

Series: Focusing on the Family
Message: Marriage in the Cultural Crosshairs
Text: Genesis 1:26-31 (AM 6/10/07)

In one brief generation we have witnessed a transformation in our culture that no one would have dreamed of 40 years ago. Not only has the gay community come out of the closet, they are subtly forcing traditional values of marriage into the closet. The unholy alliance of the gay community, media, Hollywood, liberal politicians and activist judges are successfully marginalizing the voice of conservative Christians. *Traditional marriage is in the Cultural Crosshairs! **How does God define marriage?***

I. Marriage was created *BY* God – To reflect His Person.

Marriage is the expression of the trinity on earth.

- Marriage is God's Creation – “I will make him a helper”
- Marriage is meant to Compliment – “God created man in His own image”
- Marriage provides us Companionship – “It’s not good that man should be alone”

II. Marriage was created *FOR* God – To reflect His Purposes.

Marriage is a gift from God for Him and others.

- God's purpose in marriage is Preservation.
- God's purpose in marriage is Procreation.
- God's purpose in marriage is Proclamation.

III. Marriage was created to work *With* God – To reflect His Precepts. *Marriage will not survive apart from God's design.*

Healthy marriages share four essential precepts: (Gen 2:24)

- There will be a concluding – “leave”
- There will be a cleaving – “cleave”
- There will be a conforming – “becoming one”
- There will be a communing – “were not ashamed”

Application to life: The battle for marriages and families is fought on two fronts. First we must fight for our marriages! Our sinful flesh and the Adversary are formidable foes. Secondly, believers and the Body must fight for traditional marriages in America! *Our future depends on it!*