

WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER

A Resolution in Defense of Marriage

The institution of marriage is now in crisis—and this crisis has been generations in coming. For decades, marriage has been under assault in Western societies. Citizens of the advanced industrial nations have treated marriage as a legal and social convenience, to be made and remade in every generation. Marriage has been undermined by permissive sexuality and adultery, the easy availability of divorce, the assertion of an exaggerated view of personal autonomy, and now, by the prospect of legalized same-sex unions.

Marriage is not a human contrivance. Indeed, it is part of God’s perfect design for his human creatures.¹ We affirm that marriage was designed for humanity by our Creator, who gave us marriage for the rightful ordering of human sexuality and relationships. The Holy Scripture is clear and unambiguous about the nature of marriage as a permanent bond of a man and a woman before God.² Furthermore, it is a covenant that unites a man and a woman in a holy union.³ Marriage deserves our greatest respect and stalwart defense, even as it offers priceless joys and satisfactions to those who maintain its integrity.⁴

Marriage is not just one institution among others. It is the central institution for ordering humanity at the most intimate level. Without a commitment to marriage, human society is deprived of its most fundamental structure—and social disaster will inevitably follow.⁵

Any legal recognition of same-sex relationships—whether known as “marriages,” “civil unions,” or any other nomenclature—is a direct act of defiance before God, and a rejection of God’s perfect design for human sexuality, human relatedness, and the raising of children.⁶

Therefore, in addition to affirming article 18 on the Family in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, the faculty of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary joins with the presidents and faculties of all six seminaries serving the Southern Baptist Convention to hereby jointly and publicly declare our support for the institution of marriage, our opposition to the legal recognition of same-sex relationships, and our determination to uphold the integrity of marriage in all we teach, profess, and declare.

¹ Genesis 2:24

² Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:31; Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:8; 1 Corinthians 6:16

³ Malachi 2:14-16

⁴ Ephesians 5:22-33; Proverbs 14:11,12; 20:7

⁵ Deuteronomy 30:19,20; Psalms 127, 128; Proverbs 3:33; 5:15-23; 11:29; Matthew 7:24-27

⁶ Leviticus 18:22-30; 20:13; Romans 1: 18-32; 1 Corinthians 6: 9,10; 1 Timothy 1:10

Furthermore, we call on the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention—and all Christians of good will and biblical conviction—to join us in this sacred effort, and to present the watching world with a bold witness to God’s glory in marriage.

*Adopted by the Seminary faculties in official action,
and represented in this resolution by each seminary president:*

Charles S. Kelley, Jr., President
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Orleans, Louisiana

Jeff Iorg, President
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
Mill Valley, California

R. Philip Roberts, President
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Kansas City, Missouri

Daniel L. Akin, President
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Wake Forest, North Carolina

R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Louisville, Kentucky

L. Paige Patterson, President
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Fort Worth, Texas