

The summary statement concerning the marriage debate to come out of the Uniting Church's recent Assembly that reads, "We will hold two equal and distinct statements of belief on marriage" is a fallacy. Why?

Imagine that the Uniting Church released this statement: "We will hold two equal and distinct statements of belief on adultery. The first: Members have a choice to be faithful in marriage. The second: Members can also choose to practice promiscuity and adultery". Such a statement would be a fallacy for the Christian life, because it is a choice between holiness and sin. In the Christian life, no matter what the circumstances, choosing sin is never an option. We must always choose to turn away from sin and toward holiness!

This same logic can be applied to the statement, "We will hold two equal and distinct statements of belief on marriage", if homosexuality is named as a sin. We know there are several passages in Scripture that do just that. The most striking is Romans 1:18-32. In this passage Paul is expounding concerning "God's wrath against sinful humanity". He begins with the over-arching statement:

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness" (v.18)

Paul then continues to give examples of this "godlessness" (Sin) and everything he then mentions is linked back to v.18. Significantly to our debate, he writes:

"Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error." (vs.24-27)

Paul then goes on to mention other examples of "godlessness" and "wickedness" (Sin): wickedness, evil, greed, depravity, envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice etc., but it is interesting to note that the first sin he mentions is homosexuality – and not just mentions – he has an expansive description so that there is no doubt that he is writing about homosexual acts of both men and women.

It is plain that in this passage, Paul names homosexuality as sin. He in fact seems to do more than this - he assertively and adamantly names homosexuality as "godlessness" and "wickedness". Anyone who denies that homosexuality is a sin, is denying the truth and authority of Scripture.

The fallacy of the statement "We will hold two equal and distinct statements of belief on marriage" is then exposed. It is a choice between holiness and sin, and choosing sin is never an option within the Christian life. We must always choose to turn away from sin toward holiness.

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