



“Prayer”
Wk. 2 Praying for the Right Things:
Defining Marriage and Why It Matters
By Pastor Jody May 01/16/2022

[CONNECT/INTRO]

This is week 2 of our **Prayer** series, as we were all wanting to get started off on the right foot this year with developing a sense of **gratitude**. As we said last week it is hard to be grateful unless one sees God at work. Prayer is the means, by which God has chosen to work to display His goodness, righteousness, and justice for the world to see. To pray and see prayers answered is how we develop a sense of Gratitude.

Last week to start off we went to 2 Thessalonians to learn how to pray for the “Right Things”. We look at Paul’s model for Prayer in v. 11 which displays for us how he prays for all the churches he writes to, which you will see for yourself in his epistles.

2 Thessalonians 1:11 ESV

“To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power”

Paul explains the model of how Christians should pray for other Christians in the church; that we would be **worthy to the calling** of being a Christian, that we would be **fulfilled on all the good** blessings of God, and that we would **move with Power** displaying God’s work in our lives. This past week, as I told you what you would discover, you saw this in Phil. 1:9-11, this prayer used the model we studied last week.

This week we were going to move on to **Praying for the Right Reasons** which is v. 12 out of 2 Thes. Chp. 1 but **something has come up**. At HCC we usually never take our eye off preaching what we believe God has directed us to preach but today along with multiple other churches throughout our hemisphere we are going to focus on a shared topic while still bringing the focus back to prayer.



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As most of you know in Canada over the last two years the church has come under persecution. It was first brought to our attention when Pastor Coates was arrested in Feb. of 2021 for holding services during a nationwide quarantine mandate prohibiting large groups of people from meeting indoors. Pastor Coates was not the only one this happened to.¹ This criminalization and heightened attention turned some of the people of Canada against the church in aggressive ways. Some churches were destroyed and vandalized caught in the emotional reactions of the populace.

It was brought to my attention two weeks ago that this assault on the church has not yet concluded in Canada.² Thanks to the efforts of the Liberty Coalition of Canada³ churches were made aware that on December the 7th the Canadian Senate just passed a bill called **C-4** in which two weeks from now it will become the law of that land.

The proposed changes to the Criminal Code in Canada by Bill C-4 are summarized as follows:

This enactment amends the Criminal Code to, among other things, create the following offences:

- (a) causing another person to undergo conversion therapy;***
- (b) doing anything for the purpose of removing a child from Canada with the intention that the child undergo conversion therapy outside Canada;***
- (c) promoting or advertising conversion therapy; and***
- (d) receiving a financial or other material benefit from the provision of conversion therapy.***

¹ <https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/columns/detrinitate/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-arrest-of-pastor-james-coates/>

² <https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/columns/ad-fontes/were-not-in-kansas-anymore-reflections-on-the-passage-of-bill-c-4/>

³ <https://www.libertycoalitioncanada.com>



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Again, if conversion therapy were to be defined as “using coercive means or methods to change a person’s gender identity or sexual orientation/behavior” then most Christians would heartily endorse this bill. The definition proposed, however, is exceedingly broad:

Definition of conversion therapy

320.101 In sections 320.102 to 320.104, ***conversion***

therapy means a practice, treatment or service designed to

(a) change a person’s sexual orientation to heterosexual;

(b) change a person’s gender identity to cisgender;

(c) change a person’s gender expression so that it conforms to the sex assigned to the person at birth;

(d) repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behavior;

(e) repress a person’s non-cisgender gender identity; or

(f) repress or reduce a person’s gender expression that does not conform to the sex assigned to the person at birth.

In essence the government is seeking to halt the church from teaching from their pulpits Genesis 1:27 **“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”** The bill even goes as far in its’ introduction to call traditional Christian beliefs **‘myth’**. It seems to me that the state in Canada has come to believe that traditional Christian beliefs on God’s design for marriage and sex assault the people of Canada with a false sense of morality. It seems that God’s prophetic Word has proven to be true once again:

2 Corinthians 2:15-16 ESV

¹⁵For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?



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So along with pastors like Tom Ascol, leader of Founders Ministry from Pensacola Fl., Josh Boice from Praise Mills Baptists and G3 ministries in /Douglas County, GA, and Pastor John MacArthur Pastor at Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, CA and President of the Masters Seminary and numerous other churches across all of North America, we will preach on God’s design for marriage between a man and woman, we will record it, we will broadcast it, and we will make sure that the Canadian Senate sees it as well.

Now what does this accomplish for us today?

1st this provides for us an opportunity to give a **wake-up call** to this congregation and other churches we associate with what is headed our way. Ten years ago, we would have believed it to be impossible to see a church treated such a way in a democratic society but now the impossible has happened. Family, if the church wants to maintain its’ freedoms we can no longer sit, watch, and play the nice card anymore we will have to stand, proclaim, and demand our God given rights to live as God has called us to live. We must be ever diligent to protect *The Bill of Rights* and we must never shrink back from our responsibility to preach the full counsel of God’s Word.

2nd we need to give a clear signal to this congregation and other churches across the land that **we will not flinch on *Sola Scriptura***. It was in the late 70s and early 80s when the late great SBC took a stand and stood up to *Liberal Theology*, and fought the fight declaring the inerrancy/validity of scripture. Hear me, the hour has come again, to send a warning shot across the bow of whoever would hear it, that we will not budge on what God’s Word defines as Marriage, Sexual Identity, or Biblical Justice. God’s Word defines us, it defines our words, defines our deeds, defines our motives, and it defines our values not man.

3rd this moment in time gives us the opportunity to **stand in solidarity** with **like-minded churches**. It is no longer safe to *blindly enjoy* the benefits of



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denominational and network relationships. Organizations like the SBC and A29 have allowed too many people in leadership that have a way too progressive stance on views in the Bible seeking to alter how we have viewed God’s law for centuries. We now can begin to draw the line in the sand and churches will begin to see who they can trust to stand on the traditional teachings of Christian Doctrine.

Today, we will review God’s design for marriage, that which the Bible declares as true **not myth**, that which the Bible declares as important, and proclaim from a heart of joy and conviction the hope of the Gospel that can be found in God’s design for humanity. By no means will this be a comprehensive succinct teaching of God’s design for human sexuality and marriage, it is merely an introduction. In saying that I am supplying the church different documents by which you can read for yourself God’s design for Sexuality, Marriage, and the Family.

We will actually be using we one of those documents, **the amendment to our by-laws**, that was prepared for our church back in 2016, when in June 2015 the Supreme Court ruled in Obergefell vs. Hodges in a 5-4 decision to grant homosexual couples the right to be married. The issue that the court failed to see was that marriage is a state and term derived by God, given in scripture, and therefor to rule on it is an attempt to undermine the Bible. In reality, the courts failed to keep the state separate from the church.

We are going to address several problems and declare along with other churches joining the cause today **why the Biblical Definition of Marriage matters and why it should not be changed.**

Problem #1 – Everyone in the church, has been touched by this fallen nature/cultural problem. Therefore, we need and informed biblical opinion.

We all have connections:



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- Most of us have a gay family member (s)
- We have had gay friends some of which call themselves Christians
- Some have tendencies to have attractions to the same sex, even if you don't act out on it
- Some have had sexual encounters early in life, so you doubt your true sexual identity
- You have had family that acted in hate towards the gay community
- Some of you may have been persecuted for not sharing the same beliefs as the gay community
- Some churches and pastors have endorsed homosexual practices

Problem # 2 We have tendencies to accept too easily what our government says is ok. (We trust too much in our government because of our Christian beginnings)

What must happen though, is not to accept anymore what is necessarily handed down to us from the powers that “be” but we must test it against God’s Word. The question we must confront is not, “How does our country define marriage?” but, **“HOW DOES GOD DEFINE MARRIAGE!?”**

Amendment 1 - Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

*“We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. **(Gen 1:26-27.)** Rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.”*

Let’s read that passage together from His Word:

Genesis 1:26-27 ESV



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²⁶ Then 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 birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

We all are born, as male or female, by God’s choice – Divine Will. To display His glory, reflecting His image, to the best of our abilities by living by what we were born to be, until we die. That’s not a curse but a blessing to live out our destiny according to His will not ours!

Choosing to live other than how we are born, even when it seems easier, is choosing to go outside of God’s will. **When you reject your calling as male or female you reject God’s destiny for your life, and therefore all that you do in the name of claiming to be someone you were not created to be is sin, because life is then lived for you not God.**

Amendment 1 Par. 2

“We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.”

Genesis 2 18-25 ESV

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall



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upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

God’s intent in the beginning that those he joined together were not to be ashamed of being naked in front of each other, it was natural and it was pleasant, and it was meant to be fostered only in a marriage relationship.

Amendment 1 Par. 2

“We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in, outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.”

1 Corinthians 6:18 ESV

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

1 Corinthians 7:2-5 ESV

²But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does.



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Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Problem #3 - National priorities are all out of whack!

You see here’s where we get it wrong as a nation! We believe that happiness and the pursuit of it is not just a God-given right it is above all other rights! We have tried to elevate our worldly desires to be the chief end of man, but this actually leads one away from happiness.

Romans 1:24-25 ESV

²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

The pursuit of worldly happiness is a curse that God has allowed to happen because people ignored Him. People are more concerned about experiential pursuits of creation more than worshipping the one that created everything. So yes, we have the right to pursue happiness but know that any pursuit that does not have as its end goal of glorifying God will lead us to a miserable end.

Why can we not change the Biblical definition of marriage? Because to do so would send our family, friends, neighbors, and fellow Americans down a road that is cursed. This road ends in a depraved life without God, without hope, it a place of eternal separation called Hell. We help pave the road to damnation when we allow the definition of Biblical Marriage to be tampered with making us culpable.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ESV



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⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

This scripture reminds us that all of us have been blind in our pursuits of that which makes us happy, but God pulled us out of the murky depths that were our lives and saved us. **See there is still hope!** And because of this gift of grace, what has not changed according to scripture is that we are called to intercede for our land. **(Jer. 29:7, 1 Peter 2: 5; 9)**

We will not shrink back from this time we will not shrink back from this calling. We have been placed by God in a position to fight for our fellow man; for that neighbor may well be the next member of your church family!

Problem #4 - We have already failed in showing America what Biblical Marriage looks like.

- Divorce rates are as high in the church as they are outside the church.
- Pastors fail at higher and higher rates in their marriages.
- More and more we believe the truth about what the western world says about marriage and that is marriage is for the fulfillment of happiness for each individual. INSTEAD of being based on a covenant, in God’s name, till death do we part to bring glory to God not us.

So right now, as we look at the new day where same-sex marriage is the law of the land and the push to silence the church has begun there is only one



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place left to go...

We rely not on our strength or our resolve... we rely not on the strength of the testimony of the church...we rely not a pastor... We go to the source. We go to a man that has showed His resolve through victory over death, a man who's testimony inspires the church to get back up and try again, and a man that all pastors should run to for strength and answers.

He has lived a life practicing God's principles modeling them for His people and because of His success we are no longer held in reproach for our failures. Now the good news is we don't have to point to ourselves for models of moral conduct, but we point to a man that's moral success was powered by love for His God. And this man, when those lost in their pursuits of happiness, see Him and the grace of God shows upon them, they cannot refuse but to follow after Him.

The Messiah, Jesus, is our only Hope... While Jesus never married Himself, for He was married essentially to all the church, He endorsed the biblical model, taught on it, as a one man and one woman covenant, hating the practice of divorce. Today let us then embrace what He gave us in His Word to be obedient unto it so that Hope will flourish.

1 Solution - live in the Gospel and preach the Gospel...

Ephesians 5:22-24 ESV

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Wives I know this may seem hard of me to ask you this, but I will for the sake of our land. **I need for you to submit to your husbands.** In *Recovering Biblical*



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Manhood and Womanhood Pastor Piper and Wayne Grudem clarify what that means:⁴

“Submission refers to a wife’s divine calling to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts. It is not an absolute surrender of her will. Rather, we speak of her disposition to yield to her husband’s guidance and her inclination to follow his leadership” -

John Piper & Wayne Grudem

When you risk ridicule and weird stares from your friends you get to walk into a whole lot of Gospel sharing that defines God’s intent for marriage!

You get to let them know that your submission was won over not by your husband but by another better man - JESUS.

- A man consigned to a pre-arranged marriage that He obediently accepted you not on your attractiveness but based on the worth of His Father’s name.
- A man that’s first act of love for you, was dying for your sake before you ever knew Him.
- This man came to love you as His own and makes your life worth living.
- He asks you now to submit to your husband because it models to the world what His submission looked like to the Father. That is, how he’s loved you unconditionally.

One of the biggest hurdles with the Lesbian community is that they have not found a man worthy to submit to yet, that is because they have not found Jesus.... **ladies show them Jesus!**

⁴ Piper, Grudem, etc. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. Crossway Books, Wheaton, Illinois. 1991. Pg. 56



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Ephesians 5:25-28 ESV

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Husbands when we look at our friends and blatantly admit that we like to give things up for our wives we are honoring the man that saved us.

- The world needs to hear our stories not in form of complaints but in loving words that you are helping your wife.
- The world needs biblical examples of manhood where men are still chivalrous and love out of duty. Chivalry is not asking if she minds you leave for your guy’s night out, it is choosing to stay home without her ever knowing you sacrificed.
- Do you help your wife so that you get what you want or are you helping her so that she develops in Spirit? We are called for their sanctification.

Not biting on that yet? I am not trying to convince you through guilt I am appealing to you on the basis of what’s been done for you.

- What does it mean to us that when we needed help in our lives, and we couldn’t make sense of the world that our big brother shows up?
- He puts down what He was doing, He picks up what is important to us, and over time He gets us to see what’s important in life with excruciating patience.
- What does it do for you to know that He never takes time off from watching over you so that you can rest in Him.



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- He introduces us guys to our Father that now gives us the command to love our wives and die to self so that she may gain...

Now here’s one more truth about why we cannot change the biblical definition of marriage.

Homosexual relationships/marriages don’t work and are outside of God’s will, **because it allows them to run away from facing the hard call of loving someone more than they love themselves.** At the root of homosexuality is to deny one’s image and bear one’s own promotion of self-satisfaction and self-gratification. It also abandons the reality that they were made to help others in their sanctification.

All of what we have said today does not mean we have turned our back on homosexuals but by nature what that lifestyle perpetuates is against what the church believes. They in reality are choosing not to accept us.

Justice Roberts had as a sobering thought this to say in his dissent:

“Indeed, however heartened the proponents of same-sex marriage might be on this day, it is worth acknowledging what they have lost, and lost forever: the opportunity to win the true acceptance that comes from persuading their fellow citizens of the justice of their cause. And they lose this just when the winds of change were freshening at their backs.” – Chief Justice Roberts⁵

Do you believe that they have lost the ability to be accepted by us? Most fortunate for them, there is a path of acceptance but it will not be through a definitional change but a change of their heart. In this final verse there is a

⁵ Carter, Joe. *50 Key Quotes from the Supreme Court’s Same Sex Ruling*. July 22, 2015. <http://erlc.com/article/50-key-quotes-from-the-supreme-courts-same-sex-marriage-ruling>



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clue as to how this happens and more importantly church, how it happens through us.

1 Peter 3:7 ESV

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, **since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.**

Husbands and wives in this room. Church, please hear me. The way that our prayers become effective, especially for the homosexual community, is the day that we realize that it takes a man and a woman to make 1 flesh. Look at what happens for the man who realizes this - **“so that your prayers may not be hindered”**.

What happens when we have a church full of families dedicated to the true biblical definition of marriage that is based on the example of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? It's not that we get America back, that may never happen and it was never ours in the first place. It's that we advance the Kingdom of God into a hostile land. This is when we get to see the manifestation of the Holy Spirit among us calling the depraved and dead back to life....

BTW that's called REVIVAL...

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father,



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Go in the name of the Son,

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit,

Introduction Story: