

**September 2015**  
***What Do We Stand For?***

It's easy enough to say you're "against" something. Politicians do it all the time. All that the "loyal opposition" has to do is object, to disagree, to say, "We *shouldn't* do that," or "No, this is *not* the way we want to go." It's amazing how quickly the popularity of the "Party of No" can soar.

Until someone asks the tough question: "I know what you're *against*, but what are you *for*?" Suddenly, the popular, belligerent voice of opposition has to define an alternative, to describe what the position or course of action *should* be. Of course, most politicians try to avoid that as long as possible, because they are shrewd enough to realize that as soon as they take a stand on something, they become the target of someone else's "No."

It's much easier to be a critic than it is to be an advocate, but there are times when it's necessary to take the more difficult position. This summer's Supreme Court decision has had a lot of people saying they are *against* "gay marriage." That's fine, but if that's what we're *against*, then what are we *for*?

God has given us an answer to that question, but it involves taking the difficult position and recognizing that many will say "no" to what we say and where we stand. Of course, some will reject our answer just because we say, "God says . . ." The simple fact is that we'll never be able to satisfy everyone.

So what do we stand *for*? When it comes to marriage, we are *for* the order that God created at the beginning of time, the order recorded in the book of Genesis. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27). That "female" whom God created was not identical to Adam, but was specially created as "a helper fit for him" (Genesis 2:18, 20). She was a counterpart to Adam, completing him.

All of which brings us to the first that might be considered the biblical foundation for marriage: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

At the Doxology reunion I attended this summer, one of our presentations involved ministering to cohabitating couples. Doctor Kleinig, the presenter, referred us to a book called "I Married You," [http://www.amazon.com/I-Married-You-Walter-Trobisch/dp/0966396669/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1441288278&sr=8-1&keywords=I+Married+You](http://www.amazon.com/I-Married-You-Walter-Trobisch/dp/0966396669/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1441288278&sr=8-1&keywords=I+Married+You) written by a German theologian named Walter Trobisch. Trobisch and his wife lectured on marriage and family life, and this particular book records the experiences he had lecturing on marriage in Africa.

In order to communicate God's design for marriage, Trobisch had to strip away all of the customs and presuppositions that individual cultures attached to marriage and get back down to the very basics of what God has said. While his lectures did not address our current issue of "gay marriage," his analysis of Genesis 2:24 does provide us with him a clear and powerful difficult foundation as we start to explain what it is we stand *for* when it comes to marriage.

And that's the key, isn't it? When we want to say what it is we stand *for*, we need to return to the Word of God. There we will find foundations, walls, entire buildings of things that are important, of things we stand for as believers in Jesus Christ. They are things we stand for because God has said them, and God has built them into the design of his creation, and God has given them purpose and meaning both for this life and for the life that is yet to come. So let us stand for God and his blessings to us, that we may be and deliver his blessings to the world.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Roser*