

# Vote For Marriage: One Man. One Woman

*The Gospel According to Mark*

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**Bible Text:** Mark 10:1-9; Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25

**Preached on:** Sunday, April 29, 2012

Original transcript created by SermonAudio.com and further edited by:

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Here we are. Vote for marriage. One man, one woman. Yes, that is what we are going to talk about this morning. Dick gave us the segue into it. Vote for marriage, one man, one woman, Mark chapter number 10. Would you please stand for the reading of God's Word?

Those of you that know where we are at in Mark, you know, that we skipped over a section of verses in chapter nine. We will attack those verses next week. Go back into Mark nine and we will preach from verse 42 through 50. But this week we want to take a look at Mark nine, Mark 10 verses one through nine.

And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again. And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away. And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.<sup>1</sup>

*Holy Spirit of the living God, we need you to come. We beseech you right now to come. We beseech you, God, to send your Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds and may the Holy Spirit rule and reign. May the Holy Spirit give us eyes to see and ears to hear. May the Holy Spirit guide and direct and fill us with the power that only the Spirit can provide. And we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

So you may be seated. So as Dick Button said, in just a few days the primary on May eighth will be held and every North Carolina resident will be called upon to exercise their duty and cast a vote. And as Dick said, this is the single most important thing on the

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<sup>1</sup> Mark 10:1-9.

ballot. It is more important than anything else, because it is a permanent addition to our constitution. And what you should not for even a moment consider is that my vote doesn't count. You should not even allow that to cross your mind for even a second. This is not like a presidential election in which an electoral college makes the decision ultimately. This is not like that. In this case every single vote makes a difference. And this amendment could pass or fail for as few as five votes. It could literally be that tight and your failure to exercise your duty could result in the defeat of this amendment.

So my job this morning, my objective this morning is to so motivate you that you will make it your priority to register and cast a ballot in the next eight days. And if you have not registered, it is not too late. You can get a voter registration card this morning from Keith Howard in the narthex, fill that out. Take it to an early balloting place and you will be able to cast your vote as long as you do it during early voting. You have to be registered to vote on May eighth. If you are not registered to vote on May eighth, you must vote early. You must vote early and right now the polling place are virtually empty. So it is not too much to ask you to get a card this morning, fill out the appropriate information and make it your priority between Monday and Friday this week to get to one of the polling locations.

What is the concern? Well, there it is right there. Will we be willing to define marriage as one man and one woman as the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized by the state?

As a Christian you may wonder, why should I even care about this. That is my job this morning. My job is to preach so clearly and so convincingly that you understand when you leave this auditorium that this is your duty, that this is your responsibility and you can decide at the end of the time that I have preached whether I have done my job or not.

I am going to give you as many practical reasons as I can. So sometimes you are going to feel like, my goodness, am I in the Economics 101 lecture. And we will get into that. And other times I am going to focus on the theological ramifications for our failure to do this and so much as it impacts God's plan and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Former President Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist said, "Homosexuality was well known in the ancient world, well before Christ was born and Jesus never said a word about homosexuality. In all his teachings about multiple things he never said that gay people should be condemned. I personally think this is very fine gay people to be married in civil ceremonies."

Well, I could not disagree more with the former president. In fact, I believe he is incredibly misguided. May I call to your attention that Jesus never ever condemned child molestation in Matthew, Mark, Luke or John? May I call to your attention that he did not condemn incest or bestiality or child abuse and yet we are not discussing those things as immoral? We all agree with that.

Unless you understand that Jesus is the Son of God, God the Spirit, God the Father, the triune godhead, then suddenly you realize that every book of the Bible was inspired by Jesus. And while you may not find what we are talking about in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, I have got 62 other books to preach from to the glory of God.

Activist judges in other states have issued decisions redefining marriage to make it genderless, thus, imposing same sex marriage without people of those states being able to vote. By the way, let's just recognize that the very term same sex marriage is a politically correct term in an effort to minimize the stigma that is associated with such unnatural and sinful behavior.

This has occurred in Massachusetts, Iowa, Connecticut and California. In the District of Columbia activist judges prevented the people from voting on marriage. Without the people being able to vote, legislators have redefined marriage in New Hampshire, Vermont, the District of Columbia and New York. All tolled, same sex marriage is allowed in six states and the District of Columbia. Any of the same sex couples married in one of those states could move to North Carolina and sue to have their marriage recognized in our state.

So what do I care about this? Well, if you are a small business owner and you provide health care to a spouse you could find yourself providing health care to a dude that can never ever get pregnant. These types of law suits have already occurred in the following states: Texas, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Wyoming, New Mexico, Nebraska, Missouri, Indiana and Rhode Island. In fact, if you look at the map on the screen, you will recognize that we are the last southern state to do this. It is amazing that it took us so long to do this. And right now we are a battle ground state to accomplish this or not accomplish it. What could happen is any of these states that are over here in this dark color right here could... where gay marriage is, in fact, authorized those couples could relocate to this and then sue of their marriage to be recognized by a judge.

The only way to fix this is to amend the state constitution. So now let's look at verse number 10 in chapter number 10. I have no idea how I missed that. That is a mistake. We are in Mark 10:2.

“And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife?”<sup>2</sup>

Ultimately the question is: How important is it for us to stay married? I mean, when can I just dismiss her? I mean, what does it take to give me the freedom to say, “Enough”? I mean, we have worked hard, but we are done. You can't seem to figure out eggs over medium. They are either too easy or they are too hard. And I have had enough. Is that an acceptable idea? Or when do we stop working it out? And please let's recognize that staying married is plain out hard work. If you are not married, ask somebody who is married. It is hard work. Take two sinners, jam them into the same house and say, “Love each other and live together,” and you have got nothing but work.

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<sup>2</sup> Mark 10:2.

And so anything the government can do to make it easier to get out of this union is a problem. I need to be forced in there. You two stay in there till you work it out. That is what needs to happen. And so they want to know how easy can I get out of this thing. I mean, can we cut a piece of paper away? What is the issue here?

And Jesus said:

“What did Moses command you?”<sup>3</sup>

Let’s go back to the Old Testament. And they said, “Moses suffered or allowed us to cut her away.” I mean, the guy was able to write a piece of paper and that is it. We get a bill of divorcement. Well, then, how then does he respond?

And he says:

“For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.”<sup>4</sup>

And that is an in your face statement right there. He didn’t say, “Well, that is not too much of a problem.”

And the bottom line is this. Any marriage in which they are on the road to divorce one or more of the partners has got a hard heart. You take two soft hearts and you can work things out. Two soft hearts can sit down. Two {?} believers can sit down. Two people who are born again and led by the Holy Spirit can sit down and work it out. But you take one or more people who harden their heart and you have got a problem right there. You have got a problem. Hard heartedness.

“But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.”<sup>5</sup>

In this very verse Jesus affirms the mosaic authorship of Genesis. Now this is critically important, because there is no other book more challenged in its authenticity than the book of Genesis. And there are no more chapters than one through 11 that are challenged in their authenticity within the book of Genesis. Nobody questions whether there was an Abraham nor not. Every effort is being made to eliminate Adam as a historical figure.

And so you need to understand this morning that you have two choices. Choice number one, Jesus tells the truth. Moses wrote Genesis and Adam is the first man. Choice number two, Jesus is a liar and you can’t trust him. If Jesus is a liar and we can’t trust him, close shop. That is what I just said. Close shop. Save your money and go to the lake on Sundays. All the songs that we just sang are useless. They provide no comfort. They provide no hope, because Jesus cannot be trusted. Those are the truth.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Mark 10:5.

<sup>5</sup> Mark 10:6.

So it doesn't matter what genius or apologist suggests anything other than that. you have got one and only one choice. Trust Jesus. He tells the truth and there was an Adam or write the whole thing off.

So lesson number one, God gave you your gender. God gave it to you. God designed you to be a male. God designed you to be a female before you were even created. God knew you and ordained that you would be a male or you would be a female. And any time you indicate gender dissatisfaction, you are sinning toward God. Any time you look in the mirror and say, "God, I wish..."

Well, that has never happened in my entire life. I mean, I can't even finish that. That is beyond comprehension. Ok?

Transgender operations are an affront to God. And yet we have evangelical churches and we use that term extremely loose this morning who, in fact, have people in their congregations that were born females and have now done whatever it takes to present themselves as males. That is an affront to God. Men ought to act like men and women ought to act like women, living out gender distinctions, glorifies God.

Mark 10:7. Why did God make you a male? Why did God make you a female?

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife."<sup>6</sup>

Jesus quotes Genesis 2:24. So let's run back to Genesis two, please. And let's look at the text ourselves in our own Bibles. Genesis chapter number two. Let's look together at what Jesus is quoting from, what did Moses write? What instruction should we receive from the text?

Verse 15.

"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."<sup>7</sup>

He did not evolve. He didn't find himself, bam, here I am in this beautiful garden. God put him in the garden. The Lord God put him in the garden.

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Mark 10:7.

<sup>7</sup> Genesis 2:15.

<sup>8</sup> Genesis 2:18.

I can say amen to that. It is not good that a man should be alone. It is not good. This not good statement must have occurred before Genesis 1:31 because look at Genesis 1:31. Flip back one page. Look at your own Bibles. Mark it in your Bible so that you are taking notes.

“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.”<sup>9</sup>

It was very good. God saw everything was very good.

So I believe that chapter number one is a summation and then chapter number two unpacks chapter number one. And God looked down and saw Adam without a wife and said, “That is not good. That is not a good thing.” And so does God make him a hunting buddy? No. He doesn’t say, “Man, what you need is another dude, another dude for you to hang with, another dude for you to play soccer with, another dude for you to go hunting with. That is not what he says.”

Nor does he say, “What you need is a passel of women.”

No, what you need, Adam, is one woman. Marriage is one man and one woman. From whom? God. I don’t agree with that. Take it up with God, because I saw some looks earlier. I saw them on your faces. Go home. Get on your face before God and say, “God, almighty, break my hard heart because I have been so influenced by the secular world that I am living in that I don’t know now to think right anymore. God the Holy Spirit, I need you to come and fill me with a clear understanding of what this is all about.”

And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman.<sup>10</sup>

And when Adam saw his wife he was over the top thrilled.

“This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh.”<sup>11</sup>

Ah, I have been looking at cattle all day long and I am ready for something special. Well, read your Bible. It is right there.

So Jesus said:

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<sup>9</sup> Genesis 1:31.

<sup>10</sup> Genesis 2:20-23.

<sup>11</sup> Genesis 2:23.

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife.”<sup>12</sup>

Get out of the house. Get out. It is time. Move out. You can't live here forever, son. Get on with it. Get right with God and find yourself somebody that you can be one flesh with.

“And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.”<sup>13</sup>

You say, “Why are you preaching with such force this morning?”

I will tell you why I am preaching with such force. In 1990 55 percent of the households were married. In 2010 48 percent. We have seen a seven point drop in my adult life. Let me make sure that we all understand in this room. God's plan in almost all cases is for you to get married.

What in the world are you all sitting over there for? Don't sit there. Pruitts, you sit right over there. Was somebody in your seat? Well move them out unless they are a guest, ok?

Lesson number two. God's plan is for men to marry women. God's plan is for women to marry men. That is God's plan.

You say, “But this thing is hard.”

You better believe it is hard. What do I need? You need the gospel.

Isn't it amazing how God made something hard which would force us to run to him and when we run to him he gets all the glory? It is almost as though he planned it that way. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Every single reference to husband and wife in the specific, unique Greek word is gender specific. It is not dude and dude. It is not spouse. It is spouse. Got these things called husbands, masculine noun. Wife, feminine noun. There is no in between. And so I say to you, only in particular cases where the spiritual gift of celibacy is given is someone to remain single.

And Paul makes reference in 1 Corinthians 7:7 that there are some people in the body of Christ that are single and they are fully devoted to ranking up in the PS3 network for the rest of their life. No. They use their celibacy for the body of Christ. That is what they use their celibacy for, their spiritual gift to the body of Christ is more time because they do not have a husband and so they can be able not having a husband they can give much more time to the church. They are prayer warriors. They are servants in an incredible way. But for everyone else that burns, Paul says, “Get yourself a wife.”

Can I make it any clearer?

You say, “But Christ doesn't condemn homosexuality.”

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<sup>12</sup> Mark 10:7.

<sup>13</sup> Mark 10:8.

You are right. He doesn't condemn homosexuality. If you study Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, you are right, he doesn't condemn homosexuality, he doesn't. When everyone understands what God's plan is from the beginning was for one man and for one woman to marry, you don't have to condemn it.

All right. Let me illustrate this to you. Please listen to my illustration. If I say to you, "Do this," I don't need to say, "Don't do this." I tell you what to do. When I tell you what to do, you don't need 25 instructions of what not to do. Do what I tell you to do and everything else falls in place.

It goes like this. Let me illustrate it for you. If I tell you the uniform of the day is dress blues. I don't have to tell you don't wear your PTs. Don't wear civilians. Don't wear ACUs. I don't need to tell you all the don'ts. I told you what to wear.

You say, "How does that relate?"

Jesus said, "This is what you need to do. Find yourself a woman and get married and stay married."

Pretty simple. I don't need to tell you don't marry a male. Don't marry a female. Don't engage in that behavior. Why? Do this. Just do this and you will be fine.

What is the purpose of the one flesh union of male and female? Well, look back in your Bible to chapter number one. That is why it is called to your attention the reference to Genesis 31, because I wanted to show you why. I have the freedom to go back to 26.

"And God said, Let us make man in our image."<sup>14</sup>

Let the triune godhead, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, plural pronoun us make man in our plural possessive pronoun, our image after our plural possessive pronoun. And let them, that is those who he creates have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, over the cattle, over the earth, over ever creeping thing that creeps on the earth.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."<sup>15</sup>

And notice verse 28, please.

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Genesis 1:26.

<sup>15</sup> Genesis 1:27.

<sup>16</sup> Genesis 1:28.



The problem with the evangelical church and the fundamental church is it has been more influenced by environmentalists than the Word of God.

So lesson number three moving right along. God's plan from the beginning was for men to marry women and for their union to produce children. You are supposed to get married and you are supposed to get pregnant. And right around this church it has been working pretty good. There is something in the water around here. So start drinking it.

What is the plan? These children worship the one true God. Why do these children worship the one true God? Because these parents obey Deuteronomy 6:4-7 in which they are commanded to teach their children that there is only one God. And they are to teach it in the morning. They are to teach it at lunch time. They are to teach it all day long. So praise God for every home schooler who said this is my responsibility to teach my children. You should never be looked upon. Bless God if they understand that as their responsibility, then we embrace that whole heartedly and say, "Good job. How can we help you?"

Those of us that choose other means of education, we are not able to pass the buck to somebody else. It is still our responsibility to teach our children that, number one, God made you. Number two, Christ died for you and your purpose in life is to glorify God with every single thing you do. Did you get that? Let's go over it one more time. Number one, God made you. Number two, Christ died for you so you believe in Christ and number three you glory God with every single thing you do.

When that happens those children help to fill and subdue the earth. They have dominion over every living thing and they get married and they have those amazing things called grandbabies. And those grandbabies get married and they have more children. And that is God's plan.

Secular Humanist Leonard Pitts was right when he wrote, "A growing body of research tells us that the child raised without his or her biological father is significantly more likely to live in poverty, do poorly in school, drop all together, become a teen parent, exhibit behavior problem, smoke, drink, use drugs and wind up in jail."

And for every single mom here that is doing her best to raise children, I praise God for every single grandfather who is running there with that mother and saying, "I will help. I know that bum abandoned you and he is good for nothing. But I will step in as grand pappy and I will be the dad that your son did not have."

And for those who are here and they do not have grandfathers living in this church, it is my responsibility and your responsibility to do everything we can to interact with that young boy and make sure he does not end up like that statistic.

That is why you have your children in church, because you can't do it alone. You recognize, single moms, I can't do this thing by myself. I need some help. And every

single youth pastor, every single Sunday school teacher, every single deacon and all the entire pastoral staff says, "We are here for you. We have got your back."

Yes or no?

So at this point God does not need to address homosexuality because the union of homosexuals cannot fulfill his expectation of being fruitful and multiplying that.

Steve and Steve can never produce a kid.

Back up, Art. I am sorry. I clicked it too fast. And I want you to notice that using this sandwich as my illustration isn't an accident that this section that deals with marriage and divorce is sandwiched with references to Christ and children. Let me show you what I mean.

Mark 9:36 Jesus picks up a child. Verse 37, receive one of these such as little children. Verse 42, one such of these little ones. And then after the discourse on marriage and divorce, he goes right back to talking about children. Is that an accident? I don't believe there is any accidents in the Word of God. Do you men believe there is any accidents in the Word of God? Do you believe that was strategically placed there for my instruction? Yes or no? Yes. Why? Because who gets hurt most when you two hard headed people divorce? The children do, that is right. The children do. So if you are in marriage right now, stay married. First married, stay married. Second marriage, stay married. Stay married. Work it out. Figure it out. Fall on your knees every day and pray for grace. Repent. Seek the Lord. Work it out.

You say, "What is the government's role?"

I will tell you what the government's role is. The government should promote and define marriage as one man and one woman, because that is the best union to produce children in the most natural, efficient and beneficially productive means.

You say, "What about artificial insemination?"

Artificial insemination should be used only for those married couples that cannot get pregnant. It is not a means to have children outside of marriage. I really don't want to deal with that dude. He is such a pain, but I would love to have a little baby. So I go to a donor center and I find anybody and allow them to...

No.

While it is true that artificial insemination can eliminate the need for the one flesh union, there is no replacement for father and mother in the home. Any of us that are raising children, we know. I tell my son all the time that the only reason you are still alive is because your mom is here.

The fact is, the government spends much more money, that is taxes, on children teenagers and adults not raised by both biological parents than on their counterparts.

Now I am going to give you an economics lesson right now. Sixteen trillion dollars in debt. Do you know what it is called? We are broke. We as a nation are fault out broke. MasterCard has cut off our spending limit and it is time for us to take the Dave Ramsey course as a nation and shred the credit cards.

We don't have any more money to spend. You say, "I don't understand what you are saying pastor."

You take two children, one raised in a home with mom and dad and one raised just by one parent. And the government will spend far more money on the child that didn't have dad involved in his life or mother than the child that had both parents. That is a statistical fact if not biological. It is not biblical. It is a statistical fact.

Young men who grow up in homes without father are twice as likely to end up in jail. So our job in the body of Christ is to rally around every single parent and provide for that absentee dad a Christian dad as best we can. Why? Because we do not want men from the body of Christ ending up in jail because a bum left their child.

Young men who grew up in homes without fathers are twice as likely to end up in jail as those who come from traditional two parent homes. Those boys whose fathers were absent from the household have double the odds of being incarcerated, double, twice as likely to end up in prison. And, oh, by the way, you pay for their prison term. One of the reasons why we are not getting it as American citizens is we don't understand that paying taxes pays for all this. We have got some uneducated. I will choose my words wisely. Understanding of the economy and we think that if the government needs more money that it is crank up the printing press. We do not understand that that, in fact, devalues our currency. You need to wake up and listen. I am teaching you something right now. And the devaluing of our currency is what is driving prices up, because other nations that we trade with look at our currency and say, "That is not as valuable as it was five years, because you folks over there are printing money."

And so in order to get more out of you, we will raise the price. That is why you are paying more for gas than you should, because our currency is being devalued as the federal government prints more money. That is why you should care about this. Because you don't want dudes and dudes raising children. You want a man and a woman to fall in love in what we used to call holy matrimony. It was a glorious union and it would happen in churches often times. Imagine that. Huh. They got married in a church in which God was glorified. A preacher spoke about the gospel. And everybody turned out to celebrate the union of man and one woman.

So let me finish, not with the sermon. Governments should promote and define marriage as one man and one woman, because that is the best union to product children in the most

natural, efficient and beneficially productive means and a society, nation or people group will cease to exist without children.

What most of us don't understand is that America needs children. America needs lots of children.

You say, "The marriage amendment doesn't matter. The world will never run out of people."

And you are probably right. The world will never run out of people as long as their Muslims on the planet, because they are having children at an incredible rate. But there are two things that are potentially going to happen unless we make a radical shift in course. Number one, we will implode financially and, number two, the Muslims are having children at incredible rate will take over us as we plummet into a third world country.

You say, "Man alive, I didn't come to church of this kind of a message. Man, I need a little pick me up."

Sorry. What you might need is a good education in what is happening in the world around you right now. That is what you might need. What you might need to do is point your head out of the sand and wake up.

What are you talking about, pastor?

According to the 2010 census data more people in the age 65 and above are living in homes than 18 and below. Now while we thank God that people are living longer, please understand that what we need for the economic survival of this nation is an increasing work force. Now most of you aren't even interested in listening to this right now, but I am going to try to explain it to you for just a moment anyway. And I ask that you listen. The reason the clothes you wear, the phone that you talk on and nearly everything else that you consume is purchased overseas is because the American work force is shrinking and shrinking. Whereas in other countries like the Philippines, Malaysia, China and all over the world, their population is increasing and increasing. They have a greater work force. As our work force shrinks, we all insist on making more wages as a worker. As their work force increases, they are all willing to work for less and do jobs that we are not willing to do.

So, please listen, so 50 years ago and 75 years ago when the shirt that you would wear was made in a textile factory in the state of North Carolina, you can't find textile factories in the state of North Carolina anymore because those jobs have been shipped overseas because the work force has gotten smaller and smaller and the reason the work force is getting smaller is less people are getting married and having children.

If you disagree with me, send me an email and I will show you how wrong you are. The fact is the government already permits gay people. This amendment has nothing to do

with gay people. Gay people are already allowed to be together. But the question is: Should the government promote a union that does not provide children by giving this union the same financial benefits as the union that produces children? Should two dudes shacking up who will never ever produce a child should they get the same tax advantage that a husband and wife living together who have the propensity of producing children? Should they get the same tax benefit? And the answer is absolutely, positively not.

Why? Because the union of a male and a woman is good for America whereas the union of two dudes is not good for America. Gay and lesbians are not prohibited from loving each other. They are doing that already in the most sick and ungodly way. They are not prevented from living together. They can shack up as much as they want. They will shack up before the amendment passes. They shack up after the amendment passes. They are not being kept from being in a monogamous relationship. If they want to stay with the same dude till death do them part, so be it. The amendment does not prevent them from doing that. While the church would never sanction that, this amendment does not prohibit it.

But you say this morning, “Pastor, I have been convinced that this is a civil rights issue.”

The answer is no, absolutely not. It is not a civil rights issue. What then is it? It is a hardness of your heart issue. Anything that tears apart marriage being defined as one man and woman, anything is a hardness of heart issue. Divorce is a hardness of heart issue. Adultery is a hardness of heart issue. Gay and lesbian desires and behaviors is a hardness of heart issue. Polygamy and singleness, unless it is devotion to Christ is a hardness of heart issue.

And I know that I am going to offend somebody right now, but quite frankly, I don't care. If you are a single dude start praying about who God wants you to marry, because you have got two options. Number one, get married or number two, give your entire life to the cause of Christ like Paul did. Those are your two options.

If you disagree with me, shoot me an email and we will discuss it. Now, let me show you why this is not a civil rights issue. Turn to 1 Corinthians chapter six.

Folks we are just going to go a few minutes long. I am sorry. But you cannot stop this sermon early. This is the way it is going to have to be this morning. Give them a heads up in the nursery. I am not going to cut the sermon off in the middle. I am going to draw it to an end. You need to see this.

Some of you have been duped into thinking this is a civil rights issue. Some of you are duped into thinking that these people are born the way they are and we need to recognize the fact that they are homosexuals in the same way that we recognize that people are black or that people are Hispanic or that people are white and I want to show you from the Word of God how incredibly wrong that position is and I need you to look at 1 Corinthians chapter number six verse nine.

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived.”<sup>17</sup>

And that is where we are this morning. So many Christians have been deceived by the ultimate deceiver through a liberal propaganda machine.

“Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind...”<sup>18</sup>

That is a little bit awkward. It is 400 years ago. The ESV renders it like this. Men who practice homosexuality, that is a little clearer in today’s vernacular.

“Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”<sup>19</sup>

We do not allow anyone to walk around going, “Hey, man, and I am sorry {?} that is just the way I am. I am just a {?} I like to take things and just suck it up. I was born that way. I have been thief all my life and you just need to deal with it. And, by the way, I want amendments passed to protect me because I am a thief. I was born a thief. I like stealing. I have been stealing all my life and I really like it.”

No, no. We all go, “Oh, n, the Bible says thou shalt not steal.” Right? That is what we do. It is ridiculous to suggest such a thing, isn’t it? I am an extortioner. This is what I have been. I have always been an extortioner. You folks just need to get used to the fact that I am an extortioner. And some time during my time as a pastor I am probably just going to rip you off and that is just the way it is.”

No, no. We say, “No way.” Don’t we? So what we have done is we have taken a list of sins and we have allowed liberals, progressive, secular Humanists, to convince us that some of these sins are really sins that need to be stopped and some of them are genetically caused.

Do you see where I am going with this? It either has to be one or the other. Paul presents a list of behaviors that are unacceptable, one, two, three, four. And then he says:

“And such were some of you.”<sup>20</sup>

Past tense. What does he mean? He means the gospel of Jesus Christ delivered me from being selfish. The gospel of Jesus Christ delivered me from being a fornicator. The gospel of Jesus Christ delivered me from the sin of lust. I do not drive around the city of Fayetteville lusting anymore. Why not? Because I have been washed. I have been

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<sup>17</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:9.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:10.

<sup>20</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:11.

sanctified and I was justified and that justification resulted in a day by day process whereby God is making me a new creature in Christ. You get that or not?

So you cannot say he did not say some of you are white, but now that you have come to Christ you are different. Some of you were males, but now that you have come to Christ you re females. He does not say that. Because you were born white. You were born black. But you were not born gay.

Now one of the problems is this creeping into your theology, into our thinking, into our world view. So your little son starts to act a little girlish when he is four years old and instead of squashing that like a cockroach and saying, "Man up, son, get that dress off you and get outside and dig a ditch, because that is what boys do," you get out the camera and you start taking pictures of Johnny acting like a female and then you upload it to YouTube and everybody laughs about it and the next thing you know, this dude, this kid is acting out childhood fantasies that should have been squashed.

You were made by God to be a male and you are going to be a male. And when your daughter starts acting to Butch you reign her in. And you say, "Oh, no, sweetheart. You can play sports. Play them to the glory of God. But sometimes you are going to act like a girl and walk like a girl and talk like a girl and smell like a girl and that means you are going to be beautiful. You are going to be attractive. You are going to dress yourself up."

You say, "Can I take charge like that as a parent?"

Yeah, you can. You are authorized. I just gave you a special dispensation this morning to do that.

But I thought homosexuality was in the genes? Numerous studies of identical twins, that is the exact same genetic make up. We are talking about one egg, ok? One egg separating and producing two eggs exact same genetic makeup. One becomes a homosexual, one becomes a heterosexual. If it was in the genes, they would both become homosexuals or they would both become heterosexuals. Do not allow yourself to be convinced because you have a second cousin that is somewhat effeminate that he was born that way.

Now, listen to me very clearly. Last Sunday we preached on being tolerantly intolerant. If you have a gay person in your house, you love them with Jesus Christ. Your job is not to be homophobic and be rude and inconsiderate. You still invite them to Thanksgiving. But you can draw the line. You do not have to bring the partner in. You do not have to sanction the sin. You can draw a line. In the same way that you would not allow your daughter to bring her boyfriend in and give them the bedroom by themselves, you take those same type of standards and you apply them across the board, the same standards that you would apply to your daughter when it comes to adultery, you apply to your son when it comes to this. No.

Now you cannot fix this problem. Only the gospel of Jesus Christ can fix it. So you have

to love them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. But the moment you compromise your standards what you are saying is I love you more than Jesus. And the Bible calls on you to be willing to abandon father, mother, brother sister for Christ. And you might have to do that in this situation.

So I am almost done. 1 Peter 2:13-14.

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.<sup>21</sup>

So how does the government praise them that do well? Well, I will explain to you that. The government praises them that do well when it comes to marriage by defining marriage the way God defines it and by giving huge tax breaks to those who are married. That is the way the government praises it. And our government needs to start giving better benefits to people that have children, because less and less people are having children.

“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”<sup>22</sup>

Marriage is the first God ordained entity. Marriage is the building block for the family. The family is the building block for any church and society. If you men walked into this church this Sunday and all you saw was silver hair across the congregation, what would you men think about the future of this church? Tell me. It is what? It is going to die. Why? What do we need in the church? Children.

Now isn't it amazing, David, how we understand that from a local assembly perspective, and how we in the church ought to be thrilled when there is children running all over the place. That ought to make your heart sing. Don't you even for a moment cop an attitude because there is a little child up on the stage or there is someone that got {?} the drums. You be thankful that we have children in our church. I am thrilled that we have got a nursery problem. Why? Because that means they are hearing the gospel.

So? The same thing holds true for our nation. Allowing marriage to extend beyond one man and woman will legitimize behavior and unions that are not healthy, unnatural and counter productive. The fact is that a gay man dies on average eight to 20 years before a heterosexual man. Imagine that. God looked down and saw Adam and said, “It is not good for you to be alone. You will do better, Adam, when you get married.”

It is a crying shame that 60 year olds are getting divorced. And they don't do well. They die prematurely. And we do not need men dying prematurely. We need men being grandpas, paying taxes, being productive, serving as doctors and all kinds of other positions. We don't need them dying 20 years early.

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<sup>21</sup> 1 Peter 2:13-14.

<sup>22</sup> Mark 10:9.



So let's look at just two or three more verses. Romans 1:26. These men left the natural use. They did what was contrary to nature and in the ESV it calls them shameless acts with men receiving in themselves the due penalty of their error. There is no due penalty because you are black. There is no due penalty because you are female. There is no due penalty because you are white. There is no due penalty because you are Korean. There is a due penalty for practicing homosexuality, because it is unnatural.

And so we are going to run all the way back on screen to Genesis 2:25.

“And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”<sup>23</sup>

When was the last time you heard of heterosexuals coming out of the closet? You don't need to come out of the closet when you are heterosexuals. There is nothing shameful about it. When a man has held himself for a wife and a wife has held herself for a woman they come together in a church for holy matrimony and they have a beautiful ceremony and she just looks better than she has ever looked in her entire life in that beautiful dress and he is standing there taller than he has ever stood in his life and they are united in holy matrimony and the pastor says, “You may kiss your bride.” And he reaches over and just gives her one that she has never had before. There is nothing shameful about that at all. The entire church celebrates that. And then when they leave that place and they get in that car and they are driving for their first night to be together no one is saying, “I wonder what they are doing. How unshameful is that.”

And do you know what? Their conscience is never ever being convicted at all, because they know they are doing it God's way. They were not ashamed.

And, finally, let's run to the gospel. The reason we must keep marriage this way is because Jesus said this is the picture of the gospel.

So here is my instructions to you as your spiritual leader according to Hebrews chapter number 13 verse 17. You are to obey what I tell you to do and I am telling you to vote early. You do not allow anything to take precedent over this this week. You make this your priority. You will stand accountable before God for the decisions you make. And if you decide, I have got too much going on this week to take the time to register and get over there to vote, that is S I N. It is sin. You care about this state. You care about the future of this state. You care about it until God calls you home or the rapture takes place.

Let's pray.

Gentlemen, come forward. You are going to lead us in some worship.

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<sup>23</sup> Genesis 2:25.