

WHY MARRIAGE?

GENESIS 2:18-25

PSALM 119:105

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.**

**Is The Primary Directive for You, to
Walk in the Light of God's Truth?**

**Secondly, Will you look for
the Invisible Realities behind
the Physical Realities?**

FEBRUARY'S FOCUS

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE FAMILY?

- **WHAT IS MARRIAGE?**
- **WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF SEX?**
- **WHAT IS THE DESIGN FOR THE MALE?**
- **WHAT IS THE DESIGN FOR THE
FEMALE?**

ROMANS 12

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

QUESTIONS FOR MARRIAGE

- **What is Marriage?**
 - Confusion over what is a Marriage
- **Why Marriage?**
 - Confusion over Why get Married
 - What is the reason for getting married?
 - What is the reason for being married?
 - Confusion over Whether to have children

'Gay choice' claim riles activists

Magazine interview with lesbian actress sets off backlash

By Lisa Leff
Associated Press

Cynthia Nixon learned the hard way this week that when it comes to gay civil rights, the personal is always political. Very political.

The actress best known for portraying fiery lawyer Miranda Hobbes on "Sex and the City" is up to her perfectly arched eyebrows in controversy since the New York Times Magazine published a profile in which she was quoted as saying that for her, being gay was a conscious choice. Nixon is engaged to a woman with whom she has been in a relationship for eight years. Before that, she spent 15 years and had two kids with a man.

Rejects litmus test

"I understand that for many people it's not, but for me it's a choice, and you don't get to define my gayness for me," Nixon said while recounting the flak gay activists had given her. "A certain section of our community is very concerned that it not be seen as a choice, because if it's a choice, then we could opt out. I say it doesn't matter if we flew here or we swam here, it matters that we are here and we are one group and let us stop trying to make a litmus test for who is considered gay and who is not."

To say that a certain segment of the gay community "is very concerned that it not be seen as a choice" is an understatement.

Gay rights activists have worked hard to combat the idea that people decide to be physically attracted to same-sex partners any more than they choose to be attracted



PETER KRAMER/ASSOCIATED PRESS ARCHIVES

Gay activists worry that Cynthia Nixon's comments that she chose to be a lesbian helps those who argue against marriage, adoption and other rights for gays.

to opposite-sex ones because the question, so far unanswered by science, is often used by religious conservatives to argue that homosexuality is immoral behavior, not an inherent trait.

Among the activists most horrified by Nixon's comments was Truth Wins Out founder Wayne Besen, whose organization monitors and tries to debunk programs that claim to cure people of same-sex attractions with therapy. Besen said he found the actress' analysis irresponsible and flippant, despite her ample caveats.

"Cynthia did not put adequate thought into the ramifications of her words, and it is going to be used when some kid comes out and their parents force them into some ex-gay camp while she's off drinking cocktails at fancy

parties," Besen said.

"When people say it's a choice, they are greenlighting an enormous amount of abuse because if it's a choice, people will try to influence and guide young people to what they perceive as the right choice."

Nixon's publicist did not respond to an email asking if the actress wished to comment on the criticism.

While the broader gay rights movement recognizes that human sexuality exists on a spectrum, and has found common cause with transgender and bisexual people, Nixon may have unwittingly given aid and comfort to those who want to deny same-sex couples the right to marry, adopt children and secure equal spousal benefits, said Jennifer Pizer, legal director of the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and the

Law, a pro-gay think tank based at UCLA.

'Immutable' trait

One of the factors courts consider in determining if a law is unconstitutional is whether members of the minority group it targets share an unchangeable or "immutable" trait, Pizer said. Although the definition of how fixed a characteristic has to be to qualify as immutable still is evolving — religious affiliation, for example, is recognized as grounds for equal protection — the U.S. Supreme Court still has not included sexual orientation among the traits "so integral to personhood it's not something the government should require people to change," she said.

"If gay people in this country had more confidence that their individual freedom was going to be respected, then the temperature would lower a bit on the immutability question because the idea of it being a choice wouldn't seem to stack the deck against their rights," Pizer said.

Although science has not identified either a purely biological or sociological basis for sexual orientation, UC Davis psychologist Gregory Herek, an expert on anti-gay prejudice, said Nixon's experience is consistent with research showing that women have an easier time moving between opposite and same-sex partners.

A survey Herek conducted of gay men, lesbians and bisexuals of both genders bore this out. Sixteen percent of the lesbians surveyed reported they felt they had had a fair amount of choice in their sexual orientations, while only five percent of the gay men did.

Among bisexuals, the figures were 40 percent for men and 45 percent for women.

What
Is
Marriage?

24 For this
reason a man
shall leave his
father and his
mother, and be
joined to his
wife; and they
shall become
one flesh.

New York Times

51% of Women Are Now Living Without Spouse

By [SAM ROBERTS](#) Published: January 16, 2007

For what experts say is probably the first time, more American women are living without a husband than with one, according to a New York Times analysis of census results.

Coupled with the fact that in 2005 married couples became a minority of all American households for the first time,

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR MARRIAGE?

“For this reason..”

Is “Love” the reason for Marriage?

**The reason for getting married, is
often the reason given for ending
a marriage.**

GENESIS 2

18 Then the LORD God said, **“It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”**

19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

GENESIS 2b

20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but **for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.** 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He **took one of his ribs** and closed up the flesh at that place.

GENESIS 2c

22 The LORD God **fashioned into a woman** the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was **taken out** of Man.”

GENESIS 2d

24 **For this reason** a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be **joined to his wife**; and they shall become **one flesh**. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Gen. 1:²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them**.

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR BEING MARRIED?

Gen. 1:28 God blessed them; and God said to them, **“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”**

DOES SCRIPTURE NOT RECOMMEND SINGLENES?

1Cor.7:1 Now concerning the things about **which you wrote**, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.

⁸ But I say to the **unmarried** and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. ⁹ But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.

1 CORINTHIANS 7

²⁵ Now concerning **virgins** I have **no command of the Lord**, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy. ²⁶ I think then that this is good **in view of the present distress**, that it is good for a man to remain as he is. ²⁷ Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. ²⁸ But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and **I am trying to spare you**.

MATTHEW 19

¹¹ But He said to them, “Not all men *can* accept this statement, but *only* those to whom it has been given. ¹² For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother’s womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are *also* eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept *this*, let him accept *it*.”

WHY STAY MARRIED?

Gen. 1:³¹ God saw all that He had made, and behold, **it was very good.** And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

²⁵ God made the beasts of the earth **after their kind**, and the cattle **after their kind**, and everything that creeps on the ground **after its kind**; and God saw that it was good.

CONSIDERED RESPONSES

- **Change the way we see Marriage**
 - Have an open, honoring an expectation for marriage
 - Creating good families is more honorable than jobs
- **Design a process for getting married, according to Bible**
 - Planned Marriage (vs. arranged and vs. self seeking)
 - Provide Adult guidance
 - Committee; in communication with young people
 - Parent Cooperative
 - Create fellowship opportunities for young people
 - Help young people understand and prepare for marriage