

MARRIAGE MATTERS

Sun 27 Aug - What does the bible say about marriage and
homosexuality?

Sun 3 Sept—Why every Christian must vote 'no'

Sun 10 Sept—Truly loving others with the truth of God's love

27 August 2017

Passage: Genesis 2:15-25; Romans 1:18-32

Introduction

What does God say about marriage?

Genesis 2 – the first marriage service

Genesis 1-2 - What is God's purpose for marriage?

Matthew 19 - What does Jesus say about marriage?

Ephesians 5 – How does marriage point to the gospel?

Revelation 19 – the ultimate marriage

What are the implications of same-sex marriage?

What does God say about homosexuality?

Leviticus 18, 20 – is it still relevant?

Romans 1 – suppressing the truth about God -> God gave them over

1 Corinthians 6 – what is the greatest need of those who act on their same-sex attraction?

What are the implications of same-sex marriage?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION
“What does the Bible say about marriage and homosexuality?”

Why do you think the thought of changing the definition of marriage is such an emotional issue (for both advocates and defenders)?

Read Genesis 1:26-28

What is God’s intention for humanity?

Why is it important that God created them male and female?

What does this teach us about God’s design for the raising of children?

Read Genesis 2:15-25

The man needed a helper to fulfil God’s purpose. So in v22 God brings the woman to the man, and in v24-25 we see the first marriage ceremony. Marriage is a permanent, exclusive, heterosexual union. What happens if one of those components of marriage is taken away or changed?

Is God’s plan for marriage only good for Christians, or for the whole of society? Why?

In Matthew 19 the Pharisees come to Jesus with a question about the definition of marriage.

In v4-6 Jesus responds by using Genesis 2 to affirm marriage as we see it at creation. What does Jesus say is the basis for marriage (hint: what leads to the ‘therefore’ in v5)?

How would you respond to someone who argues that Jesus doesn’t say anything about same-sex marriage?

Read Romans 1:18-32

What exchanges have taken place that demonstrate how humanity has suppressed the truth about God?

“God gave them up” is an indication of God’s judgement on people. How does homosexuality fit into this?

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Paul lists homosexuality amongst a list of people who will not enter the kingdom of God. Then he also speaks of another great exchange in which God gave over his Son. Are people who are same-sex attracted worse sinners than anybody else? Why / Why Not? What is their greatest need?

In what ways can we be supportive of people who are same-sex attracted?

What is your definition of marriage? Why do you hold a view such as this?

MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION
Topic: Why Every Christian Must Vote 'No'

1. How do you think God decided what commands he would give his people?

Read Deuteronomy 4:5-8.

2. What is it that every culture and people should be able to recognize about Israel's law?
3. When they don't, why do you think they don't?

Read Psalm 19:7-11.

4. What are the different ways King David describes the law?
5. Why does he seem to think so highly of it?

Read Proverbs 8.

6. What do we learn about Wisdom from vv.1-11? Who is wisdom for?
7. In vv.12-21, what are the benefits for kings and rulers if they use wisdom? What are the benefits of wisdom for "regular folk"?
8. In vv.22-36, who worked with God and helped God in creating the world? What do you think that means?
9. Re-read vv.34-36. What difference does wisdom make to a society?
10. From the previous two passages, where can wisdom be found?
11. From all these passages, how now do you think God decided what commands he would give his people?
12. If God's commands are good and perfect and wise and if God created the world in light of wisdom, then are God's commands best for just Christians or all people?
13. Some will say, however, that we have no right to tell others what to do. How do Western democracies work? Does any one of us have the ability to determine what will happen?

The postal survey is going to ask us what we think is best for the nation. We each have a voice but it is the collection of voices that will determine the outcome. The question is: will our voice be informed by Western liberal views of what is best, or God's view about what is best?

MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
SERMON OUTLINE –10 September 2017
Truly loving others with the truth of God's love

MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION

Truly loving others with the truth of God's love

Thinking about the world

1. We recently looked at Jesus' words in Revelation to the church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-12). We saw that Jesus' condemns loving the truth and yet failing to love others. Why is this important to remember in the context of the same sex marriage debate?
2. Equally, it's possible to so 'love' others that we affirm everything. How is the gospel of Jesus Christ God's 'No' to us at the same time that it's his 'Yes' to us?
3. Which of the two errors above do you think you are more personally inclined towards? Would you say the same about our church?
4. Holding the truth will not make us popular with the world (John 15:18-19). How can we express our solidarity with other Christians on this issue? May we still do this even when dismayed by the speech of other Christians?
5. If same-sex marriage is legislated in Australia, what opportunities does that present us with in terms of being gracious & showing our trust in God?

Thinking about the church

6. What does it mean to show grace and love to someone who shares with you that they are struggling with a particular sin?
7. How does the gospel address feelings of guilt and shame? How would you describe God's love for us (Rom 4:25; 5:8-10; Eph 3:14-19)?
8. How do passage like 1 Corinthians 6:11 and Rom 8:23 help someone who is struggling with sin?
9. Church is a community of brothers and sisters in Christ. We belong to each other and are God's gift to help one another in the Christian life. How willing are you to share your difficulties as a Christian with others? Read 1 John 1:7 - How could we do better be a community of love, honesty and safety?
10. Jesus Christ was described as 'the friend of sinners' (Mat 11:19). How can we ensure that our church reflects the same attitude that Jesus showed to the world?