conducting the ceremony in a Christian setting – they attempt to use God-prescribed oaths to justify doing contrary to God’s design. Homosexual unions which attempt to redefine marriage focus on the marriage oaths of devotion and commitment while trampling on God’s design for marriage. Sacred marriage promises of commitment within the context of a relationship that is condemned does not make the marriage legitimate.

Judicial efforts, legislative initiatives and voter referendums of the populace seeking to define marriage as anything other than the life-long committed relationship of a man and woman as husband and wife violate the clear Word of God. It is altering and redefining something already established by God.

In the public square Christians may be compelled by increasing sinfulness to permit relationships otherwise rejected by God (Matthew 19:8). Such accommodations, however, never permit anyone to obscure the truth by redefining that which God has already established.

Christian concern for the protection of traditional marriage begins with the preeminent concern of the soul of those who sin in this regard. Our goal is always to be clear (Colossians 4:4), to be patient, and to present the truth in a manner that is instructive (2 Timothy 4:2-5). We are to speak the truth and to always speak it in love (Ephesians 4:15).

God speaks directly and clearly about marriage:

Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:23-24)

“Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Matthew 19:4-6)

This relationship, later called marriage (Genesis 29:26), was defined by God in the Garden of Eden, and established as the primary and foundational social relationship between human beings. Subsequently, God prescribed the perpetual nature of this relationship as stemming from the male/female relationship of a mother and father. It was reaffirmed in the New Testament by Jesus Christ as an enduring relationship, unchanged in its heterosexual components.
Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deuteronomy 11:19)

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

Listen, my sons, to a father’s instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. When I was a boy in my father’s house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, he taught me and said, “Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. (Proverbs 4:1-5)

Marriage is the predominant component in the education of children. A man and a woman, as husband and wife, are charged with the training of their children in matters of wisdom and faith.

If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8)

Man and woman, as husband and wife – together with their children – form the network of care and support for each other. The traditional family structure is foundational in God’s design for social stability and the care of others.

“Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.” (Leviticus 18:22)

Because of this, 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. (Romans 1:26-27)

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders (1 Corinthians 6:9)

The Word of God in both the Old and New Testaments clearly condemns homosexual relationships. Those seeking to justify such same-sex relationships must deny the divine and inerrant nature of these words to continue in their convictions. God clearly rejects the homosexual relationship.

And he said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban’ (that is, a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.” (Mark 7:9-13)

In Biblical times some unscrupulous people would pledge an oath according to Numbers 30:2 with the intent to avoid following God’s other commands. In this reference from Mark’s gospel, people neglected the care of their parents because they claimed their money was pledged to God (Corban). They favored one responsibility and ignored the other.

In like manner, when a same-sex couple seeks to be “married” and uses the oaths of traditional marriage – even