

## Liberty Commentary April 13, 2009

The Iowa Supreme Court sent shock waves through the State on April 3<sup>rd</sup> when it handed down a unanimous decision, ruling that marriage between homosexual couples is now legally permissible in the State of Iowa. Iowa joins only Massachusetts and Connecticut in permitting same-sex marriage.

No doubt this decision will be debated and discussed in the coming months with many different opinions and viewpoints given on the definition of marriage. The question is, who's opinion is the correct opinion, and is there really any authoritative standard by which we can use to define marriage. Is each person free to formulate their own opinions based on their own views of morality that may change from one generation to the next, or is there a higher, God ordained standard that is to be practiced?

What is Gods definition of marriage and does it square with the Iowa Supreme Courts definition of marriage? There are four great institutions that God has erected here on earth to guide man in his walk with God while here on earth. **1) Marriage**-Genesis 2:18-24. Man leaves his father and mother and cleaves unto his wife. **2) Human government**-Genesis 9. A covenant was made between God and Noah. Romans chapter 13, "The powers that be are ordained of God". **3) The nation Israel**-Gen 12. "In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed". **4) The church**-Matt.16:18 Jesus says, "upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

All four of these divine institutions have been under attack since God erected them. The devil has read the Bible and knows Gods plan and program for man. The devil, being Gods arch enemy has set his sights on these institutions on which all his efforts are waged. The devil knows his days are numbered so he has made it his goal to destroy Gods divinely appointed institutions. It

therefore should come as no surprise that the devil attacks the institution of marriage through the redefining of marriage as we have seen in the recent Iowa Supreme Court decision.

We read from Genesis 2:18 where God said, “It is not good for man to be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” God realized that man needed a wife who would help him. God may have those individuals that he would have to be single and not marry because he has a special purpose for them, but as it relates to Genesis chapter two, it is Gods plan for man to have a wife. God took a rib from the side of Adam to create the woman. God did not need to borrow a rib from Adam because he had no other means to create the woman; God had already demonstrated that he could create material from immaterial without any preexisting matter when he created the world. God could create something from nothing, but God wanted to signify and symbolize that the woman was to labor along side her husband and the two of them should labor together in absolute unity side by side. The woman was not created from inferior substance, but from the very same substance that Adam was made of. Eve was “bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh.” The Bible says that after God created the woman from the rib bone of Adam, “God brought her unto the man”. God performed the first marriage in the Garden of Eden between Adam and Eve. God sanctified and blessed the first home and the first family. God brought them together in holy matrimony. God joined them together.

Jesus said in Matthew 19:6, “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”. Jesus is going all the way back to the Garden of Eden to describe and define what a marriage is. We see from the account in Genesis that the institution of marriage is ordained and constituted by God between one man and one woman.

There are four aspects of a God ordained marriage in Genesis chapter two. 1) The man and the woman are to be unified both physically and spiritually. The man and the woman are to leave their mother and father both emotionally and physically to become literally “glued together” as one. This points out the permanency of marriage. It is not an experiment to see if the two are compatible, but it is permanent. They have been glued together by God.

2) We see in Genesis 2:22 that marriage was instituted by God, “and brought her unto the man”. God brought the woman to the man to be joined together.

3) Marriage is to be monogamous between one man and one woman. God only brought Adam one wife. God did not bring Adam a man, but brought him one wife and one wife only.

4) Marriage is to be heterosexual. “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...” (Genesis 1:28). A replenishing of the earth can only take place through heterosexual marriage. There is no indication that God ever ordained marriage between two women or two men. In fact, homosexual marriage would contradict Gods very command to replenish the earth.

So, what is Gods definition of marriage? According to the scriptures Gods definition is one man, one woman, for one lifetime.

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