

Monday, May 14, 2012

ESSENTIAL CONCEPTS MISSING IN THE DISCUSSION OF GAY "MARRIAGE"

I want to add more thought to my posts below about Gay "Marriage". A Concept that is rarely mentioned on the subject is the purpose for which God instituted Marriage in the first place. After creating the natural world, the Earth in particular, God created "Man" in His Image so "Man" might represent God and be equipped to work with Him in the Natural world's development and care. "Man" was created to live on the earth to function as God's "lieu-tenant" here. But the collective noun, "Man", i.e.- all human beings considered collectively, is both male and female. The Image of God incorporates both genders. Together they are mutually responsible to carry out the Creation or Cultural Mandate. Marriage is the next and key step to that work. Marriage is not an end in itself, let alone simply the loving caring relationship of two people for their personal fulfillment.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Going from the Universal to the particular, "Man" becomes male and female and male and female go on to become husband and wife. God instituted Marriage for heterosexual couples to do the work, in partnership of developing and caring for the Earth, et al. That is the next Concept missing in today's discussion of Gay "Marriage". There is something special, unique, one of a kind, about the union of a man and woman. Fulfillment of the Mandate requires that special union of the two genders. They each share a common humanity, each is a person, but a man and a woman each bring different gifts, abilities and functions to the partnership. They need each other. They fulfill each other. God's intention in Marriage was for a spiritual, mental, emotional, social, as well as physical, union of both sexes. The classic and fundamental text is

Gen 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. We could go on as to other Concepts of the Master (Biblical) Plan for Marriage. One is that Marriage normally includes Family. The Biblical Marriage is a Covenant commitment for a life time ("till death do us part") and Family is inclusive of and extended across generations. The husband and wife are to be fruitful and multiply, both as an expression and preservation of who they are together and as part of their responsibility to care for each other and the Earth. [This is normative. In God's providence, not all couples are able to have children, just as God also calls and gives grace to certain individuals to live a single life. But that is God's choice, not theirs to make]. We celebrate, respect and value all wives, but in God's Master Plan for Marriage, men represent God in a unique way to their wives and children (and Community) and are responsible to teach and pass on the Faith to them. All of these Concepts, and more, must be included in the definition and discussion of Marriage.

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 09:41