

Traditional Marriage: One Man and One Woman to the Exclusion of All Others

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Members of our ELCIC, are faced with a double challenge today; namely the Federal Government Bill C38 to legislate away the traditional marriage and our own church NCC Resolution, to water-down or eliminate the scripture based marriage as we presently adhere to and practice through our confessions.

In an attempt to bring some clarification, I conceived the idea of a two-sided hand-out business card to bring some clarification as to what our present beliefs are, using two main headings (one on either side), namely:

1. Marriage—What do the scriptures say?”
(Please study the following scripture references) and
2. Marriage—What is marriage? Answered by Dr. Martin Luther.

FIRST HEADING: (All quotes from the NIV¹) the following references are made:

God institutes:

Genesis 2:18-24: 18. The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” 19. Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” 24. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Jesus confirms:

Matthew 19:4-6: 4. “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ 5. And said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? 6. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

Joseph is directed:

Matthew 1:18-24: 18. This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the

¹ The Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright 1978 by New York International Bible Society, used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Holy Spirit. 21. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” 22. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us.” 24. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

Husbands:

Ephesians 5:25-28: 25. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26. to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27. and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Colossians 3:19: Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

1 Peter 3:7: Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Wives:

Ephesians 5: 21-24: 21. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Parents:

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

And many other references...

SECOND HEADING:

(quoting from *Luther's Small Catechism*² Page 70, Reference 61. What is marriage?)

‘Marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman unto one flesh. Marriage was instituted by God and is entered into by rightful betrothal, or engagement.’

You will note that the scripture verses quoted above supports this. (My comment)

Further, most, if not all Lutheran church constitutions, under “Confession of Faith”, which is unalterable, adhere to the above as part of *Luther's Small Catechism*, as well as the Holy Scriptures as quoted over. (Reading from the ELCIC Constitution)

Certain above verses are underlined for the purpose of showing the relationship of Jesus Christ to believers and his church which comparison is used to demonstrate the ultimate marriage relationship between husband and wife. The blessings of God abound where this is true to life within our church and marriages.

² *Luther's Small Catechism*, Copyright renewed 1971 by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO.

I quote from Lutheran Renewal (USA) that seems to rightly apply to our ELCIC.

³“If we ever needed courage, we need it now. If the Lutheran Church ever needed to stand under the clear and absolute authority of the Word of God, it needs to do so now. We at Lutheran Renewal call on congregations and pastors in the ELCA to speak out without apology or compromise to their denominational leaders concerning what the Church for twenty centuries has believed and is now preparing to discard in one generation. We are not being homophobic. Our fears are much greater than that. We fear the devastation of our society. We fear for the sanctity of marriage. We fear for children who will be raised without a father and a mother in the home. We fear for a church that can no longer bring truth and grace to homosexuals who desperately need it. We fear the discipline of God for despising His Holy Word. And especially we fear (and grieve) for homosexuals who are left imprisoned in a destructive lifestyle and not offered a clear call—and help—to freedom.” This ends the quote.

God never allows a storm without first providing the tools to calm the storm. May His will be done.

³ Lutheran Renewal, August 2000 Bulletin, “What About SAME-SEX Marriages?” by Paul Anderson, <http://www.lutheranrenewal.org/bulletin>