

MARRIAGE IS ABOUT A "BED"

March 8, 2015

There is an outpouring of news in American society in our time concerning marriage. What is marriage? Is marriage only for one male and one female, heterosexuals, or is marriage also for same-sex couples, homosexuals?

Hello, I'm Larry Murdock. I preach for the Gandy church of Christ.

I recently read a newspaper article about a professor's research. The sociologist surveyed people who were opposed to same-sex arrangements being called "marriage." The researcher was interested in determining what objections people offered to same-sex marriage. The researcher wanted to know why these people think that such an arrangement should NOT be called "marriage."

The Professor soon discovered that moral disapproval of homosexual behavior was the main motivation for opposition to same-sex marriage. But the professor pointed out that moral disapproval does not make for a legal case against the behavior. When a nation ignores moral law and contradicts it with legal license then trouble comes upon that nation from Heaven.

There is a higher law than the law of any country! And that law is the law that has come from heaven. Whether something is moral or immoral has been decided by the God who made us. That's right! That higher law is God's law, which approves morality and condemns immorality. When a country honors God's law by including His morality in their own codes, God blesses those people. When a country's code of law does not recognize nor honor God's higher law, then it brings a curse upon the people. God has spoken and His judgments are recorded in the Bible.

And so the Psalmist could sing, "Blessed is the nation whose God is Jehovah." (ASV) In fact that Psalm also says, "Let all the earth fear [Jehovah]; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. [On the other hand] The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is [Jehovah], the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, he who fashions

the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine."

([Psalms 33:8-19 ESV](#)) Well, it is no wonder then that the first President of the United States could address God as "that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Councils of Nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect...."

The trouble that comes to many nations is because the people who make the laws **do not** write them in view of God's higher law. They may not believe in God! They may not believe in God's law of morality. Their codes of conduct are rooted **in human values**. Human values do not always reflect or correspond with God's values. Why? Because of sin! Sin warps human values. Our own selfish Sin causes humans to call evil good, and good evil. We get morality mixed up with immorality because the immorality follows the desires of our hearts. It is no wonder that the inspired man wrote, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." ([Proverbs 14:34 ESV](#)) The word "reproach" means "rebuke" or "reprimand". Sin in a nation holds the nation back because of God's rebuke. God judges sin! Yes, sin among its people is a grave problem for any nation.

Sin, however, begins as a personal problem. Sin is found in people. As the Psalmist put it, Lord, "There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart." ([Psalms 38:3-8 ESV](#)) Friends, do you feel any "tumult" in your heart? Is it your conscience? Have you sinned against the law of God?

But the sin of individual people can touch and contaminate whole neighborhoods. Like an epidemic sin can run through a nation! **And so** many nations and many cities have their "red light" districts and neighborhoods where sin is rampant in the streets. Everything that a person touches can be tainted by his sin. Sin never

lives alone for very long. Sin contaminates families, and then moves on to the neighbors. Nationally speaking, human governments are composed of sinful people who can selfishly make decisions based on what is good for them, not necessarily good for the morality of the country! But when government people listen to and follow the higher law of God then human governments can make good decisions on behalf of the people. Yes, sin is a personal problem, but sin can have its national effect!

But let us talk about God's higher law of marriage. The writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews put it this way in the King James Version's translation: "Marriage *is* honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." ([Hebrews 13:4 KJV](#)) Marriage is about a "bed." That's right! This undefiled bed is important to the couple's health, both physically and spiritually. And then by extension that undefiled bed is important to the physical and spiritual health of the nation. The family's legacy, that is, what a couple leaves for their descendants is also affected by the "undefiled bed." And so, an undefiled bed is ultimately important to a nation's legacy. The marriage bed is honorable and undefiled because it meets God's criteria. God sanctioned the marriage bed. In fact, He created it! God judges those who defile the marriage bed. "Whoremongers and adulterers God will judge," the inspired man cried out. Generations to come are determined from the bed of marriage. Who will be the descendants? Who will be the heirs? What will the future hold? Well, history demonstrates that the history of nations is determined by the legacies that the families leave the nations.

Furthermore, from that honorable marriage bed many other things will be decided. In that honorable bed eternal life begins. That's right! Once a child is begotten he or she will never go out of existence. When the seed of the man and the seed of the woman unite there is a third life begotten; a third spirit created. The inspired man Solomon made an unusual statement in his book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 11, verse 5, "As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything." Even the work of God is happening in the honorable bed of marriage. In the beginning God said to Adam and Eve, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth...." (Genesis 1:28) The marital bed fulfills God's command. Of course, some women are barren; some men are sterile, but even those situations

can be and has been used by God for His own purposes. But the honorable marriage bed is the place where God's purposes are served and discovered.

In that context where I quoted from Ecclesiastes, Solomon was talking about the farmers who are so cautious as to never get anything accomplished. Solomon said, "He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap." So the inspired man advised, "In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good." ([Ecclesiastes 11:4-6 ESV](#)) You see, the farmer cannot predict the results of his choices but he must sow and he must reap in faith. As an illustration of that Solomon then said, "As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything." Yes, our faith should be in the One who makes the wind and the clouds. Friends the marriage bed is a cooperative work with God, which demands faith. Only God knows what will become of the children begotten by a man and a woman. And so, the marriage bed is a place of faith in God's promises for the future of the human race!

Furthermore, the inspired writer of Hebrews says, "whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." Those "beds" are defiled. Christians who live by the marriage law of God oppose same-sex cohabitation being called "marriage" because God "judges", that is, God condemns those sexual relationships! Those beds are defiled. There is the bed of the whoremongers, those who seek only pleasure, and those who want "no strings attached." The word "whore" is the old English word for "prostitute." But in our world it is considered an "offensive term for a prostitute." Whatever we call it, it is sin. This sexual sin results in God's condemnation. The next thing said to be judged by God is "adultery." Adultery is leaving the undefiled bed of one's spouse for the bed of someone else. It is an act of betrayal of the sacred intimacy God calls marriage. Adulterers are those disloyal and disobedient people who are pursuing selfish pleasure, "the pleasures of sin for a season;" they are not interested in a legacy of faithfulness.

Friends, God is real. God's law is real. God's judgments based on His law are real. When humans and nations live by this reality, this truth, the truth sets them free! Even as Jesus said, recorded in John 8:32: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Do you desire to live by God's marriage law? Visit a church of Christ near you!