

## “Marriage” Re-defined

On January 3, 1996 the “Defense of Marriage Act” (DOMA) was passed, with the ruling being signed by then-president, Bill Clinton, who has been described as our nation’s “first gay rights President.” Mr. Clinton later voiced his regret for having signed DOMA into law, and expressed his desire that it would be overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the “Defense of Marriage Act,” marriage was defined “a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word ‘spouse’ refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife.” This definition of “marriage” harmonizes with the biblical record. It was **God** Who initially said “*it is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him,*” Gen. 2:18. Accordingly, God “*caused a deep sleep*” to come upon Adam, the first man, at which time He took a rib from his side, from which “*He made into a woman,*” and brought her to the man. Adam then 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,*” Gen. 2:22-23. The next verse states “*therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall be one flesh,*” Gen. 2:24. Millenniums later some Pharisees asked Jesus if it were “*lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason,*” Matt. 19:3. And Jesus answered and said to them, “*Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them **male and female**, and said For this reason **a man** shall leave his father and mother and be joined to **his wife**, and **the two** shall become one flesh,*” Matt. 19:4. Jesus then said “*they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate,*” Matt. 19:6.

From these verses we discover that God was the Author of the marriage relationship. He is the One who joined “*together*” those who are legitimately married. Marriage, as God designed it, involved one man (the “*male*” side of the union), and one woman (the “*female*” side of the union), Matt. 19:4. One of the purposes of the marriage relationship is that of bringing children into the world, Gen. 1:27-28; I Tim. 5:14, and that the parents rear their children in keeping with divine revelation, Deut. 6:1-6; Psalm 78:5-7; Eph. 6:1-3. As God designed it, it doesn’t “take a village to raise children;” it takes a father and a mother! Conjugal duties to each other are a part of the divine obligation of husbands and wives to each other, I Cor. 7:1-3, whereas sex outside of marriage is called “*fornication,*” from which one is commanded to “*flee,*” I Cor. 6:18. The Hebrew writer summed it up succinctly, saying, “*marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge,*” Heb. 13:4.

The cohabitation of people of the same sex is also condemned, being described as “*an abomination,*” Lev. 18:22; Lev. 20:13. Such conduct in the New Testament is further described as “*shameful,*” and the sexual “*passions*” which some people of the same sex have for each other are described as “*vile,*” and “*against nature,*” Rom. 1:26-27. Interestingly, until 1973, the American Psychiatric Association defined “homosexuality” as a “mental illness” in their Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-11), a guide book that lists different categories of mental disorders and criteria for diagnosing them. In 1973, they removed homosexuality and replaced it with ‘sexual orientation disturbance.’” Since that time, our society has come full circle, so that those who speak out against such conduct are regarded as mentally disturbed, often being called “homophobes” (one of the less offensive descriptions)! And the pendulum keeps swinging further and further in the same direction, to justify “same sex unions” to legalizing “same sex marriage!”

As of Jan. 6, 2015 “gay couples” in Florida are now able to obtain marriage licenses, being granted full legal status to officially be deemed as “married.” If my information is correct,

this permission is now being granted to people in 36 States in the U.S.A. Federal judges have repeatedly gone against the declared will of the people and overturned State-sponsored bans on same sex marriages!

### **But Many Ask “So What!”**

Aside from marriage as viewed from the biblical perspective, and the eternal consequences of defying the revealed will of God, what are some of the consequences of modern man redefining marriage?

Biologically, it is a proven fact that reproduction requires a man and a woman. No person living today was born as a result of a man cohabiting with a man, or a woman cohabiting with a woman. Every person alive today, who loves life, should be thankful that his, or her, parents were not cohabiting with a person of the same sex at the time of conception. That fact alone should cause intelligent people to question the acceptability of same-sex unions.

Emotionally and socially, a child needs a mommy and a daddy. Rutgers University Sociologist David Popenoe stated it this way: *“The burden of social science evidence supports the idea that gender-differentiated parenting is important for human development and that the contribution of fathers to childrearing is unique and irreplaceable.”* He further stated that *“we should disavow the notion that ‘mommies can make good daddies,’ just as we should disavow the popular notion...that ‘daddies can make good mommies.’... The two sexes are different to the core, and each is necessary — culturally and biologically—for the optimal development of a human being.”* Yes, I am well aware that many “mommies” have been forced to rear their children without the aid of a daddy, and many “daddies” have been forced to rear their children without the aid of a mommy (and have done a good job against all odds), but that does not offset the proven fact that **every child needs both** parents. It is also a proven fact that single-parent families (whatever the cause) generally experience an increase of child poverty, an increase of crime, and a decrease of the children’s ability to develop socially.

One of the greatest social problems we have today is that of “absentee fathers.” However, when “marriage” is re-defined so as to make fathers optional, the adverse effects upon the children affected will be too great to even begin to calculate. It is time for many in our society use their brains, instead of allowing themselves to be governed by sinful passions!

But the trend will not stop with same-sex marriages! Already a new term has been advanced; it is called **“throuple,”** which involves a three-person couple! If for the sake of guaranteeing “marriage equality,” we can re-define marriage to involve two people of the same sex, the next step will be that of legalizing polyamorous relationships, better defined as “group marriage.”

Perhaps even worse is **“wedlease!”** One month after the Supreme Court ruled on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), the **Washington Post** introduced the idea of “wedlease.” You see, if you can lease a house, or if you can lease a car, you should be able to lease a spouse. Hence, marriage licenses would be temporary, enabling one to lease a spouse for one year, two years, five years, etc., and when the lease is up, then that “spouse” can go his or her separate ways. Think of the children conceived during the “lease” period, and the confusion that would be generated when the unfortunate victims of those “lease” unions are forced to grow up not knowing just who belongs to whom! Think of what happens to the parties involved when the care, emotions, attention, money, etc. are divided among so many! **“Wedlock”** must not be replaced by **“wedlease!”**

### Conclusion:

This article should not be viewed as reflecting the author's hatred of homosexuals. If I know my own heart, I love my neighbor as myself, Matt. 22:39-40, and my neighbor happens to be anyone to whom I can be a "*neighbor to*," Luke 10:30-37, and the greatest thing I can do for a homosexual, or anyone else, is to share with that person the gospel of Jesus Christ. There were homosexuals at Corinth who were saved, I Cor. 6:9-11, and such can still happen today, for "the gospel is for all," Mark 16:15. Every person, to be saved, must believe in Jesus Christ, repent of his sins, confess faith in Jesus Christ, and be baptized "*for the remission*" of sins, Mark 16:16; Acts 17:30; Matt. 10:32; Acts 2:38, etc. This includes homosexuals; it also includes fornicators, alcoholics, thieves, murderers, or the good moral man who strives to live an upright life. However, as it relates to modern society, and the moral direction of our nation, it is time for God-fearing people to take a stand! In the long ago, David asked, "*if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?*" (Psalm 11:3). Beloved "*the foundations*" of a stable society are being "*destroyed*" right before our eyes. The "*righteous*" must surely stand up and be counted, and **now** is the time!

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—Bobby Witherington