

GOD'S ANCIENT DESIGN

Eric Dougherty

Marriage, human sexuality and gender roles have been redefined and muddied in ways that few could have predicted years ago. Throughout history, people have worked to justify their desires or rationalize behaviors or states of mind that bring about perceived pleasure. Those who hold a biblical standard may be asked, "What do you think of _____?" Fill in the blank with any combination of sexual outlets. It seems every week there are new definitions and combinations of how people look at themselves, partner(s), or objects that fulfil the latest personal self-identification. If I were to list them in the article there would no doubt easily be 20+ behaviors that are now considered acceptable or at least tolerated by a large percentage of the American population.

The reason I'm not listing all of the behaviors or ways of thinking is that the world does enough of that. Some news outlets share the latest shocking behavior for their conservative viewers while more liberal outlets show the softer, more acceptable side. Entertainment companies slowly integrate the behaviors and lifestyles into the mainstream consciousness so that even the most opposed slowly become desensitized.

We can cut through the clutter and stop focusing on the latest soundbite of sin by going to the source and giving our minds something worthwhile to focus on. When Jesus was asked questions in regard to marriage he said, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." Matthew 19:4-6.

This is God's plan for men and women and has been from the beginning. The options that are cropping up today deviate from this plan and are, therefore, sin. We should condemn the sin without taking our eyes off Christ. We do not want to allow ourselves ever to accept sin as good and wholesome, but we also don't want only to focus on what is wrong in the world without teaching the Good News with Jesus being the remedy for the problem. Now, like always, there are those who are defiant toward God, and there are those who are confused, and there are those who just don't know any better.

Today's Christian can do a great service by confidently living and teaching what God instructed from the beginning and by showing the beauty of a life well lived through Christ Jesus.

- via *West Virginia Christian* (June, 2022)

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering..." - Heb. 10:23

News & Notes



Bible Camp

Tomorrow through Saturday (July 15th) at Tomlinson Run State Park. If you can volunteer to help in some way, sign up on the sheets in the foyer.

BIBLE STUDY THIS COMING WEDNESDAY, July 12th will be at camp, NOT at the church building.

PANTRY: Gallons of iced tea & lemonade.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Rick Thompson (Sarah Malcomson's dad), P.O. Box 2427, Wintersville, OH 43953. Mike West, Peggy Williams, Randy Beagle, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Becky McKitrick, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Rowand (John Sprout's niece). **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **In Ohio:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon OH 44432.

The Bible In 50 Words

Or Less ...

God made,
Adam bit,
Noah arked,
Abraham split,
Jacob fooled,
Joseph ruled,
Bush talked,
Moses balked,
Pharaoh plagued,
People walked,
Sea divided,
Tablets guided,
Promises landed,
Saul freaked,
David peeked,
Prophets warned,
Jesus born,
God walked,
Loved talked,
Anger crucified,
Hope died,
Love rose,
Spirit flamed,
Word spread,
God remained.
Amen.

- Author Unknown -

LIFE IS LIKE A QUILT



Life is like a patchwork quilt
And each little patch is a day
Some patches are rosy, happy and bright
And some are dark and gray.

But each little patch
As it's fitted in and sewn to keep it together
Makes a finished block in this life of ours,
Filled with sun and rainy weather.

So let me work on life's patchwork quilt
Through the rainy days and the sun
Trusting that when I have finished my block
The Master may say, "Well done!"

- Author Unknown -

The Bible

- Is God's own letter to man.
- Is the source of our information concerning eternal life.
- Is our guide for daily living.
- Is the final word in matters of religion.
- Tells of the truth which will set you free from sin.
- Gives me strength and comfort.
- Tells me how to live happily.
- Is the center of our education.

With such a book as this available to us, we certainly need to be diligent to know its contents. Are you studying the Bible regularly?

Author Unknown