

Regarding change to Canon XX1 on marriage.

In Genesis 1:27 We are told that "God created man in His own image....male and female He created them."

In verse 28 we are told that "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply.'" In verse 31 it tells us that all God had made "was very good." As male and females made in God's image we compliment each other as we obediently reflect His image.

In Genesis 2 :7 we are told the details by which man was created and became a living being. In verses 22-23 woman was created from the rib of the man. In verse 24 it was revealed that man and woman "will become one flesh". They are to compliment each other because they have different functions. In terms of procreation it indicates that a man and a woman, through their sexual relationship, are vessels of God's will to have the joy from bringing children into the world. To nurture them in obedience according to the will of God.

In Luke 10 : 27 we are told: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind and, love your neighbour as yourself". First of all we must submit to God with all our being; it is then that we are blessed and realize how special we are to God as Christian men and women. In that context loving ourselves gives us fulfillment both as male and female.

In 1 Corinthians 7: 2 - 5 we are told that each man is to have his own wife and each woman is to have her own husband and that they are not to deprive each other.

In 1 Corinthians 6: 9-10 it tells us that homosexuals are not on the list for inheriting the Kingdom of God. But the good news is that in verse 11 we read: "*and that is what some of you were.* But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of Our God." {We serve a merciful God.}

In all of this, scripture is quite clear that marriage is to be between a man and a woman. As Christian men and women we can not condone any other norms. However we must pray for people of both sexes who find themselves in other lifestyles and to show God's love to them, in order that they may be restored to God's will for their lives.

(Italics are mine.)

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