

Marriage and Mistaken Equalities

AUSTRALIAN LAW ON MARRIAGE

“Marriage and You” at the moment

To be furnished by the marriage celebrant to the parties on their giving notice of intended marriage, from the Attorney General’s Department, Canberra 1978:

Marriage and family life have been basic to the strength of our society for a long time.

The Parliament in the Family Law Act has placed great stress on their importance. Indeed, Section 43 of that Act requires courts, when dealing with any legal proceedings under the Act, to have regard to:

- (a) the need to preserve and protect the institution of marriage as the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others voluntarily entered into for life;
- (b) the need to give the widest possible protection and assistance to the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society, particularly while it is responsible for the care and education of dependent children; [and]
- (c) the need to protect the rights of children and to promote their welfare.

“These provisions afford some guidance to couples contemplating marriage as to the goals they might adopt for their married life.”

INEQUALITIES WORTH PRESERVING

- Truth does not equal error.
- Beauty does not equal ugliness.
- Good does not equal evil.
- God does not equal the Devil.

Choosing those second alternatives makes for unhappy living, isolation from others and social disintegration. The nobler choices are the basis of science, philosophy, art and ethics. A Religion that upholds natural morality and asserts the evil of murder, adultery, theft and lying, might be harder to practise but is more practical. Indeed, it underpins civilization and real freedoms, and avoids the horrors of Hitler, Stalin, Mao and Polpot.

There is a piece of trickery in elementary algebra that proves that two equals one. Actually, it is a fraud, a cheat, even a lie. Similarly, by chopping a square into two triangles and two quadrilaterals, and rearranging them, it is possible to deceive the unwary that $64 = 65$.

Similarly, it is neither helpful nor truthful to ignore the difference of male and female reproductive organs or the wiring of their brains. Experience and modern science agree. It is not bigotry to say so, nor is all discrimination evil.

Mistaken equalities are handy for rabble-rousing soap box oratory.

Before today’s aggressive promotion of atheism and amorality, marriage always involved male and female, even if aberrations like concubines and harems were tolerated.

True equality is not getting just anything you want but respecting differences. That’s fair!

CHRISTIAN VISION of MATRIMONY

Prayer For Marriage & Family

O MERCIFUL GOD,

grant Your graces to husbands and wives united in the holy covenant of sacramental matrimony, so that in all life’s difficulties, by giving and forgiving, they may grow in patient kindness, as they co-operate with You, eternal Father, in forming saints of each other and of their children for this world and for Heaven, and bring Your light and love into many blind and loveless lives, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Monica, pray for us;

St Stephen of Hungary, pray for us;

St Edward the Confessor, pray for us;

St Margaret of Scotland, pray for us;

St Louis of France, pray for us;

St Elizabeth of Portugal, pray for us;

St Thomas More, pray for us;

St Louis and St Zélie Martin, pray for us.

GODLY GOVERNMENTS

Good governments are responsible to the people.

A reasonable philosophy says governments get authority to govern from God, via the people. Persons have authority from their Creator, Who has endowed each with dignity, duties and destiny. This is what the Bible means by “made in the image of God” as the ultimate source of human rights and of duties to others. Such a philosophy is at least a workable hypothesis as judged by Scientific Method.

An alternative hypothesis must seek another source of authority. Where do people get authority to elect a government? Where do voters get authority to replace it?

But who will guard us from the guardians? Not those governments who think they can legislate anything they like, that everything is “up for grabs”. Religion and morals, or even some dwindling moral capital left over after abandonment, empowers people to govern themselves and, incidentally, to avoid being choked with endless rules.

The foundations on which democracy depends are beyond the whims of governments. They include the human rights and duties which guard life, marriage, property and truth, by forbidding murder, adultery, theft and lies. Not even democratic governments can change such rights and duties, nor the biological facts of unhealthy acts into healthy ones, or change wrong into right.

Governments exist to harmonize society, and this includes enforcing such details as will continue to implement rights, but never to abolish morals. Rights and duties are not just anything we like, but are built into our nature as moral creatures and accountable.

The surpassing status of the human person is the half-truth in individualism. The half-truth in Marxism and its derivatives is the authority of government. Both get humanity wrong when they deny God.

Communism

MARX ISSUED his Communist Manifesto in 1848. Yet even before this, earlier socialists were promoting "free-love" to replace marriage.

For Marx and Engels, there would be no marriage and no families. Children would be wards of the state. There would be no alien influences like religion or Churches. There would be nothing to shield isolated individuals from the state — and all in the name of "equality" and "freedom".

In the 1920s and 30s, the communist euphemism for free-love was "companionate marriage". Chesterton said: "This is a relationship when two people who are not married will very soon cease to be companions."

For over 150 years, Communism was anti-marriage, anti-family and anti-religion. Nevertheless, it opposed all homosexual activity.

But more recently, Freudian-Marxist intellectuals support the current campaign to redefine marriage. They know, though the public does not, that redefining marriage will soon make it so meaningless it will cease to exist, and that has always been their aim.

Has our democracy elected politicians who are gradually legislating our civilization out of existence? Are we being trapped in a Nineteen Eighty Four scenario of totalitarian domination by governments? Is total promiscuity the latest sop for a Brave New World without religion and its morality, without marriages and its families, and with children unplanned, unwanted bi-product?

Counselling Harmful!

Yes, under the caption, "Counselling 'harmful, not good'," *The Weekly Telegraph* (London, issue no. 323) reported:

PROFESSIONAL counselling is largely a waste of time and does more to boost the ego of the counsellor than to help the victim, according to a leading trauma expert.

Professor Yvonne McEwan said the booming profession was at best useless and at worst highly destructive to victims seeking help.

She accused professional counsellors of creating a nation of victims in order to boost their flagging careers in the medical profession. She said, "Counselling is ethically bankrupt and is practised by over-zealous, ignorant people who are feeding their own egos. The rights of the victims are being sacrificed to keep counsellors in jobs.

What makes and creates mental illness is the very system designed to help it. The legal profession and medicine have colluded in the whole fabrication of people undergoing trauma.

"By medicalising what is a non-medical condition and introducing a therapy subject matter that is vastly under-researched, over-used and vastly abused, medicine is propping up a lot of dwindling careers.

"They have produced a victim culture. This is a Western condition invented in the West."

LOCAL TESTIMONY

The ex-Royal Navy commander who was rescued in his upside down yacht in the Southern Ocean was offered disaster counselling. His reply was a classic: "All I need is a few beers with my mates in the pub!"

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Common Sense

An Obituary in *The Times* ... How true!

TODAY we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

*Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
Why the early bird gets the worm;
Life isn't always fair;
And maybe it was my fault.*

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapid when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up his will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death:

*by his parents, Truth and Trust,
by his wife, Discretion,
by his daughter, Responsibility,
and by his son, Reason.*

He is survived by five stepbrothers:

*I Know My Rights
I Want it Now
Someone Else Is To Blame
I'm A Victim
Pay me for Doing Nothing.*

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

"To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield!"

Father James Tierney