

Theme: Freedom is found in embracing the truth that marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman, and it is the only proper context for human sexual activity.

## I. Intro - Cambridge MA & Polyamorous Unions

- A. March 8 - council recognizes them; 2nd city to do so
- B. Drafted with input from Polyamory Legal Advocacy Coalition (PLAC)
- C. March 15 - RCC says they can not bless same-sex unions - they are inherently sinful
- D. What is a family? What is marriage? Are there limits for human sexual activity?

## II. A Theology of Marriage and Sexuality

- A. Marriage is part of God's creation of humanity

Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." <sup>24</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. Gen 2:22–24

- 1. God creates a woman for the man
- 2. For this reason, a man & woman unite in marriage
- 3. Marriage is not a human institution but was designed and given by God at the dawn of creation

- B. Marriage is essentially related to procreation

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and **they will become one flesh**. Genesis 2:24

God blessed them and said to them, "**Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth** and subdue it..."  
Genesis 1:28

- 1. One flesh certainly includes the sexual relationship
- 2. This is related to the command to be fruitful, increase in number, and fill the earth - procreation
- 3. An essential reason for marriage is to provide the proper context for sex and procreation.

- C. Marriage is the union of one man and one woman

For this reason **a man** will leave **his father and mother** and be united to **his wife**, and they will become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

- 1. A man (singular word), his father and mother (all singular), his wife (singular)
- 2. The word 'wife' is actually the word 'woman'
- 3. We know this is central to the text from Jesus "Haven't you read," he replied, "that **at the beginning** the Creator 'made them **male** and **female**,' <sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a **man** will leave his **father** and **mother** and be united to his **wife**, and **the two will become one flesh**?' <sup>6</sup> So **they are no longer two, but one**. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." Matthew 19:4–6
  - a. Jesus is answering a question about marriage
  - b. He is quoting from the creation account
  - c. He specifies male and female, father and mother
  - d. Everything is singular, and He adds the word 'two' to specify this is what is taught in Genesis 2!
  - e. They are no longer two, but one - this is God's design for marriage!
- 4. God's design for marriage is that it is the lifelong bond of one man and one woman (2 After Hours)

#### D. Marriage is the only context for sexual activity

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

1. Genesis 2:24 is the base text for marriage - it is appealed to this way in Scripture
2. Paul says we must be celibate or married  
Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. <sup>2</sup> But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband... <sup>9</sup> But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. 1 Cor 7:1–2, 9
  - a. Those who are given to sexual immorality should get married - for marriage is the ONLY context for sex
  - b. The Greek word for immorality is porneia, which in Scripture and Jewish culture refers to any and all sexual activity outside of a man and woman who are married to one another.
3. Note: Paul indicates that for married couples sex is an integral part of marriage! He is NOT against sex - he is against sexual SIN.
4. The sexual relationship is given within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman - there is no other context for it.

#### E. Marriage is a picture of Christ and the Church

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:31–33

1. Paul’s famous passage on marriage
2. Paul says the ultimate point of Genesis 2:24 is about Jesus Christ and His bride the Church
3. This is why marriage is not a cultural creation or human idea, but was given by God as part of the creation of humanity - it is part of our destiny!
4. This is why changes such as same-sex union, polygamy, and no-fault divorce are so destructive - they strike at the very heart of what it means to be human and at the goal towards which history is moving.
5. This is why the calls to be on the “right side of history” are so tragically ironic - history is moving towards the marriage of Christ and the Church, which is distorted by these proposed changes.

#### F. Sexual immorality is considered a very serious sin

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither **the sexually immoral** nor idolaters nor **adulterers** nor **male prostitutes** nor **homosexual offenders** <sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Cor 6:9–11

1. Note the variety of words for sexual immorality here
2. Note the priority of position given to sexual sins
3. Paul is being quite clear that sexual sins are not an option for Christians, who must deny desires for any sexual activity apart from a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage.

4. He reinforces this in a few verses
 

Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."<sup>17</sup> But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.<sup>18</sup> Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.<sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;<sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. 1 Cor 6:16–20

  - a. Note Paul again appeals to Genesis 2:24
  - b. Sexual sin is against my own body - it is serious
  - c. Note the importance of humanity as body and soul
  - d. My body is for the Holy Spirit - not sexual sin!
5. Contrary to those who claim that sex is inconsequential fun, it is of such import that sexual sin is condemned in the strongest terms throughout Scripture.

### III. Applying the Word: The Limits of Marriage & Sex

- A. Do I understand the true nature of marriage?
  1. Remember Justice Kennedy in the Obergefell decision - freedom means we get to define reality, and therefore marriage.
  2. But this is false on both claims: reality is given by God and not up to us to determine, and marriage is given by God as part of that given reality.
  3. As we saw previously, God made me male or female, and that is given in my body, in my very DNA.

4. Marriage is God's gift for one man and one woman to join together as one in a lifelong bond.
5. Our culture denies this in every aspect
  - a. It is not life long and can be dissolved easily by no-fault divorce
  - b. It can be man and woman, or same-sex
  - c. Why only two people? Why can't it be polyamorous?
6. But this is merely the logical step of a long process
  - a. We are only material beings evolved by chance
  - b. We are not the image of God & have no given nature
  - c. Even my sex/gender is not determined by things like my DNA and body parts but is self-determined
  - d. Freedom is found in unfettered choice, not in aligning with my given nature
7. Are my thoughts of marriage shaped by Scripture or culture?
8. Have I subconsciously been buying into the lies that led to this result?

- B. Do I understand the true nature of sex?
  1. The errors regarding sexual activity are even more prevalent than the errors regarding marriage
  2. Many have bought the lie that as long as it is consenting adults, all sexual activity is ok.
  3. But this false idea has left a trail of carnage, broken hearts, destroyed relationships, and now #MeToo - all of which are inherent and inevitable in this false idea.

4. Sex is a great gift of God for us - as long as it is received and practiced as He designed it.
5. Do I see that the only legitimate sexual activity is between a man and woman within the covenant bond of marriage?
  - a. This does mean same-sex activity is sinful
  - b. It also means that heterosexual activity prior to marriage is sinful
  - c. It means that adultery is sinful
  - d. Too many Christians have reacted strongly against LGBTQ+ sinful activity and then winked at heterosexual sin - but they are both equally condemned in 1 Corinthians 6!
6. Do I embrace the biblical sexual ethic in my thoughts, desires, and actions?
  - a. Sin is not just a matter of outward actions but also inward thoughts, attitudes, and desires
  - b. Changing thoughts and desires are early warning signs, and call for repentance and drawing close to God.

#### C. The Lord's Table & the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

1. This Table is for God's Covenant Bride, His Church
2. This Table points to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb
3. This is the ultimate end towards which all history points - the marriage of Christ and His Church

## Freedom: Embracing the Limits of Marriage and Sex

Genesis 1:28; 2:20-25

March 21, 2021

Communion

Psalm 128:5-6

Teaching keywords: Freedom; humanity; Lent; marriage and family; sex; sexual sin; LGBTQ+

May the Lord bless you all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of God's people, <sup>6</sup> and may you live to see your children's children. Peace be upon God's Chosen People.  
Psalm 128:5-6

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."  
Genesis 1:28

So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." <sup>24</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. Genesis 2:20-25