

Title: Male And Female He Created Them

Text: Matthew 19:1-9; Genesis 1:27, 2:24

June is “pride” month, where America celebrates immorality and perversion. It’s plastered in places you shop, sporting events have special nights, your employer has some sort of official statement about it as to not appear to be transphobic or homophobic. Our culture is corrupt, it always has been. Romans 1 is being fulfilled in the fact, sin and depravity are no longer something to be ashamed of, in fact, it’s to be celebrated.

This of course arises a question for Christians, and that is how do we respond to such? Alistair Begg says it best in his sermon a few months ago, “The Christian neither hates nor affirms.”

POINT 1 - THERE’S NOTHING ABOUT PRIDE TO BE PROUD ABOUT

Proverbs 16:18, “**Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.**” As best as I can research, every instance of man’s pride in himself is never a good ending. But let’s first see where it all began, cf. Genesis 3:1-5. Several thoughts arise from this text. First, satan cast doubt on God’s word, vs. 1. Second, Eve actually added something God didn’t say, vs. 2-3. Third, satan added “not” and reinterpreted what God said. This is why it’s important to know what God says in His word. And of course, use proper context in doing so. Genesis 3:5, “**and you will be like God**”, was the lie that made Eve and humanity think more of themselves, to think of themselves as little gods.

The psalmist knew the danger of pride, “**Let not the foot of pride come upon me**” (Psalms 36:11), “**Do not speak with insolent pride**” (Psalms 75:5). Romans 1:22, “**Professing to be wise, they became fools.**” The great Apostle Paul said there’s nothing to be proud of in the flesh, even though redemption reigns over us, our flesh is corrupt, cf. Romans 7:14-25. Again, Paul warns the church concerning pride, “**Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall**” (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Our culture has elevated sin to be accepted. It has even affected the church. From Genesis to Romans, we see the corruption of man, the depravity of man to do and become something not natural. To abuse the body, to distort the image of God he or she was created it. There is nothing to be proud about. As R.C. Sproul said, “Every man is utterly depraved, but were not as bad as we could be.” Of course, meaning the intervening of God in our lives.

POINT 2 - WHY THE TEXT ABOUT MARRIAGE?

How Jesus answers their “loaded” question is two fold. First, He points them back to the beginning, cf. vs. 4-6. He quotes, Genesis 1:27, “**God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**” Genesis 2:24, “**For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.**” This is vital,

Genesis 1,2 present us with God's uncorrupted, undistorted, original design for humanity. Before sin entered into the world, and apart of that design was male and female, and marriage.

We live in a post-fallen world. Sin corrupts and distorts. One of the most egregious distortions is that of marriage and sexuality. This is why Jesus in answering the questions in Matthew 19, He points them back to the beginning, "but from the beginning it has not been this way" (Matthew 19:8). In other words, Jesus wants us to return to God's original design for human relationships and sexuality.

As Christians we look to the Bible for answers to life's toughest questions. But do you look to the Bible for answers concerning marriage and sexuality? In 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that the "fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution." It certainly did not consider the "from the beginning" in this case. Sin has distorted God's design, and now it is being established from a post-fall, sin filled, depraved corruption as to what marriage and sexuality are.

Do you look to the Bible for God's answers on marriage, family and sexuality? Or are you looking for wise cultural men to determine what is right and wrong? The way Jesus answered the Pharisees question was much deeper than what they had asked. They were looking for an answer based on a post fall, modern day truth of what they wanted. Jesus directed them to the beginning.

How does sin affect our ability to understand God's word? To obey God's will? You saw how it affected the Pharisees, and they were looking for a truth they wanted. Are you?

Let's unpack the context of Genesis 2:24 as we look at the text of Genesis 2:4-23. We have the account of the first man and the first woman, and the first human couple. God fashioned Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed human life into him. God charges Adam to keep and work the ground, and name the animals. He then creates Eve, the first woman, a helpmate to Adam and God presents her to him. It is then we have vs. 24, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."

In Matthew 19:8, Jesus describes the post-fall view of marriage, as they were divorcing their wives, because of the hardness of their hearts. In response to that, Jesus digs deep into the beginning saying from then it has not been so. In other words, he wanted to teach the Pharisees the original design of marriage by God, and how they themselves had been privy to it's low view. This is God's design for humanity. And how you view marriage and sexuality, must come from the lens of Genesis 1,2.

Application: God created the world for a purpose, and He created male and female uniquely, and complementary to each other. Where do you look for God's plan for marriage and sexuality? Post fall, post modern truth or God's word in Genesis 1,2? Sin distorts your view and understanding of

marriage. Psalms 10:4, “The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, “There is no God.”

POINT 3 - SINS DISORDER

As we saw earlier in Romans 1:18-32, the distortion of God’s created design has been corrupted by man’s sin. God created male and female to fit together, to procreate and to enjoy the design of God within the confines of the marriage. Men have rebelled against God’s design, pornography, polygamy, multiple partners outside of marriage, and homosexual perversion.

Leviticus 18:22, “You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.” Reading the next verse you see the depths of man’s depravity as a law is made as well concerning animals. The law was serious in Leviticus 20:13, “If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their blood guiltiness is upon them.” The word for abomination is the Hebrew word “toebah” which is detestable and is concerning the behavior of man, cf. Romans 1:24-27.

The word exchanged emphasis humanity’s rejection of God’s created order. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.” Historically Christians held a high view of marriage in the culture surrounding them. It was often said, “They marry, as do others, they begat children but do not destroy their offspring, they have a common table but not a common bed.” Until the later half of the 20th century, this view remained high. At the height of the sexual revolution many mainline liberal church denominations began to change their view. It is also worthy to note that these churches also held a low view of Scripture, didn’t affirm the deity of Christ nor the infallible and authoritative word of God. Sin is destructive.

POINT 4 - THE DISORDER OF TRANSGENDER

This idea is an attack on the created order and design of God. In other words, it’s rebellion as well. According to the American Physiological Society they define trans as “refers to a persons internal sense of being male, female or something else.” This was considered a “disorder” until 2013 when it was removed. Genesis 1:26, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.” And in vs. 27 the two divine image bearers come into two distinct genres-male and female. God designed the male and female to “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth” (Genesis 1:28). Denny Burk says, “If a persons body says male and his brain says female...the brain is wrong. In a corrupt fallen world where sin corrupts the mind, what we think of ourselves can be mistaken.”

The distinction between male and female is biological. I know a US Supreme Court justice isn't a biologist and can't define what a woman is, but the Bible clearly does. Again, we refer to Genesis 1:27, "male and female He created them." Terms like "gender fluid" which means, "a non-fixed identity that can fluctuate over time." Or "non-binary" which means whose gender is "not male or female." My question is what is it? These terms are a rejection of God's design for male and female, for marriage for sexuality. Sin is destructive. Terms are made up, rejecting the truth of God's word. Rebellion. Depravity. Wickedness. Vile behavior. And what seems beyond comprehension, you can now be fired, condemned or ridiculed for calling someone by the wrong pronoun.

CONCLUSION

How do we respond? We speak the truth in love, cf. Ephesians 4:15. We aren't allowed to speak in ways that are fundamentally dishonest, degrading or undermining to the truth of God's word about He made us. He made us male and female. Homosexuality, transgenderism are all a revolt against God's truth. We don't hate nor affirm. We speak the truth.

We don't participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. Ephesians 5:11, "Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them." Remember real joy comes with rejoicing in truth, "does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:6). You want a doctor to speak to you in truth not canceling a condition. Thus we speak about sin to those entrapped in sin, heterosexual or otherwise too. Proverbs 27:6, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy."

Romans 12:18 tells us to live peaceably with men if possible. We affirm the truth and speak the truth so men will repent and be saved. Remember 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 the list of sins that won't inherit the kingdom of God, but listen to vs. 11, "Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." Let me affirm that we neither hate nor affirm, but we build a bridge where we can to share the gospel of deliverance from sin's grip to all. 1 Corinthians 9:22, "To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some." This does not mean becoming like the culture to win the culture, but speaking the truth in love to those you know who view God's design from a post fall world or some flawed theology or those steeped in sin.