of jobs and income, it is really the most destructive element in our world today. And the element in which I’m referring to is same-sex marriage and same-sex relationships.

Unless you have been in a coma then you know what happened in Rowan County Kentucky last week. A Kentucky county clerk, 49-year old, Kim Davis, in an ongoing stand against issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, was arrested for contempt of court for defying a federal court order for her to do so. After her arrest, her lawyer, Roger Gannam, made the following statement:

“Today, for the first time in history, an American citizen has been incarcerated for having the belief of conscience that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. And she’s been ordered to stay there until she’s willing to change her mind, until she’s willing to change her conscience about what belief is.”

Now, I want to say something right up front about this case. If you listen to the arguments against Kim Davis, from both Christians and non-Christians, you will hear that they want to bring up the fact that she has been divorced 3 time and is in her 4th marriage. Let me say this; I do not know anything about Kim Davis. I’ve never met her or talked to her. All I know of her is what I have seen on the news and on the internet. I read a statement by her in the news yesterday that said yes, she had been divorced 3 times but that was before she was saved. She was saved 4 ½ years ago and has since been living for Jesus. This message is not to expound upon divorce. But I want to point out that those that are against Kim Davis, the first thing they do is to drudge up her past. This is how Satan attacks Christians.

I’m reminded of the Apostle Peter, a man that denied Christ, not just once, but three times. Even though he found forgiveness of his sins, you can guarantee there were those that attacked him the rest of his life over his past sins. The Apostle Paul, a man who hated Christians, drug them from their homes and killed them, yet he found forgiveness of his sins. But, for the rest of Paul’s life people would remember him as Saul of Tarsus, the sinful Christian hater.

So you can rest assured the devil will use her past against her to attack her character and question her faith. And he uses people to do the attacking, sadly he uses Christians as well. --- I just wanted to get that out of the way first thing. And, if you want to know what the Bible says concerning divorce, you should listen to my

sermon on Sermon Audio.com: Sermon on the Mount Part 11, what Jesus says about divorce: www.tinysa.com/sermon/513152024187

So, now that I got that out of the way let us focus upon the subject at hand that is “God’s Plan For Marriage.” Turn with me to the Book of **Genesis 2:21-24**: **21** And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; **22** And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. **23** 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 shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Also, over in the New Testament, Jesus also provides God’s plan for marriage: **Matthew 19:4-6**: **And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**

So, there we have in our Bibles, in both the Old and the New Testaments, God’s plan for marriage. He designated two different types of humans, a man, and a woman. So, God’s definition for marriage is one man, and one woman cleaving to each other as one flesh. PERIOD. There are no asterisks or foot notes or exceptions in God’s Word.

Let me also say that God only creates men and women. There is no place in God’s Word for transgendered, or transsexual people. Turn with me to **Genesis 1:27-28**: **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. **28** And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

So, God does not create men trapped inside of women’s bodies, or women trapped inside of men’s bodies. There is no such thing as a “Gay baby.” The Bible says that he created man in his own image and he created male and female and nothing else.

You may have seen in the news also recently how schools are allowing students to choose which gender they desire to be, regardless of whether they are male or female. If a male student desires to think himself as a female then the school system and everyone in it must also think of him as a female. Students are being forced to go against nature and against their consciences. They are allowing these so-called “transgendered” students go into bathrooms and locker rooms of the opposite sex. Last week in Missouri, a 17-year old boy suddenly declared himself a girl, started wearing makeup, girls’ clothing, and a wig and calling himself, “Lila.” The school allowed him to go into the girl’s locker room to dress and undress in front of the girls. Hundreds of students of the school protested by walking out and letting everyone know they were not okay with this and this brought attention to the public spotlight. It isn’t just happening in Missouri but in several cities across the United States.

Well, we just read in our Bibles that God created male and female and he designed men and women to get married and to be fruitful and multiply. It is physically impossible for two people of the same sex to be fruitful and multiply, they cannot have children between the two, there is no denying that basic human and scientific fact. It is impossible.

Alright, so, so far we have established that God only creates male and female and God's plan for marriage is the joining together of one man and one woman to cleave together as husband and wife for the purpose of being fruitful and multiplying. This cannot be disputed, it is as clear as anything in the Bible. No gray lines or exceptions.

I do not want to be too graphic this morning but we must know some of the terms being used today concerning this issue. One of them is of course is homosexuality.

First of all that term is not a Bible term. There are terms in the Bible that have the same meaning. The word HOMO means "THE SAME." And of course the word "SEXUAL" is referring to your gender, either male or female. Like I said, the Bible doesn't use the term HOMOSEXUAL, however, it does use the other terms and descriptions of Homosexual behavior.

For example in **Deuteronomy 23:17**: *17 There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.* The word **sodomite** here is referring to men that have sexual relationships with men. The act between two men is referred to as Sodomy in the Bible.

We all know the story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. The men of those cities burned in their lust of each other and other men so much that they had no desire for women. Those wicked cities were destroyed and the people in them destroyed because of their sinful sexual lifestyles. Some argue that homosexuality wasn't the reason God destroyed these cities... well not according to the Bible in **Jude 1:7-8**: *Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.---* I think it is pretty clear from the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments, that it was because of their filthy, vile, sexual deviant behavior that they were destroyed.

You may ask, why are intimate relationships between same sex couples sinful? Well, because the Bible says that they are: **Leviticus 18:22**: *Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.*

Leviticus 20:13: *If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.* – The word abomination means; "an abhorrence, a vile filthy act."

It is here I want to pause and address another argument that I always hear from same-sex defenders and that is the old tired statement of; "*You Christians pick and choose what you want to follow in the Bible. You say the Bible says homosexuality is a sin but you what about in the Book of Leviticus where it says not to eat shellfish?*"

First of all the King James Bible does not contain the word **Shellfish** at all. It's not in there. But, I know what they are referring to. They are referring to the dietary laws of the Jews that was given by Moses in **Leviticus 11:9-12**: *These shall ye eat of all that are in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat.10 And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which is in the waters, they shall be an abomination unto you: 11 They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcasses in abomination. 12 Whatsoever hath no fins nor scales in the waters, that shall be an abomination unto you.*

So, the argument given by non-believers is that we pick and choose because the Bible condemned sodomy but also condemned eating fish without fins or scales but we don't make a fuss about that...

If you had been in our 25 week study of the Sermon on the Mount, you will remember that we covered the different types of laws in the Bible;

Civil law – which were laws that dictated Israel's daily living and culture to guide their personal conduct. These laws only applied to the Nation of Israel and not for anyone else. They have never been binding on New Testament Christians.

Ceremonial law – which was related to Israel's worship requirements, this included their dietary requirements. These laws were abolished under the New Covenant through Jesus Christ who came to fulfill the whole law and are no longer binding for New Testament Believers.

Moral law – which are laws given by God that reveal the holy nature of God and his will for all of mankind – the 10 commandments are a good example, laws of the sexual kind including incest, rape, sodomy, adultery, and fornication - these laws never change and are always binding, even today for New Testament Christians.

So believers today are not "picking and choosing" which things to stand up against, we are following God's moral law which forbids things like fornication. **Fornication** is any illicit sex act performed outside of marriage. Since God does not recognize same-sex marriage, then anyone engaging in such is committing fornication.

The New Testament has much to say about Fornication: **Ephesians 5:1-5**: *Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. 3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

Paul warned many times in Scripture about fornication such as in **1 Corinthians 6:18** *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

Paul also addresses fornication and "effeminates" in: **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**: *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers,*

nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

That word “**effeminate**” is a very strong accusative word. According to Thayers Greek Dictionary it means:

- A catamite – which is a young boy that has relationships with men.
- A male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness
- A male prostitute

All of this behavior is condemned by God’s moral and Holy laws and standards. Another term I would like to address is the term “**GAY.**” Which the homosexual community likes to use for themselves. This was no accident either. They purposely took a good word from the English language which means; “Happy, carefree, and lighthearted, and twisted into something violently disgusting. They would like for you to believe that all homosexuals are these happy carefree individuals. But nothing could be further from the truth.

The fact is, homosexual people are the most unhappy people in the world. The Family Research Council has done extensive studies on gay partnerships and marriages have found very alarming statistics. –

- Gay partnerships and marriages very rarely last more than 2 or 3 years.
- People in gay marriages are found to cheat on their partners twice as much as heterosexual relationships.
- Gay men are so sexually driven that they have upward of 100 relationships in their lifetime, most only lasting a few months.
- And the most alarming statistic is that the leading cause of death among gay people is suicide. They are 6 times more likely to commit suicide than normal heterosexual person.

So, so much for the so-called “GAY” lifestyle....

The Bible gives us some insight on why these people are so miserable. .

Turn with me to **Romans 1:18-32**

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Notice the Bible said; “God gave them up to uncleanness.” “God gave them up unto vile affections.” “God gave them over to a reprobate mind.” Because of their filthy, sinful, lustful, desires God gave them up.

Now, before you go believing the left wing media and Hollywood, there are not as many so-called “gay” people as you may think there are. In several recent studies and surveys it was found that majority of the public has been fooled into think that at least 25 to 30 percent of our population is gay. They gay movement has really been working hard to perpetuate that lie.

In actuality out of the 321 million people in the United States less than 2% of the population identifies as gay or lesbian.

But, that 2% of the population is louder than the other 98% of the nation. We know that from what happened on June 26, 2015 when the United States Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision that all 50 states in the United States had to recognize same sex marriage. As Christians in the United States of America, we realize that this is just one of many such decisions that is designed to take away the rights of Christians, to promote sin, and to attack everything that is Godly and Holy.

And that is the main objective of the homosexual. Their goal is not to be treated as equals. It is not a plea of “tolerance,” in fact they are the most intolerant group in the entire world and they will stop at nothing to try and destroy Christianity and Godly values, absolutely nothing. Do you think it was an accident that they took God’s symbol of grace and mercy, the rainbow, and defiled it to use for a symbol of their filthy sinful deviant behavior? That was no accident.

I have heard many people make the terrible comparison of the civil rights movement of the 50 and 60’s to that of the gay right’s movement. I actually heard someone say it was no different than when Rosa Parks in 1955 protested by refusing to give up her front seat and go to the back of the bus. My friend, comparing the two is another hellish attempt for attention. Rosa Parks was protesting because she was being discriminated against for the color of her skin, not because of her choice of sin! Comparing the two is a slap in the face of every black person that gave their lives and fought for equality because of skin color.

My friend, the bottom line is their consciences are seared. They are given over to their vile and vain imaginations and affections. They are filled with wickedness and their desire is for you, your children, and your grandchildren to be just like them.

God's plan for marriage is something that every Christian must stand up for. We need more Kim Davis's in this world. What about you? I did not preach this message because I hate gay people. The fact is I do not hate them at all. Just as I don't hate drug addicts, drunks, over-eaters, gossipers, or any other sinner. I preach because I love them and God loves them and wants them to be saved before they have to spend their eternity burning in a lake of fire.

† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible