

#LOVEWINS ONLY IF YOU TURN TO GOD

I have been seeing #LoveWins a lot by those who are happy and supportive of the Supreme Court's decision legalizing same sex marriage. There is this notion that why shouldn't two people of the same sex who love each other be allowed to marry because as it is often quoted, by Christian and non-Christian alike, God is love.

Marriage Is God's Idea

When most people say that God is love there is the thought that God loves and accepts everyone regardless of what they do or how they live. So when it comes to marriage the assumption is that people should be allowed to marry whoever they want to regardless of their gender. The question becomes if they love each other then why not? The rationale is that God is love thus even He is ok with it. For if God truly loves people then of course He wants them to be happy. It has become all about how people feel and what they want. But do we take time to ask what does God want? What many fail to realize is that people did not come up with the idea of marriage, God did!

Jesus replied. "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' ' For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." - Mark 10:5b-9

God did not act thoughtlessly in creating human beings two different sexes and the institution of marriage. He did it on purpose to reveal who He is and as a means of accomplishing His purpose on earth. Genesis 1:26 says, 'Then God said, **Let us** make man in our image, in our likeness...'. Who exactly is the 'us' that God is referring to in this passage? Is it the angels, the birds, the fish, or the living creatures He created on the land? No, God is talking to Himself. For God reveals Himself to us in the Bible as three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who are co-equal and co-eternal. Each of these three persons possesses all of the attributes of God yet there is only One God. These three persons of this one God have perfect love, fellowship and community. I know that you may be thinking this is too difficult to understand. It is because God is infinitely beyond our ability to fully comprehend.

God created man in His image and He created both male and female (Genesis 1:27). Both were created equally in the image of God. Yet they are different in many ways and we often fight or make fun of those differences. They were made different not to compete against one another but to be complementary to one another. God made marriage between a man and a woman to be a [covenant relationship](#) that God intended to last until death parted those joined together. A marriage relationship between a man and a woman is intended to reveal God in this world in a unique way as it reflects the relationship that exists between the three persons of the One God .

A key way that males and females differ is physically. In case you haven't noticed each one has different sexual parts. And this was done on purpose so that a man and his wife could come together sexually. Sexual intercourse would be the act that consummates the union of a man and his wife. Sex was intended to be a special bond between a man and a woman that was meant to give them an exclusive intimate relationship that would bring each of them pleasure. It was not meant for our self-satisfaction to be shared with any and every one that we see fit. It was meant to be an act of love created to take place in a loving relationship that reflects who God is, for the two will become one flesh. From this union, God intended for children to be born to spread His image and likeness throughout the world.

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Two men or two women coming together to wed do not constitute a marriage regardless of what society and government calls it. Man has no authority to redefine what the Almighty God has created and ordained. Same sex marriage is antithetical to who God is and what God has purposed. It goes against both the creation order of God who created them male and female in His image and His creation and purpose for marriage.

All Sexual Sin Is Contrary To God's Nature

I have highlighted same sex marriage because it is what we are loudly and constantly being told to accept in light of the Supreme Court's recent decision. But please know that any sex outside of a marriage relationship between one man and one woman violates what God has purposed. This includes pre-marital sex, homosexuality, adultery, incest, prostitution and bestiality (go the following [website](#) and plug in any of these topics to see what God's word says about them). It is also wrong to divorce ones spouse for any and every reason. Jesus only gave one exception clause (Matthew 19:9). Jesus also says that a man who lustfully looks at a woman has already committed adultery with her in his heart (Matthew 5:27-30). In my humble opinion, I think that this would address issues such as looking at pornography and same sex attraction. (For if a man lusting after a woman is wrong then wouldn't a man being attracted to another man be wrong since this is not a relationship that God approves of?)

People often fail to realize that God is not just love. That is one attribute of who He is. He is also holy and just in addition to many other attributes. To say that God is holy means that He is set apart, separate, from His creation – He is the supreme ruler. It means that He is infinitely pure. He is perfect in His nature and always does what is right. He is separate from all sin and He hates sin. Since God is just He must judge sin. He does not accept it, ignore it, participate in it or turn a blind eye to it. All of the things listed in the previous paragraph violate God's holy character and purpose and are what the Bible calls sin.

God has given us His word, The Bible, to let us know His holy standards. When we fail to do what God says to do and do what God forbids that is sin. The question is will we acknowledge this truth? Some people judge God's word based on their experiences and feelings and tell God, You are wrong and I am right. This is the essence of pride when people shake their fist at God and basically say I am going to do this regardless of what You say.

I Can't Help It! I Was Born This Way

Many people believe that people who have same sex attraction, homosexuals and trans genders were born this way. Thus they can't help it. To your surprise, I do not disagree with that at all. However, it is not God who has made them that way as some will say. I believe that sin has affected everything about us from birth. Psalm 51:5 says, 'Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me' (NIV). It has affected our minds, our emotions, our bodies and our spirits. Our minds are full of darkness. Our emotions lead us to do what brings us pleasure rather than living to please God. Our bodies grow old, get sick and die. And to top it off we are born spiritually dead and unresponsive to God. The sin of the first man Adam has affected all humanity (Romans 5:12) and we are all the worse for it.

The problem is sin, it is not God. The rational that God purposely made me a certain way and then God says that the way He made me is sinful makes God out to be capricious. As I already mentioned God is holy. He is separate from sin. God is also immutable, which simply means that He is unchanging in His

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character, will and covenant promises. In light of these truths what I must do is place my experiences and feelings under the scrutiny of God's word and come to the conclusion that He is right and I am wrong.

Believe in Jesus to Know the God Who is Love

God is the judge and before Him every one of us stands guilty. We have all sinned against God and deserve to be eternally punished by Him (Romans 3:23, 6:23a). Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Jesus said that He did not come for those who think that they are right but for those who realize that they are wrong (sinners) before a Holy God (my paraphrase of Mark 2:17). God has made a way for us to be forgiven and to experience His love in spite of our sins.

Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (John 3:16-18)

A key phrase to understand in these verses is the phrase 'believes in him' (him referring to Jesus). There is much to be said about this but I'll mention briefly a little of what this means. To believe in Him we must believe He is the unique Son of God, who is as fully God as the Father who sent Him into the world. It also means that we must believe that God the Son came into the world as a human being, such that He was and is fully God and fully man. It means that we believe that He is different than all other human beings in the sense that He was without sin. It means that we believe in His substitutionary death for our sins and He was raised from the dead to give us new life. His death satisfied God's wrath for our sins and His resurrection has declared us in right standing with God. Lastly to believe in him means that we must acknowledge that we are sinners, confess (agree with God about what He calls sin) our sins to God and repent (turn from our sin) and turn to His gracious provision to save us and give us eternal life, Jesus Christ.

We stand condemned because of our sin and Jesus came to save us from this condemnation if we believe in Him. But if a person fails to believe in Him then He is under and will face God's wrath for his/her sin (John 3:36). The one who died and rose again from death is the same one given authority to judge at the end of the age. So you can choose to embrace your sin and reject the God who sent His Son, Jesus, to save you. Or you can turn from your sin to God by trusting Jesus Christ. The choice is yours one leads to death (eternal separation from God) and the other to life (an eternity with the God whose love is infinitely better than you can imagine). Go to everyperson.com for information on how to begin a relationship with God.

Be Transformed by God's Power

The Bible says. 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.' (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Being a Christian means living a new life. It means that I no longer accept and live in the sins that God has forgiven me of and has given me power by His Spirit to overcome (to understand more of what this means listen to the messages I share on ['Living Holy in a Perverted World'](#) and ['Living By the Spirit's Power'](#)). Being a Christian does not mean that a person will no longer be tempted in this area or struggle

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with sin. But it does mean that a person no longer has to give in to temptation or be overcome by sin because in Christ we are no longer slaves to sin, He has set us free! (John 8:32-36)

For years my life was characterized by viewing pornography, lusting after women, pre-marital sex which led to unplanned pregnancies that ended in abortion and marriage and adultery which led to me being divorced. Jesus Christ has forgiven me of my sins and has given me power by His grace to live a brand new life. By His grace, I am a faithful husband and growing into a loving father to the six children that God has graciously given me. Am I perfect? No. But I am growing in God's truth and grace every day.

I know that my sin was not homosexuality. But God's forgiveness and grace is the same regardless of the sin. God is not partial and His power knows no limitations or boundaries. I understand that you have wanted to and have tried to change but you can't. Know that God can transform you as long as you agree with Him and rely on His power.

*Or 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, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **And 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.** (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)*

Church Let's Stop the Double Standards

If I were currently viewing pornography or committing adultery, the majority of churches that I go to and preach at would no longer allow me to share God's word to the congregations. This would be the right thing to do for I would clearly be in sin for violating God's holy standards in the area of sex and marriage. If this is true then why are some in the church celebrating homosexuality and same sex marriage when these things also violate God's holy standards?