

THE LORD'S GIFT OF MARRIAGE LOVE

Part 1 - The Basis of Marriage

Key Teachings

The Divine is one. There is a union within Him of Love and Wisdom, out of which comes all creation at every level.

Union / conjunction / a coming together of essential elements – love married to wisdom, heart married to mind - brings unity and fruition, beauty and variety.

There is a correspondence at every level of creation which mirrors throughout the levels what is of the Divine.

This union or marriage, inspired by the union within the Divine, is at the very heart of life. Indeed, it is the very essence of how the Divine provides for human joy, happiness and fruitfulness.

It is a key aim of the evil spirits in the spiritual world to attack, to undermine, to destroy this union between men and women, just as they tried to destroy the growing union between the Lord and His Father, between the Divine and the Human. The attacks are subtle and disguised so as to attract men and women under the banner of human freedom of choice.

Guidance to preserving the essential marriage both within individuals and across the human race is an essential use of the Church and its Ministers.

Accommodating Divine, heavenly principles to fit with humankind's perverse tendency to know better than the Lord is a potentially harmful trend, both for the life and work of the Church and for the people it is serving.

Given the clear message of Jesus' teaching, along with the overriding thrust of the revealed Teachings, should not our leaders and teaching focus firmly and lovingly on the heavenly marriage between a man and a woman. In a world where we humans struggle endlessly with our desires, values and actions, surely the responsibility of those who have been called into the Lord's Church as Ministers or as lay members is to witness to this clear and unambiguous guidance to happiness and fulfilment.

A Problem

That leaves us with the issue of how to relate to people who for one reason or another do not fall into God's Divine plan for us. We know that there is a multiplicity of "abnormal" conditions that make life difficult and challenging. The Lord's model in the Gospels leads us to the conclusion that the Church must be open to everyone. No-one must be rejected. There is surely no doubt about that. We cannot know the quality of anyone's internal. Ultimately, that is a matter the Lord and each individual. The

Church and its people must show discerning love to everyone in its mission to lead people to know their Heavenly Father. **Only if their conduct is obviously contrary to the Lord's values and principles should their presence make them unwelcome.**

So where does that leave relationships between people of the same gender? Should the Church be solemnly recognising a relationship between two men or two women as true marriage? To do so would be leading people in the wrong direction, which would be a betrayal of the Lord's trust and commission. Where two men or two women have a well-established friendship, then a solemn ceremony of blessing would be well-justified and proper. But to take two people of the same gender through a marriage ceremony, implying that it is the equivalent of a "normal" marriage, is surely a mistaken use of treating people with kindness and respect. It is a wonderful teaching of the Lord's wise providence that in the spiritual world people who have not had the possibility in this world to make free choices, will be given the opportunity to see life differently.

The Lord has commanded that a man and a woman should leave their parents and become a married couple. So why not two men or two women? The answer goes back to where we started. Marriage involves a coming together of two distinctly different but entirely complementary parts, and it is from this coming together and unifying process that new life emerges.

Men and women are eternally distinctly different in what they represent of the Lord's creation. Each plays their own unique part in building what is intended to be an eternal partnership or marriage. Indeed, the man and the woman in a marriage or partnership, out of which emerges new life, often but not necessarily in the form of children, as well as new forms of usefulness, mirrors perfectly the marriage that is in the Divine Itself, from which flows corresponding forms at every level of creation.

As mentioned earlier, because this marriage is the very finest gift our Maker can give to His children, marriage love is under fierce attack from the hells. Under the guise of human freedom, people are seduced to believe that they can do and be whatever they want. It's just a matter of applying oneself.

The breakdown in marriage, and the general undervaluing of its purpose and benefits, is having a serious effect on modern society and relationships across the world, not least in the destruction of family life and its effect upon children as they grow and develop their own values. **The Lord permits this trend so that men and women will eventually see the errors in this kind of thinking.** It is only when we, as individuals or as groups, see the impact of false values that we can reject them, and choose the Lord's way.

In the meantime, while remaining faithful to the Lord's commandments and teaching, **of course we need our hearts to be open and welcoming to people as they endure their own struggles. Rejection is not the answer but true heavenly love for every one of the Lord's children. That is immensely challenging but in the Lord's strength it is surely what He will help us to do.**

Part 2 - Further Thoughts on Same-Sex Marriage

1. Correspondences

How does the heavenly principle of correspondence work when applied to same sex relationships/marriage?

Some commentators say the physical, ultimate degree should be ignored, and concentrate on the inner union. But that approach appears to run against the whole drift of the Heavenly Doctrines. **If correspondence is a universal principle**, a fundamental “building block” of creation, **it must surely apply to every level of creation**, from first to last, from top to bottom, bottom to top. Correspondence begins with the Lord Himself, and cascades down through all the intermediate degrees, right to the physical world.

Furthermore, the conjugal principle enters into an intimate relationship through the woman. How is it possible for this essence of marriage to enter into a male-male relationship; and how can the “double” influx be fully received and reciprocated when the relationship is between two women?

2. The Role of the Church

Remember what happened to the Israelitish Church. The Book of Judges describes the situation graphically in its closing verse: *In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.* It feels like a familiar approach in today’s world, where we are encouraged to believe that we can all do whatever we want to do.

Later in Israel’s history, the false prophets failed to teach and lead from what they had received from God, which led to the Church’s incapacity to be a link for its people with the heavenly kingdom. In effect, the light went out.

Is it tenable for the Church to give a false lead to its people and the world. The Lord Jesus Himself didn’t flinch from His clear teaching when people came to him. The blessings of eternal life were far more important and of far greater value than worldly success and gain. In the final chapter of John’s Gospel, Jesus told Peter that in his old age someone else would dress him and lead him where he would not want to go. How often do we human beings find ourselves in this situation? True angelic love for another person must surely involve leading him or her to discover the heavenly values that will lead to eternal joy and blessing.

3. Caring for Everyone

The Church and its leaders and people are left with the immense challenge of discovering **how to help people, how to guide them, how to lead them in ways that will be of eternal benefit to them.**

That surely involves **ministering to them**, as the angels of heaven minister to us, as they ministered to the Lord Himself. Compassion and respect are vital elements in this vital work of the Church. Working in conjunction with the angels is designed to bring joy to people. **The absence of condemnation, criticism and rejection is an essential part of this ministry.** Helping people to come into an orderly state, as each

one of us is required to do as a vital part of our own journey of reformation and growth in spiritual, heavenly character, is surely a work of great beauty and satisfaction. The evidence of what happens to people, especially the young, when boundaries and conventions are abandoned, is alarming. It appears to be happening on a widening scale in our world. Brokenness of every sort becomes the norm. The Church is **called to be a light to the world**, a light that will lead people to safety and peace. This ministry provides many barriers and challenges. It is a new way for the Church to function. It is a new territory for us to enter. **But is this approach not the stuff of true outreach, of putting deep beliefs into practice, and not just preaching words?**

Bruce Jarvis
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You can also visit our website <https://www.generalconference.org.uk/same-sex-marriage-consultation/>, which we will regularly update with helpful resources from ministers i.e., films, written materials and details of workshops.

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