

In These Days of Open Rebellion – *Gen 1:26-28, 1 Cor 6:9-11, Eph 5:3-7*

Introduction – The attack on the biblical family continues. Totalitarian regimes and Satan know that tearing down the image of God, male and female, and all that God has given in the institution of marriage and family, is the way to destroy a nation and a people and turn them over to a tyrannical and pagan State. Marriage, the marriage bed, procreation, and family, are to be honored as gifts from the Lord (Heb 13:4), and to be stewarded by God’s people in the growth of His kingdom. While these gifts have always been under attack, it is often in very covert ways. But in these days of open rebellion, we live in a generation where what was only spoken of in the dark is now being openly proclaimed and legally protected.

Foundations of Marriage and Sexual Intimacy – In Genesis 1, we learn of God’s absolute sovereignty over everything created and that everything was created by the word of His power. His glorious capstone to His creation work is man, “*Let Us make man in Our own image, according to Our likeness*” (v26). Verse 27 describes the creation of man, male and female, as the work of that image-bearing creation. Male and female are not *accidents* in the providence of God; they are *design-features* in image-bearing. As image-bearers, Man is commanded to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and take dominion over everything. This would be “*according to*” God’s likeness, and as an image-bearer, everything Man did was to be “*good*,” acceptable and holy to God.

In Order to Be Good – Chapter 2 gives us more information. It turns out it was “not good” for Adam to work alone (Gen 2:18). God would give him a “*helper suitable to him*” (2:19). This helper would come from Adam (and not the ground) and be fashioned by God. She would be from Adam but she would not be another Adam. Nor was she only a servant for a very-busy Adam. This is critical to understanding what it is to be made in God’s image. Only after there is the perfect match is the image-bearer declared “*good*,” or well-suited for the purposes God gave mankind for their existence.

Covenantal Relations – The mysteries run deep - but consider. Adam recognizes and rejoices in what God did (2:21-24), and though he breaks out in the first love poem ever written, there is even more going on here. She becomes more than a friend; she becomes his companion. Together, they become the prototype of intimate companionship protected by covenant vows. They become the example of what family, society, and culture will be built upon. What is at the center of this? “*...and they shall become one flesh.*” Marriage is a sexual union between one man and one woman protected by covenant vows of faithfulness to one another made before God and society. Without this, mankind cannot accomplish what God has created man for and commanded him to do.

Therefore, any attempt to redefine the origin and purpose of marriage, sex, procreation, and family, is a direct assault on God. Any attempts to normalize behavior that twists God’s purposes in these areas (be it fornication, no-fault divorce, abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, etc.) are the weapons of that assault. These are great sins, but they are also tragic acts of enslavement and destruction, both to individuals and to societies. In addition, we are to see them as the judgment of God upon a people...

Where Rebellion Leads (Rom 1:18-32) - The wrath of God is being revealed to those who suppress the truth of God and suppress it with unrighteousness (v18). The problem is not that they cannot see this truth which is clearly visible (vv19-20). The two main tenets of this argument are this: They deny God’s existence and they refuse to render thanks to Him (v21). This causes their thoughts to become futile and their hearts to become foolish and darkened (v21).

When for multiple generations we celebrate our “*secular*” culture, refuse to acknowledge God or give thanks to Him, and teach our children to do the same, God gives such a nation over to its idolatry and lusts (v24, 26). Rebelling against the “*natural use*” of marriage (Rom 1:26) is the expected outcome of rebelling against the triune God. This is not simply a physiological issue, but it is that (the parts don’t fit). We have already rebelled against the natural fruit of this use (our holocaust of abortion, now simply a choice to be discarded and parts sold), and it has led to the no-fault divorce clauses, high divorce rates, epidemic use of porn, same-sex “marriage,” and not enough letters in our alphabet to describe the growing LGBTQ+ world. This is not a warning that God will judge us in the future (although He will) for our sexual rebellion. Our sexual rebellion and confusion are the very judgments of God upon us.

When the Word of God Becomes Illegal... (1 Cor 6:9-11) – While these grievous sins, sexual and otherwise, exclude one from the kingdom of God and condemn one to eternal judgment, the Good News is proclaimed to those in Christ. You were washed, set apart and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. Those sins do not have to identify you. Your sexual orientation, your deviant desires, your passions of lusts, they can be mortified, and you can be set free. And to say this in the pulpit in Canada today can now put you in prison for up to five years. To say this as a counselor or a parent is a criminal offense.

In Canada, it is now illegal to persuade others of the harmful “...myth that heterosexuality, cisgender gender identity, and gender expression that conforms to the sex assigned to a person at birth are to be preferred over other sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions” (Bill C-4, which passed through the House and Senate without a single voice of opposition). No one can any longer provide “conversion therapy” which is defined in their law as “a practice, treatment or service designed to change a person’s sexual orientation to heterosexual; change a person’s gender identity to cisgender; change a person’s gender expression so that it conforms to the sex assigned to the person at birth; repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behavior; repress a person’s non-cisgender gender identity; or repress or reduce a person’s gender expression that does not conform to the sex assigned to the person at birth.”

...The Ministers of God’s Church Must Speak – “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge” (Acts 4:19). We have been commanded to go and disciple the nations and teach all that God has commanded (Matt 28:18-20) and we don’t get to pick and choose. Paul said He was innocent of the blood of all men for he had not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26-27). Near the end of his ministry, he charged Timothy to preach whether they wanted to hear or not (2 Tim 4:1-4). On this Lord’s Day, many preachers in the United States are joining with faithful preachers in Canada to say to the government of Canada and to all soft totalitarian governments, “No, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, you may not constrain the preaching of the Gospel.” We will not cease to declare the Good News of the forgiveness of sins through faith in the Son of God Who died to pay for those sins, to set you free, and to reconcile you to your heavenly Father. You must not, and you do not have to remain in your sin and in your shame and in your despair. Turn away from yourself and your sinful desires, and turn in faith to the One who will make you whole. Come and welcome to Jesus Christ.

Not Just Their Repentance, But Our Repentance, Your Repentance (Eph 5:3-7) – You also, Christian, do not have to walk in your sinful habits, and you must repent as well. There is the ongoing daily dying to oneself that is part of the Christian walk (Luke 9:23). God has given you what you need to work out your salvation (Phil 1:6, 2:12-13). Vibrant, forgiven Christians and faithful, fruitful marriages will be used by God to proclaim His gospel, rebuilding, reforming, and reviving a nation under God.

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