

# God's Original Design for Marriage as a Pre-Fall Institution in Genesis 1-2

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# Shall I Bow To My Creator?

- **YES!**

- ancient monotheism
- ancient Israel
- Bible
- fundamentalism

- **CREATOR/creature**

- God || man | nature
- everlasting distinctions

- **PERSONAL SOVEREIGN**

- ultimate responsibility

- **NO!**

- ancient myths
- eastern religions
- western philosophy
- modern theology

- **Continuity of Being**

- nature > gods > man
- transmutation / evolution

- **IMPERSONAL FATE & CHANCE**

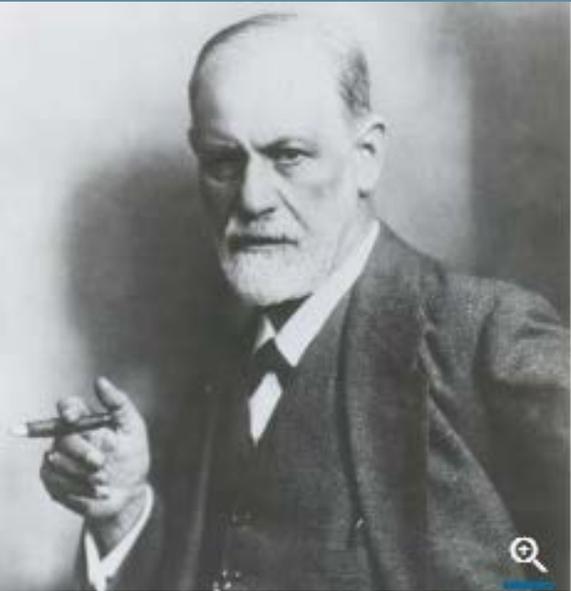
- ultimate victimization

# The Biblical Concept of Man

**"Imagine God wholly employed and absorbed in it— with his hand, his eye, his labor, his purpose, his wisdom, his providence, and above all, his love which was dictating the lineaments of this creature. . . . Whatever was the form and expression which was then given to the clay by the Creator, Christ was in his thoughts as one day to become Man, because the Word, too, was to be both clay and flesh. . . ."**

Tertullian (1885) "On the Resurrection of the Flesh," P. Holmes. trans., in A. Roberts, J. Donaldson & A. C. Coxe (eds), *The Anti-Nicene Fathers*, vol III: *Latin Christianity: It's Founder, Tertullian*, 549, Christian Literature Company

# Sigmund Freud 1856-1939



The concept of sexual orientation was first used by Freud, and its effect, if not intent, was to radically resituate sexuality from its biblical/creational context to something completely new: the foundational drive that *determines and defines human identity*. . . .

By defining humanity according to sexual

desires and segregating it according to its gendered object, Freud was—intentionally or not—suppressing the biblical category of being made in God’s image, male and female, and replacing it with the psychoanalytic category of sexual identity.

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, *Openness Unhindered*, p 94f

# Hidden Logic in the “Same-sex” Marriage agenda

1. [hidden] *“marriage is only a social construct not rooted in a designed sexual distinction”* = **direct denial of biblical faith**
  2. [hidden] *“marriage involves no more than two people”* = **purely arbitrary statement**
  3. [hidden] *“no harm will come from redefining marriage”* = **impossible to prove**
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4. **“All couples should have equal access to marriage!”**

# Hidden Logic Subverts Expression of Biblical Truth

**“In contemporary political liberalism . . . ‘reasonableness’ denotes a willingness not to pursue . . . for vital public purposes what one believes to be the ultimate truth . . . based upon the judgment that reason will not lead to [social unity] which can be maintained only if people agree not to make important public decisions on the basis of arguing about what is ultimately true.”**

Steven D. Smith, *The Disenchantment of Secular Public Discourse* (Harvard University Press, 2010), 15

## SECULAR *LEGAL* HOSTILITY TO BIBLICAL FAITH

“This essay explores the choice many traditionalist Christian parents (both fundamentalist and evangelical) make to leave public schools in order to teach their children at home, thus in most instances escaping meaningful oversight. . . . Society need not and should not tolerate the inculcation of absolutist views that undermine toleration of difference. . . . If a parent subscribes to *an absolutist belief system premised on the notion that it was handed down by a creator, that it (like the Ten Commandments) is etched in stone and that all other systems are wrong, the essential lessons of a civic education . . . often seem deeply challenging and suspect. . . . Such ‘private truths’ have no place in the public arena, including the public schools.*”

Catherine Ross, “Fundamentalist Challenges to Core Democratic Values: Exit and Homeschooling”, *William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal* 18 (May 2010) (She is professor at George Washington Law School)

## SECULAR *LEGAL* HOSTILITY TO BIBLICAL FAITH

[There must be legal and constitutional limits on the ability of homeschooling parents “to teach their children idiosyncratic and illiberal beliefs and values” . . .

[Government control must be exercised against] “parents [who] want to teach against the enlightenment. . . .

*Parental control over children’s basic education flows from the state (rather than visa versa). States delegate power over children’s basic education to parents. . . .”*

Kimberly A. Yurako, “Education Off the Grid . . .”, *California Law Review* 96

(February 2008) (She is a professor at the Northwestern University School of Law)

# **“Do no harm” needs the Bible to work**

**“If conversations about ‘harm’ are to be anything more than . . . question-begging, they need to carry us to consider our deeper commitments and their bases in such things as metaphysics, ethics, and theology. And there is the rub. Because it is precisely those sorts of matters that the cage of modern secular discourse operates to keep out of the conversation.”**

Steven D. Smith, *The Disenchantment of Secular Public Discourse*  
(Harvard University Press, 2010), 105

# God's Original Design for Marriage

- 1. Maleness and femaleness both derived from God's image—not from personal feelings or sexual orientation according to Freud) (Gen. 1:26–27)**
- 2. Purpose of this divine institution is to build future culture through creating a family and preparing children to expand man's dominion over nature—not limited by Malthusian fears (Gen. 1:28)**

# God's Original Design for Marriage

- 3. Purpose of this divine institution is to reveal within mortal history the relationship between Christ and His Church—not just an earthly purpose, but a heavenly one (Eph. 5:18ff)**
- 4. Experience [*pre-fall*] an unhindered, open interdependency—a “team” of dominion with a division of labor—not competitive (Gen. 2:20–25)**

# Chiastic Structure ( X )

## Deuteronomy

**5:6-10** God alone is worthy of worship and service

**5:11** Accuracy in language about God

**5:12-15** Management of labor and property

**5:16** Society depends upon functional marriage & family

**5:17** Life is to be respected & preserved

**5:18** Marriage is to be protected

**5:19** Property is to be protected

**5:20** Accuracy in language of judicial proceedings

**5:21** Self is not worthy of worship and service

# God's Design of Society

LIFE ( <i>protected</i> )	LIFE ( <i>jeopardized</i> )
<b>MARRIAGE &amp; FAMILY</b> (strong & functioning)	<b>MARRIAGE &amp; FAMILY</b> (weak & dysfunctional)
<b>LABOR &amp; PROPERTY</b> (respected & productive)	<b>LABOR &amp; PROPERTY</b> (demeaned & wasted)
<b>INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION</b> (consistently states truth )	<b>INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION</b> (deceitfully professes truth for agendas)
<b>HEART ALLEGIANCE</b> (to God)	<b>HEART ALLEGIANCE</b> (to self)

# Why marriage & family are under attack

- 1. Dominant view today is for community (a memory of Eden?)**
- 2. Anything threatening “unity” is “harmful”**
- 3. Therefore keep public discourse free of “divisive” conversation at the deeper levels of ethics, truth, and reality**

# Why marriage & family are under attack

**4. BUT Christianity is “divisive” (John Dewey in 1934 taught educators that democracy and Christianity are incompatible)**

**5. THEREFORE Christianity must be either be transformed or suppressed for true community to prosper**

# **What we Christians must do with our marriages and families**

- 1. Can't go back to Eden because of the fall**
- 2. Can only go forward beginning with the Gospel entry into a personal relationship with God through His Son and obtain enablement for transforming our marriages and families so they bare witness as divine institutions**
- 3. And understand that we are being trained in a fallen cosmos for life in a resurrected state forever**

# The LORD'S promises to us

- 1. “Woe to him who strives with his Maker . . . Shall the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’ . . . Woe to him who says to his father, ‘What are you begetting?’ Or to the woman, ‘What have you brought forth?’”** Isa. 45:9–10
- 2. “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made the male and female? And He said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ ”** Matt. 19:4–5

# The LORD'S promises to us

**3. “If you love Me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” John 14:15–17**

**Save the date!**  
**2019 Chafer Seminary Pastors'**  
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**March 11–13, 2019**  
**Houston, Texas**

# Topic: Critical Issues in Old Testament Studies

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum**

**Dr. Allen P. Ross**