



Marriage and the General Assembly A Defining Moment

April 9, 2010

Dear Friend,

Should the Church change its definition of marriage? The General Assembly will answer that question at its meeting in July. More than one presbytery is proposing that we change the language of marriage from "one man and one woman" to "two persons" or "a couple."

Such a change would be "against the unequivocal witness of Scripture."

So said eminent German theologian Wolfhart Pannenberg in his article [Revelation and Homosexual Experience](#). He wrote that this question of sexual morality is "the boundary of a Christian church that knows itself to be bound by the authority of Scripture," and that an effort to cross this boundary departs from biblical foundations and promotes schism. "A church that took this step would cease to be the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church."

Presbyterian groups that reject biblical standards are pushing hard against this boundary and toward the schism that Pannenberg warned about. Faithfulness requires that we resist these attempts to "call evil good."

In preparation for the General Assembly, Coalition leaders are developing [resources](#), working with [renewal partners](#), talking with commissioners, creating networks of support, assembling a team, preparing for testimony in committees, arranging for a hospitality area, and planning a major event and an exhibit area. Determined to secure godly outcomes, we will be visible and active in every committee dealing with the major issues. We cannot afford to lose this one, and your help is essential.

There are already more than 100 overtures from lower governing bodies, including further efforts to remove "fidelity and chastity" from the Book of Order. In addition, there are reports coming from special committees and task forces on Christian Marriage and Civil Union, a New Form of Government, the Middle East, and changes to our Confessional documents.

Not all news is troubling, however!

Among the 100 overtures are [some that would help](#) our denomination move in a direction more faithful to Scripture. There is a special committee [minority report](#) that upholds a biblical understanding of marriage, in direct contrast to the flawed [majority report](#). We will be working in support of every initiative that seeks to benefit the Church and bring glory to God.

We in the Coalition are actively resisting any compromise of the biblical teaching on marriage. We need your active partnership and participation to combat a well-funded opposition! If you can come to the G.A. this year and serve as a volunteer with the Coalition, we have a place for you. If you can organize a prayer vigil for the G.A. -- and include our work as well -- we will gladly send you items of concern and names of people to pray for.

In addition, please consider a significant financial gift to the Presbyterian Coalition to strengthen our witness and work at the 2010 G.A. You can make an important difference in the outcome this year with your generous contribution, either [online](#) or by sending a check to the address below.

Yours in Christ and for his glory,

Terry Schlossberg, Renewal Consultant

703-680-4571 or terry@presbycoalition.org

