THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

"Same-Sex Marriage"

I. Biblical View of Marriage

1. Marriage between a man and a woman is God’s idea (Genesis 2:18-24)

B. Marriage is a picture of Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:22-33)

*Ephesians 5:31-32, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church."*

C. Three Essential Characteristics of Biblical marriage:

1. Marriage is two human beings becoming one in every way possible.

2. Marriage is oriented toward procreation (Genesis 1:28)

*Genesis 1:28, "And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

3. Marriage comes with an expectation of permanence

(vs. 24) - "hold fast to his wife" - cleave, be intertwined with each other.

*Matthew 19:6, "So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."*

D. Two additional benefits of Biblical marriage

1. To multiply a godly legacy through raising children

2. To make a foundation for a healthy society

II. Biblical view of marriage corresponds to what we find in the world around us

1. Truths every society has to deal with: "Procreation makes babies. Society needs babies. Babies deserve mothers and fathers." (Maggie Gallagher)

2. Each time we change the institution of marriage and move away from God’s design, we devalue marriage and damage society:

a) The divorce revolution

b) The sexual revolution

III. How Christ Followers Respond

1. Stand on Scripture with gentleness and respect (I Peter 3:15-16)

*1 Peter 3:15-16, "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame."*

2. Strengthen marriages inside the church (I Corinthians 5:12)

*I Corinthians 5:12, "It isn’t my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning." (NLT)*