

## THE FULL FAMILY CHURCH

**DATE** : **17 FEBRUARY 2008**

**SERMON** : **A TEACHING FOR GAY PEOPLE. WHO AM I AND WHAT IS MY PURPOSE ON EARTH – “ME AS A CREATURE”**

This series is aimed to assist same gender oriented people in our community to realise that they are precious in the eyes of God, loved by God, and that He wants them to realise that they have the right to be whole human beings.

Today's message is an introduction to the following sermons in which we will have a closer look at what God says in His Word regarding our sexuality. We will also see what Jesus has to say about our gender orientation and how we should direct our relationships according to what God expects of us.

This series of sermons appears under the title: Who am I and what is my purpose on earth? Today's message is titled: "Me as a creature?"

A human being exists of: a spirit, soul and body.

**I am** a spirit, I **have** a soul and I **live** in a body.

These three entities are applicable NOW. We are born as these three units and we are aware of this for our entire lives. Although these unities are integrated, they need separate "nourishment and nurturing". The one influences the other continuously.

The **soul** (the faculty of our thoughts and decision making) influences the **spirit** (the connection with the world of the mysterious, God), and the **body** (our earthly tent).

### **Our Sexuality**

This aspect is situated in all three beings of our tri-unity:

- God created our spirits as a **non-gender** beings (Gal.3:28).
- Our soul possesses a **specific gender orientation**. The occurrence of Eunuchs (Math. 19:12).
- Our physical bodies have a **gender identification** (Gen. 2:23).

God created humans as MEN and WOMEN - the two prototypes in which man manifests in the physical form here on earth regardless of their gender orientation in their souls. What one sees from the outside is what determines whether you are a man or a woman. There are the only two genders. There is no third gender.

When a hermaphrodite is born there is a definite physiological-genetic anomaly. In the same way as Down syndrome.

In Genesis God appoints man and women as the procreation model. The man carries half of the procreation material whereas the woman carries the other half of the procreation material. As soon as these two halves merge a new human being is formed.

This model has to do with procreation.

Yet, we find a rich variety in God's creation. There is multi purposeness in His creational variety.

Subsequently we as humans do not only exist of a procreational organ, or only a mouth to eat, a couple of feet to walk, or an eye to see with. That would be a monster. God made us whole and yet He created us as humans to function in His rich variety.

In the same way there are various combinations of human couples that God created to celebrate His creational variety. Although God created man and woman in Genesis as a procreational model (also in the animal kingdom) He created a beautiful variety of emotional couples that also carry His blessing. In this we find relationships among a man and a man, a woman and a woman, and a man and a woman.

God says in Genesis, "It is not good for a human being to be alone; therefore I will make him/her a help."

We have to understand that Genesis is a book of origins. It is not a thesis or manual on marriage. We discover the way in which God establishes the necessity of relationships when He says, "It is not good for a human being to be alone; therefore I will make him/her a help."

Adam was created to be a unique, one of a kind, being. All the animals had partners, yet Adam was alone. Despite His intimate relationship with God, Adam still yearned to have a partner. Someone like himself. Someone who could answer in his needs: emotionally, physically and spiritually. That is why He asked God for a partner.

In the same way an emotional, physical and spiritual bond becomes the principle basis in any relationship.

After God created Eve from Adam, Adam woke up and declared with joy and exultation, "this is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh." (Gen. 2:23) Eve was created to look like Adam, not like the animals. Adam was Adam, and Eve was *Ishshah*, the Hebrew word for "a man, or man and woman." Eve's similarity to Adam enabled them to bond as a couple. For this reason Adam and Eve's deep spiritual and emotional likeness triggered God to reveal His first declaration regarding marriage: company, to have a partner, a life partner, **not to procreate at first**. God said, "it is not good for man to be alone."

Now we have to look at the further context of the Genesis Book. We can clearly see that God included the narrative of the creation of Adam and Eve as a historic epical part of the Genesis Book because He intended that the earth should be

populated and filled. This does not imply that God forbade any other marriage model.

Merely the relationship world of the two-part existence of man, namely Adam and Eve, was also not included in the Book of Genesis to forbid polygamy (more than one partner at the same time) relationships or same gender relationships.

Many professing Christians read too much in God's so called silence in His Word regarding same gender relationships and marriages. They easily post the question, "if God then approves same gender relationships and marriages, why does He not mention those relationships in the Bible?"

The answer is simple and extremely logical: The Biblical marriage models reflect the ancient civilisations during the time the Bible was written. In the beginning when the earth was created, there were no same gender couples. Therefore there was no need to mention that in Genesis 2. Same gender relationships and marriages as we know them today were not a part of the ancient Jewish culture of the Biblical times. It is therefore logical not to find any reference to same gender marriages in the old Scriptures. In the same way that God does not in His Creation account refers to wedding rings, that marriages should be solemnised in a church, anything regarding child adoption, or same gender marriages.

People have the ability to fabricate things and ascribe it to God's Word. This phenomenon is referred to as, "*reductio ad falsum*" (brought down to falseness) and leads to "*reductio ad reductio*" (absurdity that leads to further absurdity).

Let's have a look at this absurdity a little closer. If God should only permit the traditional opinion regarding Adam and Eve's marriage model as the only model, then God actually damaged His own model through:

- **Polygamy associations** - one man with more than one woman. God approved and blessed the relationship of Lamech and his two wives, Esau and his three wives, Jacobs and his four wives, Salomon and his 700 wives, etc.
- **Levitate marriages** - (Latin: '*levir*') Brother in law marriages. This is where it was expected from a man to be intimate with his deceased brother's wife in order to father an heir for the that brother. (Deut.25:5-10)
- **Mixed marriages** - Abraham and Sarah with the slave girl, Hagar, when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael. (Gen. 16:1 ff)
- **Prisoner of war marriages** - The Israeli soldiers were permitted to marry the Midian virgins. (Num. 31:1-8)
- **Slave marriages** - Whenever one had a child with a slave, the slave had no right to the child. The child could even be sold should the father decided to.

- **Same gender marriages** - The relationship and partnership between David and Jonathan when King Saul refers to David as his son in law. (1 Sam. 18:21)

In the same way many good things are not necessarily affirmed in the Bible. It is for this reason that many heterosexual Christians easily say, "if God intended to affirm and bless same gender marriages He would have mentioned it in the Bible. Therefore God has to be opposed to same gender marriages."

In the same breath we should also then assume that if God does not mention many other things in the Bible He has to be opposed to it. We never read about petrol driven vehicles, computers, ice cream, television sets, escalators, air conditioners, supermarkets, etc.

These should also include heterosexual marriages that are solemnised in churches, because nowhere in the Bible He mentions that a marriage should happen in a church by a pastor, reverent, priest who studied for seven years at a theological seminary; that there should be a specific liturgy; that a bride should wear white; that they should be strew with confetti; that there should be champagne for the toasts, flowers, food, a garter, a wedding cake, and what else. There are no such instructions in the Bible.

In fact: when does God regard one as married? The moment two people had sexual intercourse. The church function is a public declaration to the congregation, the world and the spiritual realm that two people have come together and are not available for other relationships anymore. This is a public declaration that is acknowledged, joined and protected by the laws of a country. In the same way baptism is a public declaration to the congregation and the spiritual realm that one has laid down the old life, that one has died with Christ and that a new person gets out of the water.

I know that the argument regarding air conditioners, wedding cakes and computers is ridiculous, but it is just as ridiculous to fabricate things God has nothing to say about. We enjoy many things in the 21st Century that the Bible has nothing to say about.

So, when we read the Genesis Book, we have to read it in context. God merely tells us what happened when He created the world and man, as well as that a man and a women where to get together in order for man to procreate the human species. It is a gift. Yet, to read into that that God forbid any other marriage model than that of the Adam and Eve model, while the Bible shortly after ththat account refers to various other models, is absurd. That is the reasoning of Scripture exponents that causes people to be misled, that creates heresy and that people gets hurt.

However, God stipulates a condition in which this blessing will be applicable. His model for same gender or opposite gender relationship models is:

- Fidelity to one another
- One on one association
- Mutual love (based on trust and respect)
- Commitment

- Non cultic – (one in Christ - equally joked on their spiritual relationship. Does that imply that God will not bless people of other beliefs? Not at all! God blesses everybody, regardless of their belief? That is why He is God. In the same way He gives talents to everyone - whether we are Christians, Hindu's, Muslims, etc. God loves us because we are human beings.)

### **How will people know that we are model couples, the way God intended it?**

Let's read what He says in Math. 7:16-18, "you will be known by your fruit. A good tree bears no bad fruit. In the same way a bad tree will not bear good fruit."

The time has come for the general church, the Body of Christ, to open up his heart, support and acceptance to all members of the Body. If God excludes nobody, then why do those in the church do it? Same gender orientated people who accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour form part of the church, the Body of Christ. Nobody can or may deny this. The indwelling Holy Spirit confirms it in each one of us. Therefore we do not need the approval of man to become part of the community of the saints. Jesus Himself incorporates us and declares that we are part of the Body. Further on we will notice it in our lives: we experience that our prayers get answered. We witness with excitement regarding the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and His amazing goodness. We read the Bible and we grow in our faith in Him ... the same way in which opposite gender oriented people do.

Who do you believe? The One that created you, Who loves you, That keeps you and maintains you? Or someone just like you who was also created by Him? One with an own preconceived opinion? One who intends to bring you down because of a preconceived notion?

I prefer to believe the Lord. Only His Word brings me freedom. Only His Word can bring me truth and the courage of my convictions to lift up my head and to live the way He designed and created me.

### **To whom am I accountable?**

To no human being: not my parents, not my brothers or my sisters, not to my partner, neither to my employer, nor to my neighbour ... to nobody but to God who made me and sent me into this world.

### **If I then am in debt to nobody here on earth except to God, what then is my purpose here on earth?**

Only this: to please Him who made me and sent me here. And to make Him happy.

### **How would I accomplish that?**

By representing Him to the best of my ability.

### **How do I represent Him?**

By being His mouth, hands, heart and eyes in this broken world.

### **How can I be that?**

By doing what Jesus did while He was still on the earth.

### **What should I do?**

Go and read the four Gospels: Matthew, Marc, Luke and John. All four of them are right at the beginning of the New Testament. Everything you need to know is written there. In the words of Jesus.

### **Can this be summarised?**

Yes, it can! "I have to love the Lord my God with my whole heart, my whole soul and all my energies. And equal to that: I should love my neighbour in the same way that I love myself." (This is the Royal Law).

### **Does that include people who cross my way on a daily basis, who do not feel the same way I do?**

Yes. Those people are included. We have to love them regardlessly.

### **How should I love them?**

Through the way that I represent Jesus to them.

### **How should I carry out the Good News?**

Through my actions. If anything else is needed apart from that, by your words. Remember, good trees cannot bear bad fruit, and bad trees cannot bear good fruit. People will know you by your actions ... by your fruit.

Amen.

Pastor Anton Smith