

(We pray in particular at this time for the new British government, and for the situation in France)

## **187 A Propaganda Campaign**

In various farewell speeches over the past few days Mr David Cameron has boasted of his re-definition of marriage as being one of his main achievements during his time as Prime Minister, a view which has been loudly supported in Parliament and the media.

This effort to re-define marriage is but one part of a wider, well-crafted propaganda campaign in support of the so-called "LGBT agenda". As Bible-accepting Christians we need to be aware of what is going on, and how and why, and to be equipped with appropriate responses. (A previous Weekly Reflection on this subject may be helpful: [www.fsmins.org](http://www.fsmins.org); the Weekly Reflections sub-button Full List By Theme; 06 Faith & Topical Issues, Number 67).

We are seeing before us the meaning of words being hijacked, such as "marriage" itself, "straight", "gay" and "rainbow". We are told that "homophobia" now means a bigoted hatred of homosexuals, whereas a phobia is about fear, not hate. We are seeing Gay Pride marches in great cities around the world. We are seeing how the constant repetition of a viewpoint in the media makes that viewpoint become accepted as obvious and true, even if it is neither.

We are seeing how rare it is for someone to be given the microphone to state the case for the other side of these matters. Instead we are seeing politicians enthusiastically telling us that Britain is now a "progressive, liberal and tolerant society". It seems to be a case of, "Everything is now acceptable, except biblical teaching, and never mind about our Protestant constitution or the monarch's Coronation Oath".

Yet the argument over "same-sex marriage" is far from won, despite the state of the law and the propaganda campaign. At root is the nature and authority of Scripture itself. When all is said and done, is the Bible only of human authorship - a collection of human hopes and wonderings from long ago about a God whom we may even have invented ourselves? If so, then of course the Bible can be set aside as being no longer "fit for purpose" in today's modern world. This approach is widespread, even within the Church.

Or is the Bible, as it repeatedly claims, divinely authored - God's permanent Word and words given to His creation for the well-being of us all? The answer to this is a loud Yes, for the credentials in support of its divine authorship, while widely ignored these days, remain as irrefutable as ever. The Bible has not

changed a scrap; the only change is in contemporary attitudes towards the Bible. This means that, whether people like it or not, the words of Scripture on all subjects, including "LGBT" and "same-sex marriage", still hold good. As such, not to take our lead from the Bible is folly.

The great justification for this extraordinary attempt to change the meaning of what marriage actually is, is that now, courtesy of Parliament, "love has triumphed". Hence, so the argument goes, people objecting to this triumph can only be the most cold-hearted, prejudiced, etc, etc, bigots imaginable, who should keep their "appalling" views very, very quiet if they know what is good for them.

But love, scripturally, is given very careful limits. Of course love lies at the heart of human existence, primarily with the love of God towards His creation, a love that we are to reciprocate towards Him, and then express towards one another. But nowhere do we find any scriptural permission for the notion being promoted today, "You love someone? You desire something? Fine! - go for it!". Instead the Bible is littered with people who followed that mistaken course: Adam and Eve, the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, David with Bathsheba, Solomon with his numerous "strange women", and others, come to mind. The only thing preventing our joining that list ourselves is the steady submission of our wills, in all their fallibility, to Almighty God.

Bible-upholding Christians are in the front-line. With courtesy throughout, we need to explain why the Bible possesses continued authority today; to expose the false thinking underlying this LGBT / same-sex marriage propaganda campaign; to speak of the difference between love and licence; and to show prayerful, pastoral sensitivity to people with homosexual inclinations. For, as explained in TWR 67, we are all sinful, we all need the forgiveness of God which was made possible by the self-sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ; and we all need to support each other along life's often difficult path.

The best guidance along that path remains God's Word, still truly "a lamp to our feet and a light to our path" (from Psalm 119.105).

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