

Devotional Blog – Sunday 21st March 2021

I know that this Sunday is the fifth Sunday in Lent, but it also happens to be our Ruby wedding anniversary. Forty years of married bliss and never a cross word, well there may have be one or two!! With this being the case, I hope you will forgive me if I take a look at the subject of marriage.

In 1955, Frank Sinatra recorded a song entitled “Love and Marriage”, and according to the song they go together like a “horse and carriage!” Far be it from me to say which is the horse and which is the carriage, but as the song goes on to say, “you can’t have one without the other”.

Forty years ago, today, my wife and I, like countless millions before and after us made promises to each other and exchange vows. We promised to love each other whatever life threw at us. We have certainly tested the “sickness and in health” bit over the years.

In a marriage partnership, there are times when you play the part of the horse, pulling your spouse along and at other times the roles are reversed. It is vital that the horse and carriage remain joined together if they are to stay on the journey together, so it is with husband and wife.

Back in 1955 when that song was released, marriage was based on the biblical principal of being between a man and a woman, in fact same-sex relationships were banned and it was not until 1967 that the reins on them began to slacken off. Since then there has been various stages of decriminalisation of same-sex relationships passed. Then, in 2014, it then became legal, in this country, for same-sex couples to get married.

Are same-sex relationships something new to modern times? Not a bit of it. In the first century Paul wrote a letter the Romans, in which he didn’t pull any punches about the goings on at that time. If you read Romans 1:18-32, which is headed “God’s Wrath Against Mankind”, in the NIV, it is clear what he thinks about their behaviour and where it will lead.

Paul wrote a lot about relationships in his letters to the churches he helped to establish. In Ephesians 5, he writes about the relationship between husband and wife and how they should treat each other. He explains that husbands should love and serve their wives, just as Christ gave Himself for His bride, the church. He goes on to explain – v31 “a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh”

Brides, as I understand it, take ages in getting ready to meet their husband to be, at the altar. Their preparations are meticulous – hair, make-up and the dress must be perfect for that big moment. I must say that whatever time Tricia spent getting ready was worth-while. Like all brides, she looked radiant!! The church is the bride of Christ, how radiant is it looking at the moment? Are we ready to meet the groom? Maybe we need to brush up a bit and stand up for the truth of God's word, especially as we collectively are to be married to Christ!

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