

Witnessing to the Joy and Sanctity of Traditional Marriage
A Response to the Gay Community and its Defenders
Bible Study by Rev. Daniel Krueger © March, 2004
LESSON 5 ~ THE BLESSINGS OF TRUE MARRIAGE

WHO ARE WE?

It should be abundantly clear by now that underlying the homosexual life style are lonely and confused hearts seeking to answer to two very fundamental questions:

Who am I?

What's My Purpose?

Sexual identity is not a question that can be isolated from the totality of our being. It is actually part of a larger identity issue, and the total quest for identity is ultimately linked to questions of love and worth.

Homosexuals are unable to form committed and long lasting loving relationships because they are asking others to love a person who is not their real self. There is a natural, God given desire in children to learn who they are from a same gender person. From this person they not only try to shape their own identity through imitation, but they also try to answer the question "do I have any worth?"

In fancy theological terms we call this the need to be justified. As God created us there was no need to seek to justify ourselves, because we automatically knew that in our Father's eyes we were perfect just the way He made us. Then sin entered the world, along with the ideas of shame and guilt.

God's love for us did not change, as evidenced by His sending of Christ to die for the sins of the whole world. What did change, was our perception of ourselves, and also our understanding of how others saw us.

The corruption of mankind is rooted in our lack of trust in God. Rather than seek our identity, our worth, our "justification" in what He has declared us to be, we now seek to justify or establish our identity and worth through our own efforts, or through the affirmations of other sinners. Because of our "original sin" we are born with an inherent lack of trust in God.

In the case of male homosexuals, very early in life they are either rejected by their fathers (emotionally distant, abusive, or physically absent), or are prevented from bonding with their fathers. Sometimes overtly domineering mothers, or distant mothers force the child to abandon the natural course of identification for an artificial identification.

Feminine speech patterns in many male

homosexuals are a clue that this identity switch occurred very early in life. George A. Rekers, Ph.D., a Professor of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, found in studying children with gender role disturbance (often characterized by feminine speech patterns) that:

75% of the most severely disturbed boys and 21% of the less severely disturbed had neither the biological father nor a father substitute living in the home . . . Eighty percent of the boys whose fathers left their family were five years or under at the time of that separation . . . For all the gender disturbed boys, if the biological father or a father substitute were present, he was described in 60% of the cases as being psychologically distant or remote by the other family members"¹

Who am I? Homosexuality may not seem like a conscious choice in the case of many homosexuals, but it does grow out our sinful nature and our need to self-justify. Psalm 51:5 states, "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." Deprived by dysfunctional family relationships, or burdened with the guilt and shame of sexual molestation, homosexuals are prevented from learning who they are from people of their same gender.

The break down of the natural relationships God designed for human families causes confusion as children try to understand their own identity. The sources of this break down can be varied.

A child can be afraid to become what they see in people of their own gender (ie., a girl who sees her mother abused), or feel rejected by their own gender (ie., a girl with distant mother, a boy with distant father). The same gender parent relationship can sometimes be normal, but they yearning for approval from people of the opposite gender (ie., young boy with distant mother, young girl with distant father) may drive children into behaviors they that are not natural to try and seek approval.

Sexual abuse also plays a role in this identity formation. The guilt and shame arising from this abuse causes questions to arise about who we really are, and whether we are worthy of being loved in the way we should be loved. These children are both victims of the sins of others, and victims of our own sinful natures.

¹ George A. Rekers, Ph.D., "Gender Identity Disorder", <http://www.leaderu.com/jhs/rekers.html>

Confusion in identity may not seem like a conscious choice for two reasons. First, because the negative forces driving people into a homosexual life style are often set in motion before puberty and before children have a firm grasp of the meaning of sexual identity. Second, this life style may not seem like conscious choice because apart from the gospel we are slaves to sin. (John 8:34)

The problem with accepting this confusion is that we can not escape the way in which God designed us with out doing injury to our spiritual self and placing ourselves in conflict with God, our designer. Paul writes in Romans 9:19-20: "*Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"*"

HOW ARE WE MADE?

Our true identity is determined by our maker. Any attempt to become something that we are not is destined to leave us empty, and unfulfilled.

Read Genesis 1:26-30

According to verses 26-27, what model was used for the creation of man?

What missions did God give Adam and Eve?

Read Genesis 2:15-25

What do we learn about man's role or purpose from 2:15?

What do we learn about man's identity from 2:18?

What do we learn about woman's identity from verse 18?

What do verses 19 and 20 tell us about the our ability to answer our loneliness outside of God's plan?

Based on verses 21-24 why does the relationship of man and woman alone fulfill the "one flesh" which is marriage?

The creation of woman was in response to man's emptiness or loneliness by himself. God examined all other creatures of the earth to determine if they could satisfy this emptiness, and they could not.

Together man and woman form a unique bond in body and spirit. Out of this unique bond arises children. Children are a unique reflection of the "one flesh" that is man and woman together in marriage.

Read 1 Corinthians 7:3-4

How is the "One Flesh" relationship reflected within marriage?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:7-12

How does the creation/birth cycle reflect the "One Flesh" relationship of marriage?

Read Matthew 19:2-9, 1 Cor 7:10-11

How long is this "one flesh" bond supposed to last?

As we compared homosexual and heterosexual relationships in previous lessons it is clear that a lifelong union of body and spirit is something homosexuals are unable to achieve. God himself tried to satisfy man's needs for loneliness and peace in some other way. God determined that a special act of creation, the making of woman from man, was the only way that man's emptiness could be fully satisfied.

Even in our imperfect world of sin where divorce and promiscuity our rampant, heterosexual unions still satisfy the human spirit in ways that homosexual unions do not. Heterosexual unions still last for 10, 20, and 50 years with the 75% of all those people in those unions remaining faithful to the "one flesh" ideal. By contrast, *The cheating ratio of 'married' [committed] gay males, given enough time, approaches 100%.*²

God designed the heterosexual union to reflect his own relationship to us.

Read Ephesians 5:22-33

What role does man play within the confines of marriage?

What behaviors are men to imitate?

What role does woman play within the confines of marriage?

What behaviors are women to imitate?

² Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen, "After the Ball," (NY: Doubleday, 1989) pp. 304-320.

What great mystery does the relationship of husband and wife imitate?

God designed us to fill these complimentary roles within the confines of marriage. From infancy on our biological programming is designed to prepare us to fulfill these roles.

WE ARE DIFFERENT BY DESIGN!

The brains of men and women are not simply by products of social training. There are gender specific qualities to the human brain that influence how we develop and make us complimentary to each other. Below are some of the differences.

Cerebral Cortex

Men have a thicker right cerebral cortex (three dimension spatial thinking) while women have a thicker left cerebral cortex (verbal and language skills)

Corpus Callosum

The corpus callosum connects the two hemispheres of the brain allowing them to communicate with one another (allowing for more multi-tasking) This area is up to 25% thicker in women. Some of the effects of this can be observed in several stereotypes.

Women can more easily talk about their emotions: Emotional activity is usually located in the right brain of males and verbal skills are located in their left brain. Women's emotional and verbal activities seem to be active in both parts of their brains. It is therefore easier for the brains of women to connect emotional feelings to verbal communication.

Another difference this wider connection in women may influence in the ability of men to focus more intently on individual tasks while women are more able to multitask.

Hypothalamus

By the action of androgens from the prenatal infant, at a critical stage in fetal development (7th week), the hypothalamus of the infant is organized into a male or female pattern. This area of the hypothalamus (the Suprachiasmatic Nucleus) is roughly the same size in men and women, but in males, this nucleus is shaped like a sphere. In females it is more elongated.

In women the difference in shape seems to make this area of the brain act in the familiar monthly cycle all women experience. In the male there is no cyclic activity. This difference exists at

birth. Other differences appear after about four years of age when in males a certain part of the hypothalamus begin to grow larger. Some animal studies (see lesson 3) show that growth of this part of the hypothalamus in males can be stunted by social environment. It is also a smaller portion of this area of the hypothalamus that some researchers have claimed as the source for homosexual identity.

White Matter Versus Gray Matter

Gray matter in the brain stores information, while white matter represents the connections between information. Women seem to have more gray matter (more memory power), while men seem to have more white matter (integrating power and speed of thinking).

Science is just beginning to unravel the mysteries of the brain, but it is abundantly clear that biologically men and women were made to compliment one another even when it comes to how we were designed to think. While we have shown in previous lessons that nurture can influence the development of the brain, it is also true that biologically we are pre-programmed to fulfill distinctly different roles as males and females.

WE ARE UNION OF BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT INTO ONE FLESH!

God has made us one whole person consisting of body, mind, and spirit. What happens to the person whose mind/spirit is placed in conflict with his biology? The result would be someone not at peace, and who could not find peace until that unity of body, mind, and spirit is restored. Such is the life of a homosexual.

Rates of violence, abuse, alcoholism, depression, suicide, together with the inability to form long lasting committed relationships are all consistent patterns within this community. This is not the fault of a society which rejects such individuals, but the result of a person in conflict with who they are and with their designer.

God beautifully designed a "one flesh" unity to answer man's need for loneliness and completeness. Man and woman were designed not as competitors, but as compliments. God himself searched for another being to answer this need that man has by himself, but for Adam "no suitable helper was found." (Gen 2:20) A special act of creation was required to find the perfect compliment for man. Of this special creation Scripture says:

(Gen 1:27 NIV) "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

The image of God is not found in man alone or woman alone, but in the “one flesh” relationship of man and woman together. In this “complimentary” relationship God intended us to experience an earthly reflection of the sacrificial love He has for us, as demonstrated in his Son Jesus Christ.

To search for “marriage” in any other relationship is idolatry. It is to take a man made image and substitute that image for the image of himself that God created.

WITNESSING CONSIDERATIONS

In considering how to witness to others about God’s design for us in marriage there needs to be a recognition that different situations call for different strategies. For our study we will briefly touch up several types of situations.

Foremost it is important to identify if one is witnessing in a adversarial climate or in an inquisitive climate. Keep in mind the words of Jesus:

(Mat 9:11-13 NIV) "When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" {12} On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. {13} But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.""

Within Scripture you seldom see either Jesus or his disciples winning converts among adversaries. Scripture tells us that it is “a broken and contrite heart” that God does not despise (Ps 51:17).

ADVERSARIAL WITNESSING

In an adversarial situation it is important to stress, as Jesus points out, that our mission is not to condemn but to save. We do not condemn homosexuality from a perspective of moral superiority but because we recognize the crying need of homosexuals to hear about God’s love for their real self.

Determine if the Argument Is With Scripture Or With You!

Particularly if your discussions are with people who claim to follow Christ, make sure you are agreed on what the Scriptures saying. In our modern culture there is a great confusion about what the Scriptures say as people allow God’s word to be interpreted for them, rather than researching it themselves. Take out the Bible, look at the passages in question and ask what they mean. Begin by looking at marriage as God created it and

discuss why he created it. Then move on to passages that deal with homosexuality. You never want an argument to revolve around the idea of “that’s your interpretation.”

Show How God’s Word Fits The Earthly Reality

When people aren’t interested in looking at God’s Word, or when people openly challenge its authority, our only other appeal to address the earthly realities of homosexuality. Many people are unaware of the problems that homosexuals deal with, not because of society, but because of the war going on within themselves. Many people are unaware of the devastating relationships homosexuals have endured that have negatively shaped their view of self. Many people are unaware of the homosexuals inability to form lasting relationships with others.

Sometimes the only way to break down an adversarial position is an appeal to logic rather than a direct appeal to scripture.

Particularly in adversarial situations most of the discussion will center on establishing the fact that a life style outside of God’s design is not healthy for body, mind, or spirit. If a certain activity is not identified as a sin, then there is no need to proclaim the gospel of forgiveness.

INQUISITIVE WITNESSING

When talking about this subject in a more inquisitive atmosphere it is especially important to identify the nature of the inquiry. Are you talking with someone who is simply confused about this topic and wants more information? Are you talking to someone who struggles with their own identify, or do they have a close family member or friend going through such struggles?

In such a atmosphere listening an asking questions before speaking is the best way to begin. What one is searching for are the keys to the heart, a way to reach in with the Gospel and heal someone who is wounded, or to equip someone with the necessary tools to bind up the wounds of others. Understanding personal background is key in these discussion.

In these conversations appeals to Scripture may be more useful early on. It will be important to mix Law and Gospel, to confirm that homosexuality is wrong, but to help the person understand the factors which contribute to this lifestyle and how the gospel can help change people.