

“The Religious Case For Gay Marriage” A Response

- A. A recent article in “Newsweek” magazine (12/15/08) tries to defend “homosexual marriage” by misusing the Scripture to minimize the value of marriage.
1. The magazine cover reads, “The Religious Case For Gay Marriage.”
 2. The article is entitled, “Our Mutual Joy”, & in that article every attempt is made to discredit the true meaning & intent of God’s revelation in regard to marriage.

[We will respond to the bulk of the arguments that are made, but we will do so in all fairness to God’s Word.]

I. EXHIBIT A

“Why should one look to the Bible to define marriage. The Bible says that Abraham had a child by his wife’s servant. Jacob fathered children by four women. And shall we speak of David & Solomon? No sensible modern person wants marriage to look, in its particulars, like what many people practiced in Bible times.”

- A. **The people** who lived in “Bible times”, even those whose names are recorded in the Bible, were no different from people living today.
1. Some, who were faithful to God, disobeyed Him from time to time & suffered the temporal consequences of their sins, & some never obeyed God or even acknowledged His authority over them.
- B. **It is** a great misrepresentation of the Bible to site an action recorded therein & then assume that the action has God’s approval.
1. The Bible is not only a record of inspired teaching & historical information; it also contains the sinful actions of man.
 2. All one needs to do is to look at the consequences of their actions to know that what they did not comply with the law of God.

II. Exhibit B

“Neither the Bible nor Jesus ever explicitly defined marriage as between one man & one woman.”

Matt 19:4-6 (Gen 2:24) – Have you not read that he who made them at the beginning made them male & female, & said, ‘For this reason **a man shall leave his father & mother & be joined to his wife**, & the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

A. That argument was not hard to overturn.

1. Newsweek has such a great reputation of reporting factual news items that it can even make blatantly false statements believable.
2. Because most people won’t challenge what they read in a magazine like Newsweek, nor will they attempt to research the issue for themselves.
3. When God sent His only begotten Son into the world to be born of a virgin, He sent Jesus to Mary & Joseph, & not to Mary & Josephine.

III. Exhibit C

“Jesus had a low view of marriage & expressed a lack of interest in it. In fact, he, himself was unmarried, & actually taught people to leave their families to follow him, even going so far as to teach that there will be no marriage in Heaven.”

Luke 14:26 – *If anyone comes to Me & does not hate his father & mother, wife & children, brothers & sisters, yes, & his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*

Matt 19:29 – And **everyone who has left** houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or **wife** or children or lands, **for My name’s sake**, shall receive a hundredfold, & inherit eternal life. **22:30** – *in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage*, but are like angels of God in heaven.

A. The fact that Jesus taught that our bond to Him should be greater than to our families does not minimize family, but rather exalts God.

1. Most people would acknowledge that some things are more important than “family ties.”
 - a. *Justice*: would you harbor a family member who was a criminal? By calling the police you would not be minimizing the family but exalting the civil laws ordained by God.

IV. Exhibit D

“Paul didn’t like marriage any better than Jesus. In fact, Paul taught people to be celibate & to use marriage only as a second-best alternative.”

1 Cor 7:1, 7-9 – Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: ***it is good for a man not to touch a woman... 7 For I wish that all men were even as I myself.*** But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner & another in that. **8** But I say to the unmarried & to the widows: ***It is good for them if they remain even as I am;*** **9** but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

26 I suppose therefore that ***this is good because of the present distress*** — that it is good for a man to remain as he is

A. Paul’s advice to remain unmarried was based on special circumstances (7:26).

1. You can misrepresent the Bible to teach anything you want it to teach if you take passages out of their context.
2. Paul did not emphasize celibacy over marriage in this chapter.

3. He simply stated that it may be easier to be unmarried than to be married during times of intense persecution.
4. He was discussing the difference between what was good & what was best at that time.

1 Cor 7:2-5 – Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, & let each woman have her own husband. **3** Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, & likewise also the wife to her husband. **4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. **5** Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting & prayer; & come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

7:36 – But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, if she is past the flower of youth, & thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry.

And as to why Paul & Jesus did not marry, consider these verses:

7:32-35 – But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord — how he may please the Lord. **33** But he who is married cares about the things of the world — how he may please his wife. **34** There is a difference between a wife & a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body & in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world — how she may please her husband. **35** And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, & that you may serve the Lord without distraction.

V. Exhibit E

“Paul never spoke a word against homosexuality. Rather he spoke against violent & promiscuous homosexuality. Furthermore, the extent of David & Jonathan’s relationship in the Old Testament is only limited by our imagination.”

A. **This** is a blatant case of eisegesis (reading into the text a meaning that was not intended by the writer).

1. Here is what Paul actually said about homosexuality.

Rom 1:26-27 – For this reason (idolatry) **God gave them up to vile passions**. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, & receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

1 **Cor 6:9** – Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **homosexuals**, nor **sodomites**,

1 **Tim 1:9-10** – knowing this: that **the law is not made** for a righteous person, but **for** the lawless & insubordinate, for the ungodly & for sinners, for the unholy & profane, for murderers of fathers & murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 for fornicators, for **sodomites**, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, & if there is any other thing that is **contrary to sound doctrine**,

B. **What** about the relationship between David & Jonathan, was it more than a friendship (2 Sam 1:26)?

1. An Episcopal priest by the name of Robert Williams, a practicing homosexual, wrote a book entitled, “Just As I AM: A Practical Guide to Being Out, Proud, & Christian.”
2. In reference to the relationships between David & Jonathan (Ruth & Naomi), he stated that in order to see homosexuality in these relationships you have to read the Scriptures with “Queer colored glasses.”
3. In other words, rather than allowing the Word of God to shape your beliefs, you allow your beliefs to shape the meaning of the Bible.

VI. Exhibit F

“Jesus reached out to everybody, especially those on the margins of society. If he were here today, he would reach out to the homosexual community.”

A. **The** premise is true, but the conclusion the writer wants us to reach, that Jesus condoned homosexuality, is not true.

1. Yes, Jesus would “reach out to the homosexual community” if he were here today, & so should & does his church.
2. However, there is one word that we must not overlook in this discussion: “repentance.”
3. “Reaching out to” homosexuals, or to any other person(s) practicing sin, does not mean endorsement of their sins.

John 8:10 – When Jesus had raised Himself up & saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; **go & sin no more.**”

Acts 17:30-31 – Truly, these times of ignorance **God** overlooked, but **now commands all men everywhere to repent**, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

CLOSING

A. **Many** in our all-inclusive, pluralistic society are attempting to eradicate the concept of sin by legalizing it.

1. Once it becomes legal, then it will become normal.
2. But God would have us to know the difference between good & evil, & also the reason we must choose the good over the evil.

Isa 8:20 – To the law & to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Isa 5:20 – Woe to those who call evil good, & good evil; who put darkness for light, & light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, & sweet for bitter!

Rev 21:8 – But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, & all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire & brimstone, which is the second death.
