A Reasoned and Biblical Response to President Obama's Support for "Same-Sex Marriage" (SSM)

I realize you are reading this on Mother's Day Weekend. Honestly, I would prefer not to be writing this response on such a weekend, but I didn't choose the timing, the President did!

First, let me be very clear, this response is not a political or hateful response. This letter has nothing to do with Republicans or Democrats. Nor is this letter meant as hateful to the President, those who support SSM or those who are struggling with the sin of homosexuality. This letter is focused on one thing—to present God's design for marriage as found in His Word.

Second, I want to be clear that I hold the "Office" of the President with high esteem regardless of who the current President is. I always pray for the President, whether I voted for him or not, and I will continue to do so (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

What do I think about President Obama's call for SSM? Truthfully, it doesn't matter what I think. God's Word is very clear on this matter. Marriage is between one man and one woman. By declaring his support for SSM, the President has rejected God's design for marriage, Jesus' clear teaching on marriage & Paul's reaffirmation of God's intent for marriage.

God's Design for Marriage—"God's Creation-One Man & One Woman"

Genesis 1:27, So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number." Genesis 2:24, That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Jesus' Teaching on Marriage—"God's Plan-One Man & One Woman"

<u>Mark 10:5,</u> ...Jesus replied. ⁶ "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' ⁷ 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸ and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Paul's Teaching on Marriage—"God's Design & Human Anatomy"

Romans 1:18. The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴ 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.

What About the Golden Rule?

President Obama also referred to the Golden Rule as reason to support SSM. He stated "...but it's also the Golden Rule—treat others the way you'd want to be treated." Yes, the Golden Rule is in the Bible and Jesus presented it in the Sermon on the Mount by saying, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you..." (Matthew 7:12). However, you can't use the Golden Rule delivered by Jesus to usurp other clear teachings of Jesus and the Scriptures. Furthermore, President Obama would do well to read the very next verse that Jesus spoke, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). Sadly, if this President wants to use the Golden Rule to affirm SSM, couldn't the next President use the same principle to affirm Polygamous Marriage, Incestual Marriage, Adult-Child Marriage or a host of other things?

If Scripture is so clear on the matter, why would a President who calls himself a Christian come out in support of SSM now? Politics...plain and simple! In 1996, when he was running for Office, he "endorsed" SSM. When he ran for Senate in 2004 and President in 2008, he opposed SSM. But now, he supports it and I believe it is politically motivated. That's why he called for support of SSM one day and flew off to California for a fundraiser the next day. This is about raising money and securing votes. Sadly, our nation is drowning in debt, deficits are out of control, and our Social Security System is rapidly running out of money, but some politicians (on both sides of the aisle) are more concerned about getting re-elected than doing the right thing for our country, children and grandchildren.

What Do You Say To Your Children?

It is important that we speak with our children when the President of the United States comes out publicly to contradict such a clear teaching of Scripture. We need to teach our children three things:

1) What God's Word has to say about marriage; 2) how we must stand for what is right; and 3) that we still pray for our country and our President.

Sincerely, John Mark Caton, Senior Pastor Cottonwood Creek Baptist Church