

Hitched:

God's Great Gift?

What About Gay Marriage?

- **A political/legislative issue**
- **A religious/clerical issue**
- **A deeply personal issue**

What is God's Pattern for Marriage?

God's ideal for marriage is one man, one woman in a mutually honoring, loving, sexually exclusive relationship for life.

Male & Female / Husband & Wife:

- Reflect God's image to each other (Gen 1:26a, 27)
- Are God's tailor-made gift to each other (Gen 2:18, 20b, 22)
- Become one flesh because God designed it that way (Gen 2:24)
- Become one flesh for the purpose of pleasure (Gen 1:28)

Male & Female / Husband & Wife:

- **Become one flesh for the purpose of procreation (Gen 1:28)**
- **Become one flesh for the establishment of the family (Gen 2:24)**
- **Jesus quotes this with approval, indicating that marriage is to be heterosexual and for life (Matt 19:3-8)**

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That rules out:

- **pre-marital sex (fornication)**
- **extra-marital sex (adultery)**
- **homosexual sex (sodomy)**

Prohibitions of Homosexuality

- **Leviticus 18:22:** *“Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.”*
- **Genesis 19: the destruction of Sodom**

Prohibitions of Homosexuality

- Romans 1:26,27

God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Prohibitions of Homosexuality

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (p 1131)**

- **Homosexuality is no worse a sin than your or my sin (9, 10)**
- **All of us, straight and gay, are sinners in need of the cleansing that only comes from a relationship with Jesus (11)**

Prohibitions of Homosexuality

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (p 1131)**
 - **Scripture speaks to homosexual practice, but doesn't comment on the orientation (9)**
 - **The sanctifying Spirit of God can change us from what we were or are to what He wants us to become (11)**

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So...

1. We will vigorously use the democratic and political process to elevate the biblical and historical definition of marriage as between a man and a woman, but graciously and without venom.

So...

2. Even if the militant gay agenda succeeds in redefining the law nationally, we will not despair; it is just one more societal indication of our deep brokenness and need for a Savior.

So...

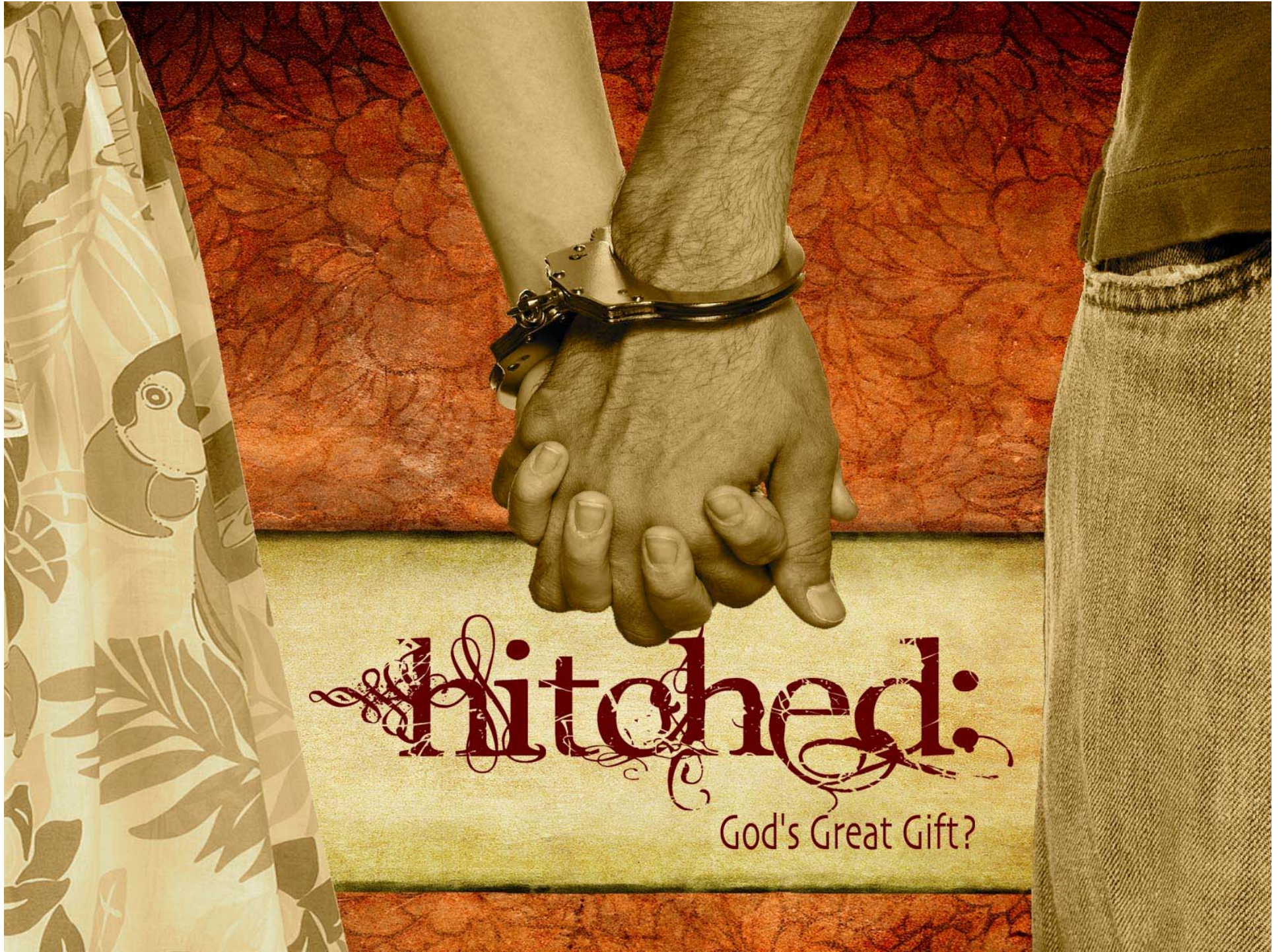
3. We will welcome gays with the love of Christ because while we were still sinners, Christ died for all of us.

4. We will create a safe environment where those within our church struggling with SSA can be honest and find understanding and support.

So...

5. We will commit to following God's design for sexuality: abstinence outside of [heterosexual] marriage and faithfulness within marriage.

6. We will strive to model what God intends marriage and family to be.



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