

Marriage, as I have come to understand it, is a reflection of our relationship with God: an outward sign of an inward grace.

In the scriptures I am taught that each of us is wonderfully made in the image of God, and that my life is restored through the love of God and the work of Jesus in the world and on the cross.

It feels to me like we keep putting Jesus back up on the cross, when we put each other on the cross – for being counter-cultural, un-popular, challenging to the authorities of our day; for reasons that make us vulnerable to judgement by people who claim power as if they were gods.

Marriage is an institution of organization to reign in some of the chaos that is humanity. It mostly works that way, except when it fails.

Politically, marriage is licensed and performed as a civil act, which encompasses property rights and laws of the land.

Spiritually, when organized between two consenting adults, marriage is a covenant between the two people and their God.

Religiously, marriage is for those who conform to the laws, made from traditions of propriety.

Jesus didn't model that exclusivity to me when he went out and about, eating and drinking with the power-less people, blessing with wild abandon and lack of criteria. He was rather expansive in his ministry. It would be daring and ingenious for us to be expansive too...

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