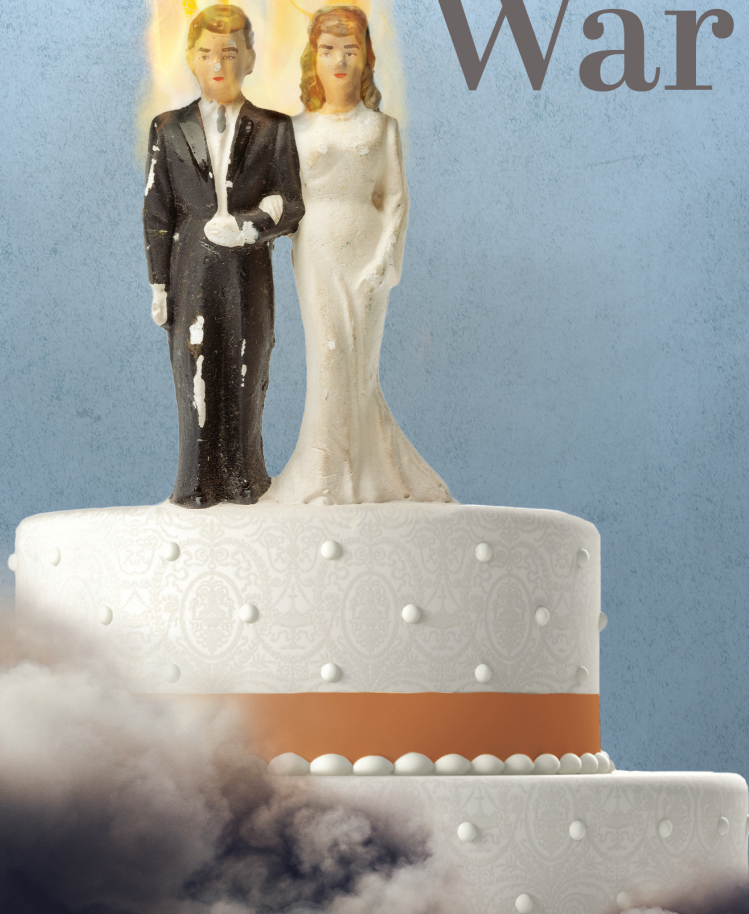


A Comprehensive Guide to

# The Gender & Marriage War



General Editors

Bodie Hodge, Ken Ham & Avery Foley

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The Gender & Marriage War

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# Foreword

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The New Testament calls believers to live the Christian life in the midst of a massive spiritual war being waged around them. The war is real and pervasive, touching every personal, spiritual, theological, social, educational, political, and cultural context in which God has called believers to live out their faith in accordance with Scripture, authentically and attractively.

A primary front under attack in this war is the fierce battle over gender and marriage. While this battle is being fought in public and cultural venues around us, it seems like it will be won or lost in the hearts and minds of those who claim to be followers of Christ—but it is really Jesus who ultimately wins.

And this war is personal—it is being fought in the lives of those nearest and dearest to us, our churches, our friends, and our own families. Adding even more confusion is the surprising reality that some leading the attack against the biblical views of gender and marriage identify as Christian leaders who claim the biblical context, when properly understood, sides against the traditional orthodox views of gender, human sexuality, and marriage.

Our all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving God has not been silent on these matters. Just as his Word brought the world and all that is into existence, his Word orders, arranges, sustains, and restores every aspect of that creation—including our gender, our sexuality, and our marriages. The Bible is that gracious, inspired, infallible, and inerrant revelation. Because it is his Word, it is reliable, trustworthy, authoritative, and sufficient. We would be wise to shape our lives by its teaching and live according to its expectations and demands.

Living faithfully in the midst of this war requires every believer to come to grips with the Scriptures as sacred texts to be revered or just good advice to be considered. Believers must also decide if the Scriptures are authoritative reve-

lation for everyone, in every age, and in every culture. At the end of the day, any real answers to questions about gender, human sexuality, and marriage must begin with what God has said and revealed in his Word.

Conversation on these topics is important, relevant, and timely. In the cacophony of words being spoken and written on gender, human sexuality, and marriage, there is need for a bold, clear, and unashamed reminder that God has spoken to these matters in words that are authoritative, clear, and good for his creation.

Because so much of my life has been invested in worldview-shaping for Christian young people through Christian education at the university level, I could not be more grateful to Ken Ham and Bodie Hodge for bringing us into a conversation with solid, careful, humble Christian scholars committed to using their God-given gifts to help us understand what God has said on these matters. As we strive to remain faithful to the portions of God's truth currently under attack, we are grateful for those who are on the front lines of the battle defending the truth and insisting on the authority of God's Word. The contributors to *The Gender & Marriage War* are voices that desperately need to be heard. Please read their words, grasp their message, and savor our God!

*Dr. Sam Horn*



# Preface

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## Who Is This Book Written For?

This book is primarily designed for Christians to help them understand the issues. Others, however, may read this book. I humbly ask that they read the next section of this preface before continuing with the rest. Our hope is that Christians will refrain from compromising God's Word on the issues of sexuality in our culture that are stemming from a humanistic worldview.

With sexual confusion—whether homosexual behavior, gender skepticism, or other forms of sexual immorality—surrounding the church and infiltrating her, as well, Christians need to be on guard to understand the issues and have answers to questions and attacks on the clear teaching of Scripture. Yielding to sin makes the church powerless in her witness, and we, as the church, need to pull the planks of hypocrisy and compromise from our own eyes before dealing with the speck of sawdust in the culture's eye (e.g., Luke 6:41–42). In other words, the church needs to purify herself from sexual sin to be a good witness to the world about their sexual sin.

Although the Bible is serious about the eternal judgment of sin—including all the various forms of sexual immorality, not just LGBTQ+ ones—if we repent, love and grace is extended through the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Christians have personal knowledge of Christ's love and ability to free us from being slaves to sexual (or any) sin in the grace of God.

The contributors of this book want everyone reading to realize that this book condemns sin because our holy and just God cannot tolerate sin. This is why we need to preach repentance and the need for Christ. Our desire is to humbly warn the church and help her remember and uphold the truth about God's benevolent plan for marriage and sexuality—as one fallible human to another. It would be unloving for us not to tell the truth of the problem and the solution, even though our culture seems to want that truth silenced.

## To the Unbeliever Reading This Book

Although this book is written to Christians, and even those who disagree with us, if you do not believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior and the Son of God, we hope the following will help you understand the context of the rest of the book should you be interested in reading it. At the onset, this debate is a worldview issue. As Christians, we look at the world considering what God's Word says.

But we understand that many people reading this may not share that worldview. Many people, perhaps you, have been ingrained in a secular worldview. It is the primary worldview that is taught in the secular media, state schools, and so on. That worldview teaches that man is the measure of all matters and the religion of secular humanism (and its various forms like atheism, agnosticism, naturalism, etc.) is the framework to look at all things—including sex. But we are going to challenge that religion in this book. But we want to do it in a bold and loving way.

We want people who are enslaved to sexual sin to realize that we love and care for you (we love our neighbors) and want to see you come to repentance of that sin. God defines what is sin, and the Bible explains how mankind became sinners in the first place. God also did the work to set us free from sin—more on that later.

We write these things (sometimes very boldly, but it is still said with kindness) because we care, and we want unbelievers to know the truth. So many in our culture would rather keep you blinded and kept in sin. But we are not afraid to speak the truth.

We want you to be free, and we know that sexual sin (or any sin for that matter) is a burden. Many Christians can relate as they have been freed by Jesus Christ when they repented and believed in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection to cover their sins. I invite you to repent and receive Christ and start living a new life.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. (Colossians 3:9-11)

### Why Is There Good and Evil?

The God of the Bible, as the only source of good, defines what is good and evil. No other system—humanism or even any other theistic religion—provides an ultimate reason for good and evil. If not for the biblical God, there would be no such thing as good and evil, as they would be based merely on each person's arbitrary opinions, which is ultimately meaningless. God is good and the standard of what is good. The concept of sin or wrongdoing comes from God defining what is right and wrong.

So why didn't God just make a perfectly good world without sin to begin with, you might ask? He did. The good God of the Bible made a perfectly good world—this was not a problem for an all-powerful God.

God made the first two people, Adam and Eve, in his image. All people are thus made in God's image as descendants of Adam and Eve. So you have value—an eternal value based on our eternal Creator. And only man can converse with God (through prayer and Bible reading) and have certain abilities similar to God. We can reason, accumulate knowledge, and recognize truth. God also gave us dominion over his world. And there was no sin, death, and suffering originally.

*But then it happened.* In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve rebelled against God and had to endure the consequences of that sin. God cursed the ground and the animals and sentenced man to death. The entire dominion of man fell into sin, suffering, destruction, and disease. This included the entire human race, yet to be born—we all fell into sin as a result of our ancestors Adam and Eve sinning.

*This is why we need the new heavens and new earth*—this one is cursed and broken. If you look around, you can see signs of a broken world—full of death, disease, and suffering. In part, this world is now a taste of what life is like without God's hand of blessing on it to uphold it perfectly.

### Who Can Return Everything to Good?

This problem of evil and sin is why we all need a Savior—Jesus Christ—to save us from sin and death. Because we all sin, we all deserve to die, since death is the punishment for rebellion against a holy God who gave us life.<sup>1</sup> Because God loved us, Jesus Christ, who is the eternal, uncreated (or begotten) Son of God, became flesh and died the death we deserved on the cross.

Jesus, being the infinite Son of God, took the infinite punishment we deserve from the infinite God the Father.<sup>2</sup> This was enough to satisfy God's justice and wrath upon sin once for all. In Jesus' death, we find that punishment for all sin atoned for. Only Jesus had the power to lay down his life and take it up again.

This is the model for man to have eternal life with God: repenting and receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Then Christ's righteousness is transferred or imputed to us, so on the day of judgment by God, we are seen as spotless and can enter into a new heaven and new earth for all eternity, enjoying God's goodness and blessing forever.

Christians are commanded to preach this good news of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection to all the world. We are to disciple people and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the three persons of the one biblical God. As Christians, we are also commanded to tell people to repent or change their ways. It doesn't make sense to ask Jesus to pay for your sins and then intentionally keep sinning (e.g., Hebrews 10:26; 1 John 3:9). Instead, we show our thankfulness to God by obeying him (1 John 5:3) and honoring him as part of his family.

This framework is vastly different from the secular framework that is being imposed on people in the Western world ever since Christianity was thrown out of classrooms and public institutions and replaced with the religion of secular humanism.



## No True Unbelief

Most “unbelievers” today do believe something ultimately, as they have been influenced by the secular forms of humanism (e.g., atheism, agnosticism, nonreligious, naturalism, materialism, etc.). In that worldview, everything came from nothing in a big bang or infinite regression universe.

Then after billions of years of matter interacting, life accidentally formed into some single-celled proto-organism that progressively evolved into everything we have today. There is no Creator God or right and wrong in this system, and the only thing that really matters is survival—albeit for a short time—and then in the future all life will be extinguished and nothing mattered.

Christianity and humanism are the two primary frameworks to look at pretty much everything,<sup>3</sup> but this book focuses on sexual activity. Either God determines what is right and wrong regarding sexuality, or there is no such thing as right and wrong and anything goes. God created male and female and defined marriage as a man and a woman (Genesis 1:27, 2:24). And God gave a purpose to this complementary relationship that requires one of both sexes (Ephesians 5).

But if there is no God, then marriage can be anything . . . or nothing, and male and female can be anything . . . or nothing. In fact, words, meanings, and knowledge can be anything . . . or nothing, too. And this brings us to the debate in the book—the gender and marriage war.

## A Reminder

Unbelievers, please allow that Christians are human, thus imperfect. I’ve met and even lived with many unbelievers in years past who laid blame on Christians for not living what they preached. This was often used as justification to keep ignoring Christ and living sinfully. But the failure of a Christian’s walk is not an excuse to keep sinning. Christ was perfect.

The issue is and always has been between each individual and God. Recall that Christians are not sinless from the moment they get saved—but they are forgiven. Christians do not have a license to sin but should refrain from sin because

we love God, are thankful, and want to obey him. Christians often need to be corrected and are compelled to continually grow in their Christian living and their goal of becoming like Christ, who was sinless.

## A Reminder for Christians

Brothers and sisters, this is not a book to be used to hit anyone over the head. But it should be helpful to affirm that remaining in what God calls sin is rebellion and that God is just and will exercise judgment just as he has promised. But God is also a patient God, wanting people to come to repentance. It should humble us that he has already been patient with us.

We need to keep in mind that we were all unbelievers trapped in sin in our past. We, too, needed to repent of our sin, seek Jesus’ forgiveness, and learn to live a new lifestyle of trying to flee from sin instead of embracing it. We need to be sure we do not succumb to sin, and if we do, we need to repent quickly and turn from that sin just like anyone else. Only then can we effectively share with others how to be free from slavery to our sinful impulses and live a fulfilling, purposeful life in gratitude and service to our Savior.

*Bodie Hodge, Answers in Genesis speaker and author*



# Introduction

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But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:28)

God defines gender, marriage, and what is sinful in the Bible, beginning in Genesis 1 and 2. He is the ultimate authority on these matters. God created, upholds, and sustains all things. God knows all things and has all power. He will judge man on all matters, including lust, sexual immorality, and the like when judgment day comes.

By what authority can anyone object to God's statements about gender, marriage, and sin? Those that do must appeal to lesser authorities—a human authority. This is a faulty appeal to authority fallacy. When man's ideas are elevated to supersede God's authority, this is the religion of humanism in its most basic sense. Isaiah 2:22 says,

Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?

The secular forms of humanism are dominating our Western culture. Sexual humanism, one subset of secular humanism, has exploded in our culture since the 1960s. The fruit of this religion yields warped views of marriage, sex, gender, babies, and many other things and leads to sinful lifestyles in opposition to God's design. Sadly, children at younger ages are being exposed to secular sexuality through schools, media, peers, libraries, and even advertisements. If Christians don't start teaching children what is right and wrong sexually from the Bible, then the world is happy to teach them the wrong view actively.

In fact, your children may already know more than you think! Consider that children's TV shows—like *My Little Pony*, PBS's *Arthur* and *Sesame Street*, Disney's *Andi Mack* and *Doc McStuffins*, and many others—have homosexuality, gender issues, and homosexual “marriage” in their programming. It is sad that we have to dive into such subjects in this book—and caution is given to parents about the use of this book with their chil-

dren because of the topics involved—but kids as early as preschool are being indoctrinated to believe aspects of the religion of sexual humanism.

Although sexual humanism is nearly as old as sin, the origin of the modern sexual humanism movement has its roots in secular humanism, naturalism, evolutionism, and atheism. Nonetheless, this greater movement goes back to the late 1700s and early 1800s, when people began giving up the Bible as the authority and appealing to man as the authority. This slow transition saw the removal of God and his Word from education, law, family, and society at large. And to replace God and his Word, man's opinions became the supreme measure of all things.

We are currently at a breaking point to where sexual humanism is even rampant in the church. Generations of church children have been educated by witting and unwitting sexual humanists in our public education system, secular media, and secular museums. As the church youth grow and become leaders in their local churches, they let more and more secularism slide from one generation to the next when it is not addressed.

Now laws are being made to impose secular sexual humanism on Christians, forcing them to adopt this religion in their schools, businesses, and ministries (e.g., paying for abortions, forcing them to provide photography, entertainment, catering, or a location for homosexual “weddings,” and so on). Many Christian leaders are powerless to stand against this religion, as many have compromised with this religion themselves.

Consider these stats:

1. 70% of Christian youth pastors report that they have had at least one teen come to them for help in dealing with pornography in the past 12 months.<sup>5</sup>
2. 68% of churchgoing men and over 50% of pastors view porn on a regular basis. Of young Christian adults 18–24 years old, 76% actively search for porn.<sup>6</sup>

3. 57% of pastors say porn addiction is the most damaging issue in their congregation. And 69% say porn has adversely impacted the church.<sup>7</sup>
4. 70% of women who get abortions identify as Christians, and 40% of women who have had an abortion were frequent churchgoers at the time they had their abortion.<sup>8</sup>
5. 54% of US Christians say homosexuality should be accepted by society.<sup>9</sup>

It's clear that even the church is actively engaged in sexual rebellion against God, and it's time for the church to come clean, repent, and battle against this false religion.

For instance, when someone tries to *add* to marriage by including homosexual relationships or polyamory (multiple people in a union) as marriage, this is an attack on biblical marriage. When people try to *subtract from* marriage (e.g., cheating, "sharing" your spouse, no-fault divorce, engaging in pornography, etc.), it is an attack on marriage. When people *redefine* marriage for whatever they want it to be, this is an attack on marriage. And this is a direct attack on God and his Word, which defines marriage as a man and a woman (e.g., Genesis 1-2; Matthew 19:4-5; Mark 10:6).

These attacks on marriage show that some in our culture are indeed anti-marriage. There is

biblical marriage, and there is everything else (marriage dysphoria), which is wrapped up in sexual humanism.

When someone tries to *add* to gender via suggesting there are more than two genders, this is an attack on gender. When people try to *subtract from* gender (i.e., gender is fluid and not real), it is an attack on gender. When people *redefine* gender for whatever they want it to be, this is an attack on gender. And this is a direct attack on God and his Word, which defines gender as male and female (e.g., Genesis 1-2; Matthew 19:4-5; Mark 10:6).

These attacks on gender show that some in our culture are indeed anti-gender. There is biblical gender, which is biological gender, and there is everything else (gender dysphoria), which is wrapped up in sexual humanism.

Marriage, gender, and the very definition of sin are all under attack in our Western culture. It's time to get back to God's Word and let God be the authority in all matters for the sake of our families, our churches, and our culture. As believers, we need not only decry these perversions of God's beautiful plan for sexuality and marriage but promote a proper view, starting in the church and with our young people, and pray for the Lord to work through us to start a reversal of these devastating trends in our culture.

*Bodie Hodge*

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1. God is life, so as sin separates us from God, unrepentant sin also separates us from life.
  2. The biblical God is one God, with three persons of that one true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is not contradictory, as it is not "three gods" and "one God" at the same time and relationship. It is one God and *three persons* of that one God at the same time and relationship.
  3. Other religious systems, such as Islam or Mormonism, are still ultimately humanistic religions, with the ultimate authority being the word of man rather than the Word of God. See my World Religions and Cults book series for a full explanation about how other religions' worldviews compare to a biblical worldview.
  4. Leanne Italie, "LGBTQ representation in children's TV is growing: 'We're talking about the love of a family,'" USA Today, July 31, 2019, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/parenting/2019/07/31/lbtq-representation-growing-childrens-television/1875892001>.
  5. Luke Gibbons, "15 Mind-Blowing Statistics About Pornography and the Church," ConquerSeries.com, accessed June 3, 2019, <https://conquerseries.com/15-mind-blowing-statistics-about-pornography-and-the-church>.
  6. Ibid.
  7. Ibid.
  8. Samuel Smith, "70% of Women Who Get Abortions Identify as Christians, Survey Finds," Christian Post, November 25, 2015, <https://www.christianpost.com/news/70-of-women-who-get-abortions-identify-as-christians-survey-finds.html>.
  9. Caryle Murchy, "Most US Christian groups grow more accepting of homosexuality," Pew Research Center, December 18, 2015, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/12/18/most-u-s-christian-groups-grow-more-accepting-of-homosexuality>.







# *Biblical Understanding*





# Cultural Decline

Reflection of Church Compromise—Romans 1

KEN HAM & AVERY FOLEY

In a matter of a few short years, the redefinition of gender and gay “marriage” has become one of the defining issues of our current time. The powerful LGBT lobby now seemingly controls governments, corporations, the media, entertainment, and public schools and colleges.

It’s a war that’s been fought fast and furious and with astounding success—a blitzkrieg if you will. And there’s no sign it will be slowing down until no resistance remains and all manner of sexual deviancies are celebrated by all.

Transgenderism and homosexual “marriage” are just two multi-faceted issues out of many (e.g., abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, racism, violence, etc.) that clearly display the cultural decline of America. As former President Barack Obama once famously stated,

Whatever we once were, we’re no longer a Christian nation; we are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, a Buddhist nation, a Hindu nation, and a nation of unbelievers.<sup>10</sup>

In the past, God and his Word were respected, and Christian thinking permeated the nation—not so anymore. There has been a dramatic shift that has fundamentally changed our nation—to the religion of humanism (i.e., man defines what is right).

We now live in a time when God’s Word is openly mocked and ignored. People no longer think according to God’s Word. Instead, our culture is like Israel in the time of the judges: “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25).

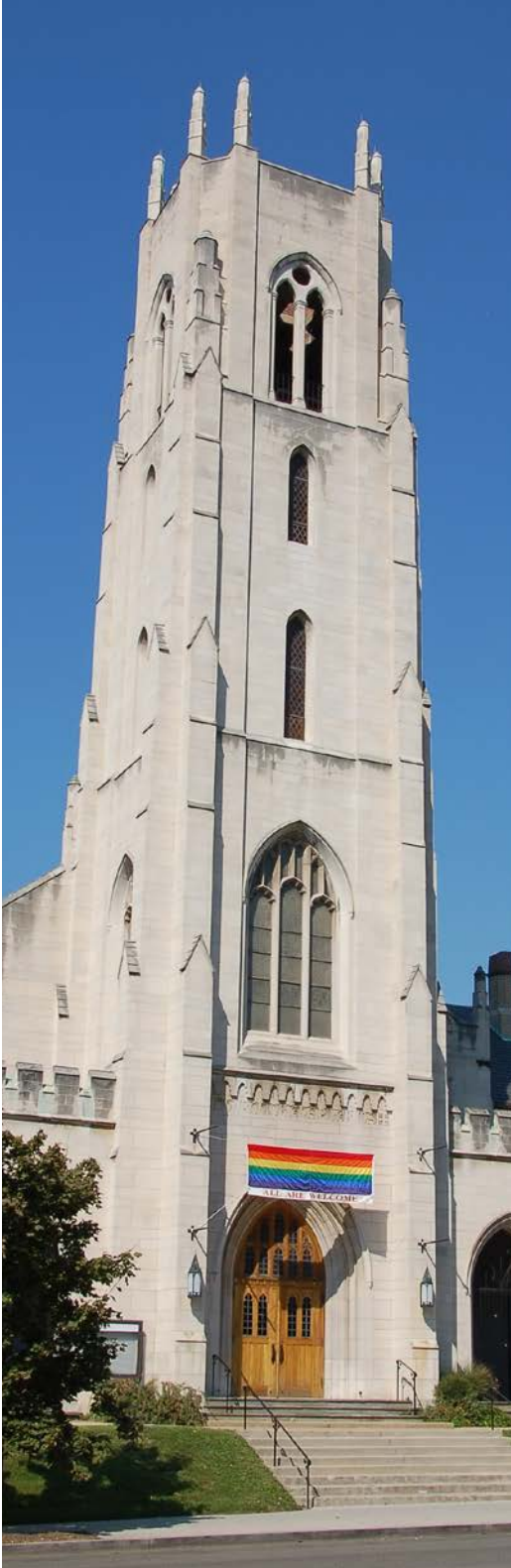
The change from a worldview that viewed marriage as a special union between a man and a woman, as reflected in the Bible, has been signif-

icant. Our culture now demanding that everyone redefine marriage as a relationship between any two (or sometimes more) individuals really sums up the change the former leader of the US is referring to. It is really a change from building one’s thinking on the Bible beginning in Genesis (where we learn about the origin of marriage when God made the first male and female) to a worldview in which mankind can determine new definitions of marriage at any given moment.

In essence, this change reflects a shift between the world’s two opposing religions. Ultimately there are only two religions—one starts with God’s Word, and the other starts with man’s word (humanism, in its broadest sense). America—and the whole Western world—once built its worldview predominantly on the Bible. Now a shift has occurred as the West’s worldview is being built on man’s word. This change is reflected in a shift from Christianity’s absolutes to the relative morality of human opinions.

Sadly, this foundational change is affecting hearts and minds in regard to eternal matters. Fundamentally, the secularists have captured the hearts and minds of generations of kids (for example, two-thirds of young people from church homes will leave the church by the time they reach college age). They have secularized their thinking by changing their starting point from God’s Word to man’s word—thus changing their worldview. After generations of such change, we now see the effect on the changing worldview of the whole culture.

The primary way this change has occurred is through the secular education system, museums, and media, which teach that evolution over millions of years is fact, causing many young people to doubt and disbelieve the Scriptures. Once that door opens and these young people grow to



become leaders in the church, we see a mixture of secular humanism and Christianity that begins a downward spiral. Much of the church aided this change by endorsing millions of years and evolutionary ideas while trying to instill a Christian worldview in other areas (such as Christian morality, marriage as one man and one woman, and abortion as murder).

To reiterate, “Whatever we once were, we are no longer!” These words really mean that America, for example, as a nation no longer builds its thinking on God’s Word, thinking that man can determine truth for himself. America is shifting its religion—from Christianity to a man-centered religion where anything goes. This spiritual disaster is now reflected in this nation’s moral disaster.

The cultural decline we’re seeing in America has its roots in church compromise. Instead of standing boldly on the authority of God’s Word in all areas, including history and science, the church caved to the pressures and teaching of the secular world. This opened the door of compromise and doubt. After all, if God’s Word can’t be trusted in Genesis (which provides the foundation for all of our major Christian doctrines), why should we trust what it says elsewhere? The erosion began when the church rejected God’s Word as the authority in all areas.

The church tried to maintain moral authority, but if God’s Word, where we get our morality from, isn’t true, why should we believe its morality? If God didn’t really create a man and a woman and ordain the institution of marriage, why should marriage be between one man and one woman? Does marriage even exist? If God didn’t really create us male and female, why can’t gender just be whatever we feel like it should be at any given moment? If we’re not really created in God’s image, why is abortion murder? Without God’s Word as our authority, our stances on various issues are nothing but mere opinions and arbitrary.

We live in a culture that has rejected God and worships the creature rather than the Creator. Romans 1 aptly sums up our culture and explains why God is turning this nation over to a depraved mind, including sexuality:



For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served

the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. (Romans 1:18-28)

If we want to see revival in our culture, we need to start in our homes and churches by returning to the authority of God's Word in all areas, including history, science, and morality.

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1. The New York Times, "Obama's 2006 Speech on Faith and Politics," June 28, 2006 (sponsored by the liberal Christian activist group Sojourners, headed by Jim Wallis), <https://www.nytimes.com/2006/06/28/us/politics/2006obamaspeech.html>.
  2. George Barna, *Real Teens* (Ventura, California: Regal Books, 2001), 136-137; Ken Ham and Britt Beemer with Todd Hillard, *Already Gone* (Master Books: Green Forest, AR, 2009), 21-36.



# Attack on Biblical Marriage

BRYAN OSBORNE

Without question, the biblical concept of marriage—one man for one woman for life—is under severe assault today. Under the influence of the “father of lies” (John 8:44), Western culture is redefining and dismissing this foundational institution. The enemy’s tactics have been calculated and catastrophically effective.

Why have the devil’s attacks been so devastating? The answer is complex, but a major factor in Satan’s recent success is his attack on foundations. You see, for a culture to abandon the ingrained, traditional, biblical definition of marriage, it first must question the source of that definition. This is the devil’s strategy, and it’s not a new scheme. His ploy is as old as Genesis 3: “Did God really say?”

The strategy is simple: use subtle questions and seemingly harmless ideas to get people to doubt, and ultimately reject, the authority of God’s Word—undermine biblical teachings by undermining the Bible itself.

Sadly, many Christians have missed the foundational nature of this fight and have been tricked into believing that the secular position is “neutral” and that Christians are biased. So people think Christians should give up their bias and be neutral like the secularists. Thus, many Christians have readily given up biblical positions to adhere to “neutral” secular humanistic beliefs. But according to Jesus, neutrality is impossible.

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.  
(Matthew 12:30)

Either God’s Word is the authority, or it’s not.

Not only have many Christians missed the foundational nature of today’s assault on biblical values, but they’re also unaware of the “tip of the spear” of the enemy’s current Genesis 3 attack. Paul warns:

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3)

Satan has been using the same fundamental attack throughout history, just manifested in diverse ways. In the modern era, he has strategically undermined the Bible’s history in Genesis with evolutionary ideas and millions of years. This subtle tactic has caused multiple generations to question and discard biblical authority. Countless souls have concluded—rationally—that if we can’t trust the Bible when it speaks of origins, we have no reason to trust it about morality, marriage, or salvation.

So how do we deal with today’s attack on biblical marriage? It is by understanding the foundational nature of the fight and following the example of Jesus. How did Jesus define and defend marriage? We will see in the next chapter that he stood on the authority of Scripture from the very first verse.

We must understand that marriage finds its genesis in Genesis. It is in the sacred text of that first biblical book that we discover the origin, definition, and purpose of marriage. Today’s clash over marriage is fundamentally a battle over authority. Either we acknowledge the Bible as God’s Word and our ultimate authority, or we arbitrarily follow man’s word. This is the ultimate battleground: God vs. man.

Just as standing on all of Scripture arms Christians with answers to scientific questions, it also gives us effective answers to today’s moral questions. By unleashing the truthfulness and authority of all of God’s Word starting in Genesis, we can effectively contend for the faith (Jude 1:3), encourage the believer, challenge the skeptic, and clear a path for the gospel.



# What Is Marriage and Where Does It Come From?

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In order to define marriage properly, one would need a trustworthy, authoritative, historical source. This is why those who swim in the waters of secular humanism and evolutionary thinking are so nebulous about the subject of marriage. In evolutionary thinking, marriage essentially evolved over time in human societies as people perceived it to be more advantageous in civilized living. From this perspective, marriage is not an unchanging divine institution but rather a moldable and disposable social construct.

Christians, however, know better (or at least they should). Why? Because we have a trustworthy, authoritative, eyewitness account from the Creator of marriage himself!

*“We have a trustworthy, authoritative, eyewitness account from the Creator of marriage himself!”*

As mentioned at the end of the previous chapter, marriage finds its genesis in Genesis. It is in Genesis where we learn of marriage’s origin, definition, and purpose per the Creator’s will. In Genesis 2:7–25, we see the origin of marriage unfold as God creates the first man. Because it wasn’t good for Adam to be alone, God creates a woman from Adam’s rib (an event the Apostle Paul refers to as real history 1 Corinthians 11:8, 12).

This woman was Adam’s equal, counterpart, companion, and helper. This is why Adam breaks out in poetic verse, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” (Genesis 2:23). In verse 24,



the divine institution of marriage is ordained and defined: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). Jesus affirmed this event in Matthew 19 and Mark 10.

And finally, Genesis 1:26–28 (an overview of the event described in more detail in chapter 2) and 2:18–25 inform the reader that the purpose of marriage is companionship, completeness, enjoyment, blessing, and fruitfulness, which leads to the multiplying, filling, and subduing decreed by God. We learn later in the New Testament that marriage also has the privilege of being a picture of Christ and his bride, the church (Ephesians 5:22–33). As God created man in his image, marriage was created in the image of God’s eternal union with his people.

Marriage is a gift from God, defined through his revealed Word, and is for our good and God’s glory. Marriage is God’s idea and God’s insti-

tution. And if we are going to deal with today’s attack on marriage effectively, we must understand the foundational nature of the battle and unflinchingly stand on God’s Word to define and defend this biblical institution. And that’s exactly what Jesus did.

When Jesus was questioned about marriage by the religious authorities of his day, he did something radical. Something many Christians are unwilling to do today. He quoted the Bible as the authority! In response to the Pharisees’ questions on marriage,

Jesus answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?’” (Matthew 19:4–5). How did Jesus define and defend marriage? He quoted from Genesis 1:27 and 2:24. He demonstrated that the doctrine of marriage is based on the truth of Genesis’ history and biology.

## *“How did Jesus define & defend marriage?”*





Following the example of Christ, Christians today can say authoritatively, uncompromisingly, and lovingly that marriage is between one man and one woman for life (e.g., Matthew 19:8). Why? Because the God who created marriage designed it that way. He defined it in Genesis and defended it elsewhere in Scripture. But if that history in Genesis were not true, or if God's Word were not the authority, then why not redefine marriage into whatever you want it to be? That is exactly what our culture is doing today—and that should be a red flag to anyone who follows God.

## Mark 10:10–12

And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

## DESTROYING MARRIAGE

Certain people in Western culture have fought relentlessly to redefine marriage. The push to include couples of the same sex attempts to make God's union of bride and groom obsolete. Homosexual activists and their allies have swayed the culture with the humanistic argument that any two people who love one another should be able to get married.

But what is the foundation for this definition of marriage? If love is the standard, then why should we forbid one man and three women from marrying? Or two men and two women? Parent and child? A redef-

inition of marriage destroys what marriage is designed to do in benefiting the entire family and the society of which we are all a part.

Regardless of what any culture affirms or court declares, the Creator God of the universe is the final authority. Jesus Christ has unequivocally spoken—marriage is not based on love alone but on God's original design—one man with one woman for life (Genesis 1:27, 2:24).

*Dr. Dana Sneed*

