

## Lecture 38: The Marriage Controversy

April 24, 2020

“...in the last days **difficult times** will come” (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

lovers of self  
lovers of money  
lovers of pleasure

...rather than lovers of God...

“...holding to a *form* of godliness,  
although they have  
denied its *power*.”

*How did we arrive at this place in the West?*

### The Rights Revolution

Anglo-Saxon Witan → Magna Carta (1215) → English Bill of Rights (1689)

American Revolution (1776) → the double standard of American slavery

“Behold the *sons of liberty*, oppressing and tyrannizing over many thousands of poor blacks,  
who have as good a claim to liberty as themselves” (Samuel Hopkins, taught by Jonathan Edwards)

The Lincoln-Douglas Debates (1858)

Stephen Douglas – popular sovereignty

Abraham Lincoln – natural rights are not up for a vote

*Rights sometimes conflict with rights* (Dred Scott case).

*Does immorality have rights?*

Abolitionism → Women’s Suffrage (1920) → Civil Rights Movement (1950s/60s)

Martin Luther King, Jr. – “I Have a Dream” (1963) vs. Jim Crow laws and mob lynching

Malcolm X – shift from “integration into the American mainstream” to “group self-determination” (Foner)

“What persuaded large numbers of white children of ‘affluence’ that they were ‘unfree’?”

In part, the answer lay in a redefinition of the meaning of freedom by...the ‘New Left’” (Foner).

Tension: Anti-discrimination based on determinism (race) vs. Anti-discrimination based on freedom (sex)

### The Sexual Revolution

→ Birth Control – *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965)

→ Abortion – *Roe v. Wade* (1973)

→ No-Fault Divorce Laws – all fifty states without a Supreme Court ruling – e.g. California (1969)

→ Cohabitation – a next generation of children first “try” marriage

→ Homosexuality – *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003) and *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015)

→ Transgender Rights – the latest in the New Left revolution

*Supreme Court* (1992, 2003)

“At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept  
of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.”

Fact-Value Split

*American Story* – Sovereign *God* → Sovereign *People* → Sovereign *Self* – a very lonely, virtual reality...

Self-Defeating and Reductionistic – a denial of human community, human nature, human limitations

### Biblical Assessment

Ezekiel 16:49-50 – Cultural homosexuality is a symptom of cultural inhospitality.

*Jesus’ Ethics of Marriage (Matthew 19)*

The Beginning

Genesis 1 – Two Complementarian Genders

Genesis 2 – The Covenant for Sexual Union

Transcultural Value based on Historical Fact  
(involves gender and sexuality)

The Resurrection – affirms and transcends the physical body

*Paul’s Cultural Analysis (Romans 1)*

The Crime – willful ignorance and refusal to worship God

The Punishment – handed over to lust and a depraved mind

*America Rejects the Knowledge of God*

Protestant Churches – Fundamentalist-Modernist Controversies (1920s)

Supreme Court – Prayer – *Engel v. Vitale* (1962)

Bible Reading – *School District of Abington Township v. Schempp* (1963)

Sexual Revolution – Is this the “handing over” due to rejecting God in church and state?

If so, then America is *already* under judgment.

If so, then true *reform* must include true *religion*—the **Cross** as the *one* atonement for a *world* of guilt.