

**Since the President brought it Up
Genesis 2:18-25**

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Text Introduction: Why? Why preach on this particular subject? Several reasons, I think.

1. First of all, President Obama made an unprecedented announcement in an interview with ABC national reporter Robin Roberts in which he gave his unequivocal support for same sex marriage. Now, understand, this issue is purely a theological and moral matter. Some will make this a political matter, but this is purely theological and moral. So, inasmuch as the President weighed in on a theological and moral issue, and gave an opinion that is in direct contradiction to the Bible and the view of orthodox Christianity for our entire history, a response from the Church is demanded.
2. The nation is divided on this subject. Somehow, the Church has failed to teach Biblical truth in this area.
3. The nation's young are in overwhelming support of same-sex marriage. Again, somehow, the Church has failed to teach Biblical truth in this area.
4. This is Memorial Day Weekend. Millions of Americans have given their lives so that we would have a different kind of America than we have today. I am thinking about all of these who have lost their lives.

And, now, I have a request. Please no applause in the course of this sermon today. If I say something that you are in hearty agreement with, today is not the day for loud "amens" and applause. Save that for another day if that is your way. I want you to think about those who watch by television and internet and even no doubt some who are in our audience today who do not agree with this Biblical view. I can assure you that we are not going to win them over with outward bursts of applause. They will see that as our hating them or our anger toward them. There is a better way—a more loving way. If we could win by righteous anger and strong rhetoric, we would have already won this debate. That approach obviously has not worked. There is a need for a more loving, more thoughtful, more statesmanlike approach.

Text: ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper as his complement." ¹⁹ So the LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found as his complement. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. ²² Then the LORD God made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ And the man said:

This one, at last, is bone of my bone
and flesh of my flesh;
this one will be called "woman,"
for she was taken from man.

²⁴This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

²⁵Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

Introduction: Before we deal specifically with the issue of same sex marriage, we ought to see what the Bible says about all marriage. This is the foundation to the question about the sanctity of all marriage.

What does God say about marriage?

God created marriage. Government did not create marriage. No social organization developed it. So, shouldn't we be most concerned about what God says about marriage?

God's dealing with Adam suggests a . . .

Thoughtful Plan—God said that it was not good for man to be alone.

Helpful Partnership—God says that He would give a helper. Now, this is not a demeaning word. In fact, this is a word that is used for God, Himself in a couple of places of Scriptures.

- Exodus 18:4—“The God of my father was my helper and delivered me from Pharaoh's sword.”
- Psalm 121:1-2—“I raise my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

Timeless Principle:

“one man and one woman forever”

What does God say about homosexuality?

What would Jesus say were He to come face to face with a homosexual?

The exact words we do not have in Scripture, but as with Zacchaeus, I believe Jesus would say, “Let's go to your house.” As with the woman at the well who had five husbands, Jesus would sit down by a well.

He would speak with compassion, but He would speak the truth. (See Ephesians 4:15)

God has been consistent in His Word on this issue. (Note: I may not use all of these Scriptures. I likely will go straight to the New Testament since so many people argue that this is only an Old Testament issue.

- Leviticus 18:22
- Genesis 19:5-7
- Leviticus 20:13
- Romans 1:26-27
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

What does God say about same sex marriage?

I find no answer but this: He categorically opposes it. The Church must stand with our Maker on this issue. Too much is at stake. Why should we oppose same sex marriage? Here are three reasons.

1. **The legalization of gay marriage will erode the traditional family.**
2. **The legalization of gay marriage could lead to legalized polygamy and other changes in the definition of traditional marriage.**
What will be the next step? Where will it end? If the definition of traditional marriage is changed, can't it be changed again? Why not 2 men and 1 woman? Why not 2 women and 1 man? Why not a man and his daughter? Never underestimate the evil bent of the human heart.
3. **We believe God's Word.**
This is really not a very difficult question once we decide that we are going to be people who believe and follow the Bible.

What can we do?

1. Make our voice known through voting when given the opportunity. (Both in candidates and legislation like State Constitutional amendments.)
2. React like Jesus.
3. Resist the idea that individuals cannot be transformed. God always gives you a way out in the midst of the greatest of temptations.
4. Stand for the sanctity of all marriage. Adulterous relationships and living together before marriage are also violations of keeping marriage pure and holy.