

January 30, 2021



***Bringing Biblical  
Principles of  
Governance***

**50 Years ago today...and why it matters**

Greetings My Friend,

Fifty years ago today, I married a 20 year old woman named Carol Luckert from Enid, Oklahoma. The next four decades were filled with joys and delights as we adopted and raised four children. Soon after we passed our 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary, after a painful six year battle with cancer, Carol slipped from my arms into the arms of Jesus. When we recited our vows on January 30, 1971, we ended with the words, "Until one of us shall place the other in the arms of God." On April 21, 2013, I did that.



Carol & Jim, 1971



Rosemary & Jim, 2014

Then came a time of deep and indescribable grief. The pain seemed insurmountable. It did not feel like I had lost "50% of me," but rather 95% of me. I felt like an empty shell, unable to function.

As healing began to come, I was finally ready to try to move forward in life. I met a remarkable woman named Rosemary Schindler from the San Francisco Bay Area. We have been married seven years now. One person wrote to me on Facebook and said, "Some never find love once, but you have found it twice." Rosemary is the one who co-founded Well Versed with me, and ministers alongside me in all that I do. Once again, I am profoundly blessed.

Marriage is remarkable. It is one of the best ideas God ever had. (Not that God has "new" ideas, but you know what I mean.)

I cannot put into words how incredibly blessed I was in marriage for 42 years... and now how incredibly blessed I am, during the past seven years of marriage. God understands us, and designed us for marriage. It was God who said, "It is not good for the man (not 'Adam' the male, but 'adam,' humanity) to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18) The technical translation is: "It is not good for a human person (or humanity) to be alone." (This will make more sense when you listen to the video mentioned below.) God knows humankind. After all, He created humankind. He knows what is best for a human, or humankind. I praise God every day for the sacred institution of marriage. And marriage is worth defending.

Why is marriage – God's definition of marriage, that is – so important? Great question.



Larry King

Let me illustrate. Larry King died this week. I was on the "Larry King Live" show on two occasions. On one of those occasions, Dennis Prager and I were being interviewed about defending traditional, one man-one woman marriage. During a commercial break, Larry King turned to Dennis Prager and said, "So what's the big deal about marriage? It's just a word!" That was an amazing moment. The man who said that marriage is "just a word," had – at that time – been married seven times and divorced seven times.

He was later remarried to his seventh wife for a eighth marriage and then in 2019 divorced for the eighth time. Although he was one of the greatest interviewers of all time, he did not know much about marriage. Or I suppose with eight marriages, one might say he knew a lot about marriage!

**The bottom line is: Marriage is the first and most sacred of all the institutions God ever created.**

And that is exactly why marriage is so attacked today. Whether it is adultery, pornography, divorce, homosexuality or even transgenderism, there is an all-out assault on marriage.

**But why is marriage so important? Why does it matter?** Is Larry King right? Is it merely a word? Or is there something more. In fact, much more?

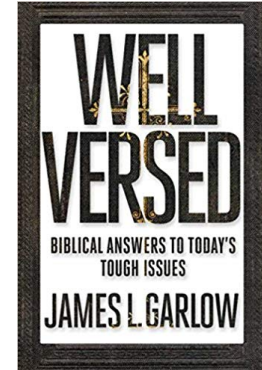
The answer is, yes, there is so much more. How do we know? Take a few minutes and listen to one of the most exciting Biblical teachings I have ever done. Yes, it was on marriage. This short video teaching will stretch you. I mean, it will really stretch you. And you will view marriage in a whole new light. You will see how incredibly important marriage is from God's sight. And why people should not tamper with the definition of it.

***Watch now by clicking on image.***





In addition to this short 16 minute video, I am going to do something I have never done, and that is to **include a substantive segment from my book *Well Versed: Biblical Answers to Today's Tough Issues***. One chapter dealt with this topic. For those of you who prefer it in writing, it is added as a PS to this email.



### **WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

We are working with diligence in this hostile culture to make a compelling and winsome case for God's pattern for life and government. Your support is what causes us to press forward in this challenging environment. We are NOT quitting. We are doubling down. And with your prayer and financial support, we will continue.

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Jim Garlow  
CEO & Founder, Well Versed  
Along with  
Rosemary Schindler Garlow  
Co-Founder, Well Versed



Dr. Jim Garlow & Rosemary Schindler Garlow

PS – HERE IS THE SECTION FROM  
*WELL VERSED: BIBLICAL ANSWERS TO TODAY'S TOUGH ISSUES*  
pages 61-69.

**W**hy should we care about marriage? What is the foundation of marriage? And why is marriage such a big deal to God?

It's important to know at the start that the Bible

- *opens* in Genesis with a marriage—between a man and a woman;
- *closes* in Revelation with a wedding—between a groom and bride; and
- extols one man—one woman marriage *in between* in both the Old and New Testaments.

Nowhere is there any affirmation of homosexual marriage or of homosexual acts. In fact, the consistent teaching throughout Scripture is one man—one woman covenant marriage. Always.

## THE FULL IMAGE OF GOD

God is neither male nor female. The Old Testament writers use gender-specific metaphors to describe the indescribable. Sometimes, the words used to describe God are distinctly masculine, most obviously the usage of “Father” or “He.” At other times the phrases used to depict God are feminine—terms like a breast-feeding, nursing mother (Psalms 131:2; Isaiah 49:15), giving birth (Deuteronomy 32:18), in labor (Isaiah 42:14), or a mother hen (Matthew 23:37).

But the fact is, God is neither a he nor a she. Nor is God some androgynous middle ground. In Genesis 17:1 God's name is the Hebrew phrase *El Shaddai*. It is believed that *el* means mighty like a mountain, thus the strength of masculinity. *Shaddai* likely comes from the Hebrew word for breast, such as feeding a newborn baby, thus the nurturing feminine characteristic. That single name for God includes the full spectrum of masculinity and femininity.

We are made in His image. However, a male alone cannot fully represent of all the descriptors of the image of God. For example, a male, by himself, cannot manifest the full spectrum of God's features historically associated with femininity (tenderness). Thus, no husband can represent the full image of God. At the same time, a female, alone, cannot do justice to His image either, due to a lack of classic masculine strength. In spite of the fact that we are created by God individually, *we express the fullest image of God only when the two halves of humanity complement each other and become one.*

## “ADAM” THE MAN VS. “ADAM” AS HUMANKIND

Let's go deeper into the Hebrew language of Genesis. The traditional view of human creation is that God created Adam, put him to sleep, took a rib, and created Eve. But the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, not English. Is the Hebrew text saying that God created Adam, a male, and then created Eve,



a female, from Adam's rib? I think there is more profound in the Hebrew Old Testament that reveals a deeper understanding of the Genesis account.

In the beginning, God created not Adam the male, but *adam*, that is, humankind. Don't picture Adam the male. The word *adam*, pronounced "awh-DAHM," means humankind or personhood. It is later that Adam is the name of a male. But initially God created *adam*—small *a*—that is, humankind.

After creating humankind, God said, "It is not good that *adam*—humankind—is alone." This was not a case of God creating a male and then saying, "It is not good that a male is alone, so I will make a female." That is not what happened.

I suggest a more correct reading of the Hebrew would be, "It is not good for humankind to be *at one*." Let's not miss the point. God made humankind. He then said, "It is not good for humankind to be *at one* or *one*—or to live *in solitude*."

Here we have the "splitting of the *adam*," so to speak, as *adam*, or humankind, gets split apart. We end up with male and female.

But what about the proverbial rib? The word *rib* does not appear in the ancient Hebrew text. The word that is there is *tsela*. What is *tsela*? It can be translated *half* or *side*. Don't miss the significance of this next sentence. Instead of God creating Adam and taking his rib to create Eve, the text says that God created humankind, observed it was not good for humankind to be one, or alone, and then took a side or a half of humankind and created a female (Eve). What remained was male (Adam). In other words, the whole (humanity) that was created in the full image of God (with both the strength of masculinity and the tenderness of femininity) is now the two complementary halves of humanity: male and female. One of the reasons for the strong sexual attraction of males and females to each other is the desire for the two halves of humanity to come back together—undoing the "splitting of the *adam*"—and reuniting male and females as halves to make a whole, now reflecting the full image of God. But let's take this exciting concept one step further.

## ISH AND ISHAH: YOD AND HEY

The Hebrew word for man is *ish*. The Hebrew word for woman is *ishah*, pronounced "i-SHAH." Here is the difference between *ish* and *ishah*:

- In the Hebrew language, there is one Hebrew letter in *ish* (man) that is not in *ishah* (woman), and that is the Hebrew letter *yod*.
- In the Hebrew word for *ishah* (woman), there is one Hebrew letter that is not in *ish* (man), and that is the Hebrew letter *hey*.

*Yod* and *hey* form the basis for the word Yahweh or YHWH, the name for God that is used 6,800 times in the Old Testament. In other words, when you put *ish* (man) and *ishah* (woman) together, you have *yod-hey* or Yahweh or God—the expression of the full image of God. Even the Hebrew words for man and woman depict this breathtaking construct.

Let's be clear: two men do not have the image of God. Two women do not have the image of God. Only a man and a woman—covenantally (permanently) joined—offer that spectacular reality and imagery.

## THE COMPLEMENTARITY OF MALE AND FEMALE

When the two complementary halves of humanity unite—physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and psychologically—the image of God, containing both tenderness and strength, is manifested. Male and female are created anatomically, emotionally, and spiritually for oneness. In what way is the male-female union a depiction of God? In sexual union, husband and wife become co-creators, in a sense, with God. Children come into being as husband and wife unite. A sperm and an egg unite to form (miraculously) a human. A person! Male and female becoming one is what Genesis establishes as the components for this image. Science knows *that* an egg and a sperm unite to create a human. But science cannot explain *how* or *why* it happens. This is but one of the reasons the Bible does not affirm homo- sexual marriage nor the homosexual act. Nowhere. Not overtly. Not covertly.

## JESUS' STATEMENTS

The only time Jesus participated in a wedding or spoke of marriage, he referred to male and female constituents. Jesus stated unequivocally, "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" (Matthew 19:5–6a, NIV). Once again, we see complimentary. And to assure no one ever was tempted to tamper with the definition of marriage, Jesus added, "What I have defined, let no Supreme Court ever redefine!" Yes, that is the "Loose Garlow Translation." Jesus actually said, "What God has joined together, let no one separate" (Matthew 19:6, NIV).

# MARRIAGE IN REVELATION

As important as this issue is of manifesting the image of God, there is an even greater, deeper role for marriage. In the book of Revelation, the writer speaks of the marriage banquet of Jesus and the Church. Here is my question: Did God look down on earth, see marriage, and borrow the imagery to describe Jesus as the groom and the Church as the bride?

Often we think real marriage is that which we see here on earth. We sometimes assume that God simply borrowed the metaphor to describe what will happen at the culmination of all history, the marriage of Jesus and the Church. But in reality, we have it backward.

The real Marriage is the one at the culmination of history, the Marriage of the Groom (Jesus) and the Bride (the Church). Thus we have never seen the *real* Marriage. That is yet to come—at the end of time. Here on earth, we only have a shadow of the real thing. With earthly marriage, we are experiencing merely the *hors d'oeuvre*, not the main course. God established earthly marriage between a man and a woman to provide a tiny glimpse of the spectacular true Marriage to come. Intimacy between a married man and woman is only a minuscule glimpse of the breathtaking oneness that Jesus and the Church will experience.

Think of the greatest marriage you can. (If you are married, I hope that is your marriage.) Yet the greatest marriage—spelled with a small *m*—does not compare to the indescribable Marriage—spelled with a capital *M*—that will take place between Jesus, the Son of God, and the Church. Do you understand this—the whole idea of Jesus and the Church being married? I confess I cannot fully grasp it. And Paul knew that. That is why in Ephesians 5, after talking about marriage of a man and a woman, Paul suddenly stated, “This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:32). He is clarifying that he wasn’t ultimately talking about earthly marriages, but was using that to try to understand the Marriage of Jesus and the Church.

We even used marital-bed language to depict this event—the closure of history. We sometimes call it the *consummation* or the *climax* of history. How interesting.

## WHY THE DEFINITION MATTERS

And that is why people of understanding defend traditional, historic, biblical, natural orthodox marriage (male-female). It is not ultimately about earthly marriage or even about the practice of homosexuality as such. It is about the desire to preserve the magnificent picture of the image of God. It is about His ultimate design for the Cosmos—the Grand Wedding of His Son to the Prepared Bride. And that is why the definition of marriage—as between a man and woman—matters. To you. To our nation. To God.

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