

## The State of the Church/The State of Marriage.2015 – 1 Cor 6:9-11

**Introduction** – There is a full-court press in the public square today on the institution of marriage. And those who hold to the traditional view are losing. One of the main reasons they are losing is because they are holding to the traditional view as *"the traditional view,"* rather than because *"thus saith the Lord."* It has gotten to the point where the most the church will say about same-sex activity is that it doesn't present us with the best opportunity for raising children and bringing forth the next generation. *"... the time is coming, and now is, when it (will be) unacceptable to say anywhere, including from the pulpit, that sodomy is an offense to God"* (D. Wilson). We are very close to the day where this sermon will be considered an illegal, prosecutable hate-crime.

**The Hate in Hating Sodomy** (Prov 8:13) – *"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate."* We must not be tricked into thinking we are "hate-mongers" for taking a stand for the Word of God. Love and hate are both good things, or bad things, depending on the object of one's love or hatred. It is good to love people and it is bad to love wickedness. It is good to hate murder and it is bad to hate God's law. It is good to hate pride and arrogance, the evil way, and the perverse mouth, and we are bound by God to let His Word define those terms.

**The Love in Hating Sodomy** (1 Cor 6:9-11) – It is loving to hate sodomy, to declare the truth of where it will lead people who continue in it, and to declare that there is a way out for any who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. A list of sins (not exhaustive) is given by Paul of practices which will land one in the pit of hell. But as Paul writes to a church full of people, he tells them *"and such were some of you."* There is not a hint of "we are so much better than *those people*" in his voice. Rather, *"we are those people"* is in his voice. And by the grace of God, and His grace alone, we *"have been washed...sanctified...justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God."* There is no condemnation of past sins or sinful lifestyles (Rom 8:1-2), and there is nothing to boast in for such a change in lifestyle (Gal 6:14, Eph 2:8-9). Homosexuals and sodomites, along with all fornicators and adulterers (and idolaters, and thieves and drunkards, and the covetous...), are all welcome into this body of believers when they join with us in forsaking our sins and calling on Jesus. You are one of us. No different. Everyone needs to mortify sinful desires (be they homosexual or heterosexual) as God defines and commands (Luke 9:23, Gal 5:24).

**The Politics of the Same-Sex Marriage Issue** – The upper hand on the political front has been gained by the homosexual agenda because the church is muddled on its own definition of marriage. And this can be seen by years of acceptance of homosexuality, premarital sexual activity, no-fault divorces, the right to an abortion, and the like *from the pulpits* of American churches. Contemporary Christians cannot defend marriage because they cannot define marriage.

**Where are the Foundations?** - When it comes to building a society and a culture, God was clear that He created man in His own image, male and female He created them (Gen 1:27). God took from Adam, fashioned Eve for him, and brought her to him to enjoy the covenant of marriage (Gen 2:21-24). Therefore, *marriage is a sexual union of one man and one woman protected by covenant vows of faithfulness to one another before God and society.* Jesus made clear that this institution was a creation ordinance of God and not subject to the cultural whims of men (Matt 19:4-6). Paul instructs us from the same passage that this institution is a gospel-proclaiming union of Christ to his bride, the church (Eph 5:31-32).

**Nothing "Victorian" Here** – The Bible acknowledges and celebrates that we are sexual beings with intense desires and pleasures to be enjoyed in the marriage bed (Heb 13:4, Prov 5:18-19, Eccles 9:9, Song of Solomon 1-8). Our complaint is not an argument from the position of prudishness. We are not against the gift (and fruit) of sex; we are against the vandalism of the gift (and fruit) of sex.

**He Who Names Wins** – In the abortion wars, "pro-choice" is preferred to "pro-abortion" or "pro-murder" by those who would allow abortions, while "pro-life" is preferred to "anti-choice" or "anti-abortion" to those who would outlaw it. It has been helpful to rename "public" schools as what they really are, "government" schools, in making the argument against anti-Christian, secular education. Naming makes a difference in the marketplace of ideas, rhetoric, and politics. I agree with Doug Wilson in renaming same-sex marriage as what it truly is: *same-sex mirage*. His point is not to be cute. It is to point to the truth of the matter. A man living with another man is not, by definition, a marriage. But that begs the question of definitions again.

**Christian Politics in the Civil Realm** – We are losing the battle in the civil realm and we must address this. But we cannot get the cart before the horse. Christian lobbyists will not save us and politics will never save us – but the political/civil system will be saved by Jesus Christ (i.e. Isaiah 2:2). With faith (that is, believing the previous sentence), we should give ourselves to prayer for reformation and revival within the church and then to the world. In addition –

**Reverent Covenant Renewal Worship** – The church must return to the biblical purposes for Lord's Day services and refuse to tickle itching ears with entertainment-based and effeminate meetings. Pray for the Lord to raise up such elders and preachers .

**Marriages that Proclaim this Gospel** – The church must repent of her abandonment of Scripture's teaching on marriage, the roles of husbands and wives, and childrearing; instead, by the grace of God, manifest homes with masculine headship that imitates Christ, fatherhood that imitates the Father, and homes that welcome children into the world as the glorious fruit of marital union.

**Extending Hospitality** – Too many people have never seen a functioning family full of grace, love, forgiveness and fellowship. There are multiple ways for your family to be hospitable to others so that your life may be an epistle of the Good News to the world. drh-12/28/14