

Regardless of what the New York State Legislature passes, marriage is **still** the union of a man and a woman. No court or Congress can make it anything else. **It is an impossibility!**

Two men can unite physically, but that does not make them married. The Bible says, *“Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind: it is an abomination.”* (Leviticus 18:22)

Gay activists are proposing a counterfeit of marriage. US Treasury agents are trained to spot counterfeit currency by studying the real thing. Let us do that with marriage.

In the book of Genesis, one can read about the first marriage. In Chapter 2, verses 15 to 24, God reveals the purpose and pattern for marriage.

The Purpose for Marriage

Companionship: God said, *“It is not good that man should be alone.”* (Genesis 2:18a). God knew that man needed someone to share his life, a partner, and He created a woman.

Completion: God said, *“I will make a help meet for him”* (Genesis 2:18b). The word is an old English word that means what it says: a helper meet, or fit, for the man. Animals come in pairs, male and female. God followed the same plan for man.

Contentment: When God brought the woman to Adam, he said, *“This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man.”* (Genesis 2:23) When Adam saw Eve for the first time, he understood that she was to be his wife. Adam was clearly pleased and understood the nature of the relationship. God explained, *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto*

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his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24)

This definition of marriage is repeated by the Lord in Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:7, and cited by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:31.

Commission: God said, *“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.”* (Genesis 1:28). There are two parts of this commission – reproduction and ruling over the earth. This is called the cultural mandate. In the first part, one finds God’s plan for reproduction. He created every living thing on the earth to reproduce. Marriage is God’s plan for human reproduction. Reproduction is not the only purpose for marriage, but it is an important part.

The Pattern for Marriage

A Couple: God created Adam and Eve, *“So God created man in his own image, and in the image of God he created him; male and female created he them.”* (Genesis 1:27). God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.

A Choice: Life consists of choices. The most important choice is to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. The second is the person that you marry. Adam did not have to accept Eve as his wife, even though his choices were limited. He could have said, “No, thanks.” There are over seven billion people in the world. The half that is of the opposite sex are potential spouses. Others are eliminated because of age, relatives, etc.

A Covenant: *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”* (Genesis 2:24) When a

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couple marry, they are committing themselves to two things: (1) Leave father and mother and all other suitors, and (2) Cleave, or be joined, to one another. This bonding is so close that, although they are still two people, they are one flesh. This is one of the reasons divorce is so painful – it splits apart what God has joined together.

The Perversion of Marriage

Through out history, mankind has attempted to corrupt the institution of marriage in several different ways, such as men having more than one wife. The results have always been tragic for the people involved, especially the children. “Gay marriage” is simply the latest perversion of the real thing.

Homosexuality is contrary to nature (Romans 1:26) and God’s laws (Leviticus 18:22). Changing the law in America will not change God’s law, nor will it change the fact that marriage involves a commitment that homosexuals and many heterosexuals are unwilling to make to their partners – a total commitment of the total person for the total life. Most homosexual relationships last only 1 to 1 1/2 years, according to a recently released Dutch study. Even those within so-called "committed" gay relationships have an average of eight partners a year. The findings are similar to other research that consistently finds gay relationships to be transitory and promiscuous.

Homosexual activists openly admit that their goal is not just to gain the right to marry. Paula Ettelbrick, former legal director of the LAMBDA Legal Defense Fund states, “Being queer means pushing the parameters of sex, sexuality, and family...transforming the very fabric of society.”¹

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Another homosexual author states that the goal of homosexual activists is "To fight for same-sex marriage and its benefits and then, once granted, redefine the institution of marriage completely...to debunk a myth and radically alter an archaic institution." ²

The goal is to remove restraints – to rebel against God's plan and purpose. Revolting against God's plan and purpose was the original sin, and it remains so today: "No one is going to tell me what to do!"

How far will this rebellion go? Author Judith Levine has given us some idea. "Because American marriage is inextricable from Christianity, it admits participants as Noah let animals onto the ark. But it doesn't have to be that way. In 1972, the National Coalition of Gay Organizations demanded the 'repeal of all legislative provisions that restrict the sex or number of persons entering into a marriage unit; and the extension of legal benefits to all persons who cohabit regardless of sex or numbers.'

Would polygamy invite abuse of child brides, as feminists in Muslim countries and prosecutors in Mormon Utah charge? No. Group marriage could comprise any combination of genders." ³

Ms. Levin came to national attention when she authored a book that advocated what she called "inter-generational sex" (*Harmful to Minors: The Perils of Protecting Children from Sex*).

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Take Action:

Christians should do three things about this issue:

Recommit to the concept of marriage;

Resist definition changes of marriage; and

Reach out with compassion to **all** Men and women with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We do not hate anyone by standing for traditional marriage (one man and one woman). We are simply recognizing that God created marriage, and therefore only He could re-define it.

Matthew 19:4-5 "And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?"

Endnotes:

Rubenstein, William, Ed., "Since When is Marriage a Path to Liberation?" *Lesbians, Gay Men and the Law* (New York: The New Press, 1993). Pp. 401-405

Michelangelo Signorile, "Bridal Wave," *Out*, December/January 1994

Judith Levine, "Stop the Wedding!: Why Gay Marriage Isn't Radical Enough," *The Village Voice*, July 23-29, 2003.



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