



The relationship between man and woman was intended as a source of great joy from the beginning.' It is difficult to imagine any topic that is more intimately connected with the lives of individuals from all stations of life in all parts of the world, unless it would be the topic of the nature of God.

As it happens, those two topics are related. As controversies about sexual distinctions exercise society and church, it has become increasingly clear that the way in which one understands the relationship between man and woman is often linked to the way in which one understands the nature of God. This link finds its first expression in the account of creation itself: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Gen. 1:27).

Since man as male and female was created in the image of God, learning about God is linked to learning about man as male and female, and vice versa.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁶ וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים נַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם בְּצַלְמֵנוּ כְּדְמוּתֵנוּ וַיְרִדוּ בְדִגְתַּת הַיָּם וּבְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל-הָאָרֶץ וּבְכָל-הַרֹמֵשׁ הָרֶמֶשׂ עַל-הָאָרֶץ:

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁷ וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ בְּצַלְם אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בָּרָא אֹתָם:

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

In His image בצלמו	Man את האדם	And God created וּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים	Line 1
Him אתו	He created בְּרָא	In the image of God בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים	Line 2
Them אֲדָם	He created בְּרָא	Male and Female זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה	Line 3

I am about to tell you something that might upset some of you. And that is ok by me. For my place, my opinion, my responsibility, is to represent Christ to the church as your shepherd. To some I am your preacher, I am much more that I am your shepherd and as your shepherd, my responsibility is to lead you in God truth.

Christians do not abide by the laws of the land alone; we abide by a higher law revealed in Scripture that is the law of God. Especially in America, the laws of men and of God have, for the most part, been able to peacefully co-exist. When they do not, Christians make a choice to follow God's law and bear the consequences of their peaceful, civil disobedience. Or follow the law of the land and be disobedient to God which is unimaginable...

I pray the SCOUTUS (**Supreme Court of the United States**) ruling awakens a 'sleeping giant' called the church. Thank you LBGT community for 'poking the caged lion', the complacent church. We have much to answer for - hypocrisy, theological laziness, truth-less, loveless Christianity. Thank you for being a part of God's plan to awaken the church to its biblical heritage and the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ.

The gospel must inform our approach to public witness. As evangelicals animated by the good news that God offers reconciliation through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus, we commit to:

- respect and pray for our governing authorities even as we work through the democratic process to rebuild a culture of marriage (**Rom. 13:1-7**);
- teach the truth about biblical marriage in a way that brings healing to a sexually broken culture;
- affirm the biblical mandate that all persons, including LBGT persons, are created in the image of God and deserve dignity and respect; for as they are still alive there is a possibility for repentance

- love our neighbors regardless of whatever disagreements arise as a result of conflicting beliefs about marriage;
- live respectfully and civilly alongside those who may disagree with us for the sake of the common good;
- And cultivate a common culture of religious liberty that allows the freedom to live and believe differently to prosper.

The redefinition of marriage should not entail the erosion of religious liberty. In the coming years, evangelical institutions could be pressed to sacrifice their sacred beliefs about marriage and sexuality in order to accommodate whatever demands the culture and law require. We do not have the option to meet those demands without violating our consciences and surrendering the gospel. We will not allow the government to coerce or infringe upon the rights of institutions to live by the sacred belief that only men and women can enter into marriage.

The gospel of Jesus Christ determines the shape and character of our ministry. Christian theology considers its teachings about marriage both timeless and unchanging, and therefore we must stand firm in this belief. Outrage and panic are not the responses of those confident in the promises of a reigning Christ Jesus.

While we believe the Supreme Court has erred in its ruling, we pledge to stand steadfastly, faithfully witnessing to the biblical teaching that marriage is the chief cornerstone of society, designed to unite men, women, and children. We promise to proclaim and live this truth at all costs, with convictions that are communicated with kindness and love.