

I. Why do we have a problem with this?

- A. What is marriage?
- B. What's wrong with same-sex marriage (see Genesis 19 with Jude 1:7; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-10)
 - i. a false model of the love between Christ and the church
 - ii. undermines the possibility of true community
 - iii. a denial of the created goodness of male and female (1 Corinthians 11:11-12)
 - iv. every marriage is a repetition of Eden and a rehearsal for the New Jerusalem
 - v. a denial of the goodness of procreation (Genesis 1:28; Malachi 2:15)
- C. Is this what gay and lesbian people need (or want)?
- D. No government has authority or competence to redefine marriage.

II. Ups and downs in the Christian era

- A. The early church's reflection on marriage
- B. Catholic teaching on marriage: natural; contractual; sacramental
- C. Protestant teaching on marriage: natural; contractual; social
- D. Enlightenment: radical individualism
 - i. changes in divorce and child custody laws
 - ii. the rise of the idea of a "right to privacy"
 - iii. the sexual revolution: lifelong fidelity overthrown
- E. Marriage is treated as a contract – even among Christians

III. Discovered, not invented

- A. The appeal of same-sex marriage
- B. Assumptions behind same-sex marriage
- C. A created good – and therefore known by all cultures at all times

IV. Why we cannot ignore this

- A. Can we live with this?
- B. Degradation of genuine civil rights
- C. Christian support of same-sex marriage: antithetical to the gospel
- D. Gentle prophets (Luke 9:23-26; Ezekiel 33:7-9)
- E. The peace of the city (Jeremiah 29:5-7)

V. Sojourners and exiles

- A. We would very much like to be at home in this world, but we are not. (1 Peter 2:9-12)
- B. Political action
- C. A people apart (Hebrews 12:2)