

Marriage Is God's Plan

God has ordained three basic institutions: the church, the government, and the family. The family is the first and foundational institution of human society, composed of individuals related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

According to the Bible, marriage can only be the union of one man and one woman (Gen. 1:27; 2:24). It is the only proper place for sexual relations and is intended to be a life-long relationship. While some in the culture might seek to redefine what constitutes a family, God's perspective is unchanged.

Every civilization in history is built upon the institution of marriage. The welfare of children, the propagation of the faith, the wellbeing of society, and the orderliness of civilization are all dependent upon the stability of marriage according to the divine pattern.

Marriage According to Jesus

Jesus was clear about the definition of marriage: "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 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'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (Matthew 19:4-6). Jesus affirmed God's plan for marriage, thus rejecting all other sexual relationships – including homosexual relationships.

Marriage Is Under Fire

Unfortunately, many in our culture are seeking to redefine marriage, and therefore destroy it altogether. For when the God-given pattern for marriage is undermined, the whole superstructure of society becomes unstable. Alarmed by this growing threat to traditional marriage, a number of states have taken action.

Marriage Is Being Protected in Some States

Since the legalization of same-sex "marriage" in Massachusetts, twenty nine states have voted in favor of a constitutional amendment preserving traditional marriage. Many other states have a Defense of Marriage Act to define marriage as only between one man and one woman, but could be changed by courts or legislators.

Marriage Is About to Be Redefined in Washington State

Washington State law currently defines marriage as only between a man and a woman. However, the Washington State Legislature passed Senate Bill 5688, which will confer all the rights and privileges of marriage upon same-sex partners. Here is an excerpt: "It is the intent of the legislature that for all purposes under state law, state registered domestic partners shall be treated the same as married spouses."

Marriage Needs to Be Protected in Washington State

Residents of Washington State have a unique right that some states do not have, and that is the Referendum – the ability to collect petition signatures for a ballot referendum to overturn legislation passed by our state elected officials. On November 3, vote to "REJECT" SB 5688 on Referendum 71 to protect the time-honored definition of marriage in Washington. This is a temporary fix. A Marriage Protection Amendment to the Washington State Constitution is the best line of defense against these efforts to redefine marriage. However, for now, we need to focus on voting "REJECT" on Referendum 71, and take a stand for marriage!

For more about ongoing, statewide pro-family efforts in Washington: Visit the Family Policy Institute of Washington @ www.FPIW.org

For more on defending faith, family, and freedom in America: Visit the Family Research Council @ www.FRC.org

TAKE ACTION NOW TO PROTECT MARRIAGE

Action Step 1: PRAY: We need to *pray* for God's mercy on a nation that is sliding toward Sodom (See Genesis 18-19).

Action Step 2: PRACTICE: We need to *practice* biblical principles for healthy marriage (See Ephesians 5:22-33).

Action Step 3: PARTICIPATE: We need to *participate* in our “government of the people, by the people, and for the people” as Abraham Lincoln described it (See Matthew 22:21).

- **Register to vote and encourage your friends and family to register.** While it is too late to register for this election, you should still register. Visit www.secstate.wa.gov/elections for details.
- **Try to persuade your family, friends, and acquaintances to vote “Reject” on Referendum 71.** Make phone calls, email your list, and communicate with your social network through Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- **Remember to vote “Reject” on Referendum 71** to protect the time-honored definition of marriage in Washington State on November 3 or take advantage of mail-in ballots.

Action Step 4: PROCLAIM: We need to *proclaim* the promise found in 1 Corinthians 6:9b-11: “Do not be deceived: no sexually immoral people...adulterers...male prostitutes, homosexuals...will inherit God's kingdom. Some of you were like this. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” No matter what the sin, God can forgive and change them. That is Good News!

Marriage: One Man. One Woman. For Life.



“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”

Genesis 2:24

Stand for Marriage

Our Future Depends On It.