

A Defining Moment...

Sanction

- a formal decree
 - *especially* : an ecclesiastical decree
- a solemn agreement
- something that makes an oath binding

Indy Racetrack

- One distinct place
- Two distinct sanctions
 - Indianapolis 500
 - Indy Racing League
 - Brickyard 400
 - NASCAR
 - NASCAR guidelines are “sanctioned” by NASCAR

Who sanctions what

- Can Illinois determine who can be resident?

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- Can Boy Scouts determine who can be member?
- Can United States government determine what is currency?
- Can Coca-Cola determine its own product?

Marriage

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- Woman was made to be man's helpmate
- Made to complete one another in the parameters of an exclusive relationship which is the framework for bringing children into the world
- Represents to the world the mystical union of Christ and His church

God started the whole idea

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- God's definition of what marriage is and what it looks like is quite clear

“The aspects of marriage--the complementarity of male and female, and the irreplaceable role of male-female relations in reproducing the human race--are part of the original order of creation, and are evident to all human beings from the enduring order of nature. These common elements of marriage are at the heart of our civil laws defining and regulating marriage ...

Scripture teaches that family was God's idea and that marriage is a divine, not merely human, institution. The implication of this truth is significant indeed, for this means that humans are not free to renegotiate or redefine marriage and the family in any way they choose but that they are called to preserve and respect what has been divinely instituted. This is in keeping with Jesus' words, uttered when his contemporaries asked him about the permissibility of divorce: "What therefore God has joined together let not man separate" (Matthew 19:6). For this reason, marriage is far more than a human social contract; it is a divinely instituted covenant.” *Family Research Council*

In other words...

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- God has established what it is

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- God has established what it is for

In other words...

- God **sanctions** marriage
- God has established what it is
- God has established what it is for
- God has established who participates

There is no question

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 - It is intended to reflect the loving, caring, nurturing, mutually fulfilling relationship which exists between Jesus and His bride - the Church

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 - Some good
 - Some not so good

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- There are many relationships mentioned in Scripture
 - Some good
 - Some not so good
- But, to be a **marriage**, the participants are a man and a woman and their intent is to become one flesh - and to live that way for their remaining days on earth

Where does this madness stop?

- Why is it hateful to quote what God says about marriage in Scripture?

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- Why is it wrong for Jews and Christians to define marriage as God does?

Where does this madness stop?

- Why is it hateful to quote what God says about marriage in Scripture?
- Why is it wrong for Jews and Christians to define marriage as God does?
- How can a Christian define it any way else?

Culture does not define the Church

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- But culture can only define the Church if the Church stops following the teachings of God outlined in Scripture

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- His prophets/priests/leaders are to teach what He says
- His followers believe/accept what He says
 - “Lord, I believe, help me in my unbelief...”

Speak the truth in love...

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” *1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

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 - It's offensive
 - It's bigoted
 - It's hateful

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 - It's hateful
- Where does it stop?
- And yes, it does matter...

The reality is...

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- 92.2% of Americans do not

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“Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

We must speak truth

“...So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and He brought her to the man. “At last!” the man exclaimed. “This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken from ‘man.’”

This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” *Genesis 1 & 2*

Pulpit Freedom Sunday

- Pledge to speak the truth **in love** about God's design for marriage

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“Without the undergirding of love, the possessor of any conviction becomes obnoxious, and the dogma believed becomes repulsive to the one who disagrees with it. The early church also lived in an intensely pluralistic culture in which it had to deliver an exclusivistic message, but the believers were distinguished and recognized by their love. Our Lord Himself proclaimed truth in exclusive terms, terms in which there was no compromise, but He demonstrated that truth by the embodiment of perfect love. Being possessed of a conviction is a necessary part of God, but doing so with love and patience are the necessary handmaidens.”

- *Deliver us from Evil* - Ravi Zacharias