



Today's Message

Date: October 8, 2023
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Standing Against the Assault on Marriage*

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

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

Introduction: The Baptist Confession of Faith includes a statement regarding marriage. It is a timely consideration. The article makes a good and helpful statement, but also reveals that the issues at the forefront of the writers' concerns in 1689 do not fully cover today's concerns related to marriage. The institution of marriage is

in danger in our society. This sermon will pose four questions to guide us in our resolve to stand against the current assault on marriage. The second of these questions will introduce the exposition of the sermon text.

Today's take-home truth: God, our Creator, instituted marriage by his design and for his purposes; Christians must never compromise this truth in word or deed.

I. The issue of authority lies at the heart of the cultural crisis unfolding around us; Who is in charge? Romans 1

- A. People suppress God's truth and listen to lies . . .
- B. because they value the creation over the Creator.
- C. Yet, God has spoken.

II. Only God has the right to define reality and its norms; What has God said? Genesis 2:18-25

- God created his image bearers binary.
- God established marriage for companionship.
- God established marriage for procreation.
- God made the woman for the man.
- God gave the man and the woman essential equality.
- God made the woman from the man.
- God gave the man and the woman different roles.
- God gave the woman to the man as gift.
- God intended marriage to create a new family unit.
- God intended marriage to be a permanent union.
- God intended marriage to be a monogamous union.
- God intended marriage to be an intimate union.
- God intended marriage to pure union.

III. Battlelines are real—and broken; Where does the danger lie?

- A. Face the truth: the cultural battle is lost
 - 1. Gender insanity is institutionalized.
 - 2. Sexual promiscuity is normalized.
 - 3. Shameful behavior is publicized.
 - 4. Godly families are victimized.
- B. unless God does a work of spiritual revival.
- C. Therefore, the battlelines lie within our Christian churches and homes.

IV. “Soldiers” of Christ must shore up the breach; What shall we do?

- A. Pursue Christ-likeness, personally and in your homes.
Ephesians 5:25-27
- B. Be deadly earnest about your membership in the church. 1 Timothy 3:15
- C. Determine not to allow the world to define the issues. 2 Corinthians 2:11
- D. Graciously stand for truth, even if it costs you.
Ephesians 6:13
- E. Hold forth the justifying, sanctifying work of the Lord Jesus by his Spirit as the hope of all sinners.
1 Corinthians 6:11