



ON MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY | *General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America*

The Thirty-second General Assembly:

- a) Humbly calls on the civil governments of Canada and the United States and all nations of the earth to act within their lawful powers and use whatever legislative and judicial instruments they deem most useful to ensure that marriage is legally defined and interpreted throughout their jurisdictions as existing exclusively between one man and woman.

In support of this call the Presbyterian Church in America declares to the Church, the Nation, and the World that:

God is truth.

God's truth is firmly rooted and grounded in His immutable Nature and Being; it is not a construction of men; it is not variable, nor relative, nor dependent upon social or cultural context.

God has made His truth known to human beings most necessarily in the Holy Scriptures.

Among the truths that God has declared to human beings is the truth that the institution of marriage has been created by Him, from the time of the creation of human beings, and that it is ordained and defined by Him to be the lifelong union of one man and one woman (Genesis 1-3; Matthew 19:5-6).

God's ordinance concerning marriage is binding upon all human beings in all places and at all times; it cannot be altered by legislative, judicial or cultural action. It is possible to deviate from God's ordinance, but it is not possible to change it.

God has ordained civil authorities "under Him, and over the people, for His own glory and the public good" (Westminster Confession of Faith 33.1.), to the end that good (as defined by Him) may be encouraged and defended and evil (as defined by Him) may be suppressed and punished.

"God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Paul's Epistle to the Galatians 6:7). God will hold those whom He has placed in authority accountable for their actions, and He has declared:

*Woe to those who call evil good And good evil,
Who put darkness for light And light for darkness,
Who put bitter for sweet And sweet for bitter!
Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And shrewd in their own sight!*

Isaiah 5:20

- b) Calls upon the Presbyteries and Sessions of the PCA to strengthen the marriages in its own churches and exhort its elders to be bolder and more caring shepherds of Christ's flock that we might help stem the scandalous rising tide of divorce in the church.
- c) Calls upon the Presbyteries and Sessions of the PCA to encourage all men and women, boys and girls within the PCA to live chastely for the sake of the Savior who bought them, whether in marriage or in singleness, whether they must do battle against heterosexual or homosexual temptation in seeking to be faithful to their Lord who loves them.
- d) Calls upon its members to be "the salt and light of the earth" in this context by exercising their full responsibilities as citizens including:
 - (1) Communicating the biblical faith of the PCA on this matter;
 - (2) Protecting and defending the biblical teaching on marriage, according to their own best judgment as citizens, in all spheres of public and private discourse.
- e) These "calls" [shall] be communicated by the Stated Clerk [of the General Assembly] to all who have inquired and may inquire concerning these matters.

The 31st General Assembly declared "to the world the teaching of God's word concerning the family as summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith 24.1-2.

1. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman: neither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband, at the same time (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Proverbs 2:17).
2. Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind with a legitimate issue, and of the Church with an holy seed; and for preventing of uncleanness. (Genesis 2:18; Malachi 2:15; 1 Corinthians 7:2, 9).

Furthermore the Scriptures warn of the danger to any nation that defies God's law regarding the family (Proverbs 14:34).

The first of these declarations was adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on June 17, 2004. The second was adopted in June of 2003.