

Sermon to the Saints of God assembled at Topeka, KS: Sunday, March 24, 2019

In the Beginning ... Male and Female

My friends, we live in the midst of gross, palpable, and ever deepening darkness. Just when you think that you've seen and heard the most deceitful, abominable assault on God and His Word, the depraved human heart brings forth more and worse. Fornication and abortion aren't enough. Divorce and adultery aren't enough. Sodomy and same-sex marriage aren't enough. The most recent blitzkrieg of raw Satan-inspired rebellion is Transgenderism. The violent rise and normalization of this awful sin is truly breathtaking. Seemingly overnight, this nation has turned a grotesque sideshow into the main event – a government sponsored suppression of the laws of God, and the order of nature that He established in the world. This “gender revolution” aggressively proselytizes two satanic lies: 1) you aren't stuck with the gender that God assigns you, and 2) gender is not limited to two options, but rather it is a gray scale between male and female – a scale that people are free to move up and down each day with their every impulse; which impulse you must anticipate, respect, legitimize, and loudly adore and call holy. What madness! God has truly sent this generation ***strong*** delusions that they would believe a lie!

The corrupt, deceived, rebellious human heart will never be satisfied in its quest to usurp the sovereign authority of God in the midst of His own creation. From the Garden of Eden until this very moment, vain humans – filled with the lust and pride of their own imagination – have looked to the creation, and the devices of their own hands to subvert God's authority and instruction. God planted the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the midst of the Garden of Eden – representing the knowledge and wisdom of the Creator of all things, and His authority to create and command His creation according to His own will. He determines good and evil – we do not! It is for us to understand and obey, not to legislate to the only Lawgiver! Eve looked upon the fruit of that tree, knowing that she was forbidden to eat of it, and yet her vain imagination – aided by the hiss of the serpent in her ear - reasoned within her: “The fruit exists; I have senses that tell me it is good; I have a desire in my heart to have it; my heart is present with me, it is good, and it is wise – it should guide my actions; God is not physically present, and His commands are irrational to my mind, and are inferior to my wisdom. Therefore, eat the fruit, put God in His place, and take control of my own life!” This is the Genesis of human depravity – *“When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.” (Romans 1:21)* Fast forward 6000 years – God has given this fallen human race over to uncleanness to dishonor their own bodies between themselves (***Romans 1:24***). “I see that I have male chromosomes, and male body parts, but I'm not content with my life, and I see that I am

able to make scalpels and silicone, and synthesize hormones; my heart desires (at the moment) to be a female, and God can't stop me. Therefore I will mutilate my body to show God my own power and authority." Friends, the rebellion of the human heart knows no bounds, and no human efforts can bring contentment to the soul. Eve was in a state of great joy, peace, and contentment – happy to fully trust and obey God. When she ate that fruit, she had momentary pleasure, but was quickly brought low when God made her ashamed of her nakedness - fully aware of her sinful rebellion against him, and the penalty that she now owed. When a sin sick soul sets about to mutilate their body in a futile attempt to change their gender, they might get some momentary enjoyment, and they might get the applause of pandering men, but they will ultimately be left with a tortured Frankenstein body that matches their writhing heart of discontented rage against their maker. There is only one source of hope, joy and contentment for any such soul – ***including our own!*** If God is merciful to us, then He will send the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, and war with our hearts of flesh, such that our distress and discontentment will become fruitful, godly sorrow, that leads us to repentance and salvation. If He is not, then we will do what the world around us does – laying our hands on every device that we can dream up to try to sear our conscience, and achieve our momentary desires. This is a never ending struggle for each of us; we must be grateful if there is a war within us, and patiently sow to the Spirit of God in the midst of it, such that we will be exercised, corrected, and perfected. (***James 1:2-7***)

Make no mistake, my friends – the sovereign authority of God is the coveted prize that Satan, his angels, and every depraved human heart seeks to overthrow. This business of "Transgenderism" is an all out war on the Creator of all things, who established the matter of gender at the beginning. Transgenderism, and all forms of sexual immorality are firmly and finally addressed by Jesus Christ at Matthew 19, when he sets out the fundamental nature and order of the human creature that was established by God ***in the beginning:***

- ***Matthew 19:3-6*** "The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? 4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Again, this is foundational stuff that establishes the order of the human race. Today I would like to look closer at these words from the mouth of our Savior, so that we would be instructed, comforted, and armed against the deceitful assaults of Satan, and our own depraved heart.

"He which made them at the beginning made them male and female":

- This establishes God as the sovereign Creator, with the ONLY right and authority to establish the law, and command according to His own will.
- God created humans, with an intelligent mind capable of moral reason, and with a never dying soul quickened together with a temporal body. He placed them in a position of preeminence amongst His creation.
 - **Genesis 2:7** "*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*"
 - **Genesis 1:26-28** "*26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*"
- He created two distinct genders: male and female. No third option. No sliding scale. Most critically is that He **created them** male and female; at the moment of conception, God has already dictated the outcome – your gender is fixed, certain, and unchangeable, and you have **no input** into the discussion. Each of us is created with either male or female at the core of our physical being. There is no amount of psycho-babble or thankless, covetous desire that can change your gender! How dare you accuse God of being wrong when He chose your gender! How dare **any of us** accuse God of being wrong about **any** circumstance that He appoints in our lives?
 - **Job 38:1-4** "*1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, 2 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? 3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. 4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.*"
- In creating two genders, God has established an order of things in the earth that causes us to be continually in view of the order of things in heaven. At the core of this, we see the establishment of headship, and authority itself. God's authority over mankind; husbands' authority over their wives; parents' authority over their children. Ultimate authority only belongs to God. Humans have the privilege and duty to exercise authority **under God**, but we only have that derived authority respective to the roles that He has designed and placed each of us into. The proud human heart **despises** authority because it constrains us from our covetous desires.

- ***Ephesians 6:1-4*** “1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

“For this cause shall a man leave father and mother”:

- In the first clause, we see the creation of the fundamental building blocks of the human race: male and female. Here we have the establishment of the only appropriate coupling of people together: marriage.
 - What is the “cause”? **Why** did God appoint this pattern of marriage for men and women to lay hold on? I don’t pretend to have a full answer to this, but I will give you the two things that seem the most critical to my mind:
 - **To preserve the heritage of God in the earth.** The divinely appointed institution of marriage is fundamentally the only means by which people are to reproduce, and then preserve the heritage of God by teaching it to their children. Consider, that children are an heritage of (for) the Lord (**Psalms 127:3**). Humans aren’t supposed to be reproducing children for the sake of their own heritage, but for God’s heritage! God created man, and gave him a wife as a specific help – perfectly suited for his particular frame – so that they could help one another in the sober duty to raise up their children to understand and obey the commands of their Creator. (**Deuteronomy 6; Ephesians 6:4**) Certainly the nation of Israel, and the Church of Christ exist(ed) for this same purpose – to reproduce and preserve the heritage of God, and yet the institution that was created from the beginning for this purpose is marriage. The fact that people have perverted and subverted this institution does not change its purpose.
 - To do this appropriately requires that the man and woman are equally yoked together before God. (**2Corinthians 6:14**) They are embarking on this journey together with a singleness of heart toward God, in order to fulfill the purpose that I just articulated. Friends, the foundation of a proper marriage is not each other, first and foremost it is a mutual love of God; love for a spouse flows from, and wonderfully grows upon that foundation. To build a marriage on any other foundation will certainly be disastrous. Our society inundates us with messages and imagery aimed at making marriage first and foremost about flesh - physical attraction, love at first sight, “soul-mates”, etc. What fading, hopeless folly!

- ***Proverbs 31:10,30*** “Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. ... Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.”
- ***Proverbs 18:22*** “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.”
- ***To perpetually teach men about the covenant relationship between God and his elect people.*** It represents the relationship between God and His bride Israel; between Christ and His bride the Church. Marriage is an ever-present object lesson - it is woven into the very fabric of creation.
 - ***Ephesians 5:22-33*** “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”
- What does it mean to “leave father and mother”? To be clear, this has nothing to do with physical location. It has everything to do with headship and authority. You are leaving the headship of your parents because you are establishing a new body in the universe through marriage – what was once twain, is now irrevocably joined together as one body. In so doing, this new husband is taking upon himself the authority and accountability to rule his family acceptably in the sight of God. This is not to say that he is now relieved of honoring and helping his parents – to the contrary, he still ***must*** do those things. It is to say that this is a transitional moment that must be handled

with gravity, sincerity, and sobriety, because the buck no longer stops with his father, it now stops with him. He ought to be seeking and drinking in faithful, experiential, godly counsel from his parents and his friends of faith, and yet he alone is ultimately accountable to God. He must build his house upon the rock of ages:

- **Luke 6:47-49** “47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: 48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. 49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.”
- While marriage is the only appropriate cause to leave the headship of your father and mother, it is certainly not required, and is in fact not appointed for everyone. As people come to years, we must each look to God for wisdom as to whether He has framed us to serve him as a focused single person, or to take on the yoke of marriage. This is a grave, emotional, and deeply personal matter for each of us, and it has major implications on our lives, and those around us. It is a matter that must be handled in the light of the scriptures, and with much prayer. It is a matter that should be heavily influenced by godly parents. I think it's important to acknowledge the fact that, generally, the human heart desires marriage. The desire of the heart, the comfort of the flesh, and the world around us create serious momentum toward marriage. Knowing that fact, Paul gives strong words of instruction and warning that push back against that momentum. Consider the scripture:
 - **1Corinthians 7:6-9; 24-38** “6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. 7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. 8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. 9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn. ... 25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. 26 I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be. 27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. 28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you. 29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; 31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away. 32 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: 33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. 34 There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband. 35 And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction. 36 ¶ But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry. 37 Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well. 38 So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better."

- We see here the very real struggles that people have – the married desiring to be relieved of their burden, and the unmarried desiring to be married. We must war against our discontentment, desiring that the Lord, in his wisdom, will provide a circumstance that is fitting for our frame.
- We must be very clear that marriage is not a “preferable” state of being in the eyes of God. In short, for those to whom God has appointed it, a proper marriage is a comforting, joyful and needful thing. However, even a proper marriage is burdensome, consuming, distracting, difficult, and sorrowful. On the other hand, a single man or woman is more able to fully employ their gifts and energies into the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Faithfully playing the role that God has appointed each of us - with true contentment of heart - is pleasing to God. Consider also the words of Christ about the matter:
- **Matthew 19:10-12** “10 His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. 11 But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. 12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother’s womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be

eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it."

- How are we to know if we are “able to receive” a life of celibacy for the kingdom of heaven’s sake? Simply put, you can receive it if it’s the path that the Lord has put your feet into. The Lord brings some to that path by a strong internal desire to stay single, believing that they can be more effective servants in the work of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and ministering to the household of faith. He brings others to that path by virtue of their circumstances; even though they may desire marriage, there is no appropriate spouse at the time. In such a circumstance, there are only two options: seek your own desire rather than the kingdom of heaven, or prayerfully submit to the Father who appointed that strait path, while putting your shoulder faithfully to the plow, with contentment. We put ourselves in grave danger when we kick against the God of providence, when He appoints a circumstance that doesn’t align with our desire.

"And shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

- Marriage is the only circumstance where God has spiritually cleaved a man and a woman together, and it is the ***only circumstance*** where humans are to be physically cleaved together.
 - ***Hebrews 13:4*** “*Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*”
- ***Genesis 2:21-25*** “*21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*”
- They twain – a man and his wife – shall be one flesh. No other couplings between humans will ever be acceptable with God; it does violence to the marriage covenant to create other profane couplings between humans.
 - No fornication
 - No sodomy
 - No polygamy
 - No adultery

- No divorce
- No bestiality
- These matters are so abundantly clear, and they have been ***since the beginning!*** Think about the endless words that are violently imposed in an effort to change the nature of God's creation. Think about the ways that deceitful, satan-inspired men twist the scriptures until they are unrecognizable, to justify their desires and their behavior. God is not fooled, and He is not changed; He is enraged, and He will soon satisfy His righteousness with full judgment against the rebellious human creature.
 - ***Malachi 2:14-17*** “14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. 15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. 16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously. 17 Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?”

I love you all. Amen.