

The following is a workshop summary from the “MAKING ROOM FOR ALL” CONFERENCE, held in Grand Rapids October 29-31, 2009

“The Christian Case for Gay Marriage”

Dr. David Myers, Hope College Professor

Reporter: Alice Apol

- I. Dr. Myers stated that we need to bridge the divide between traditional and progressive views regarding sexual orientation.
 - a. Sexual orientation is an enduring reality.
 - b. Most people will have fuller, healthier and happier lives in marriage.
 - c. Marriage is a social good, marital status affects all aspects of our lives.

- II. Dr. Meyers discussed sexual orientation from psychological research.
 - a. Is sexual orientation a choice? Do any recall choosing sexual orientation?
 - b. Biological correlates of sexual orientation
 - c. Research has found
 - i. brain differences (gland within brain) between heterosexuals and homosexuals
 - ii. genetic influences
 - iii. prenatal influences (hormones in 2nd trimester)

- III. Dr. Myers discussed research of therapists who think one’s sexual orientation can be changed through treatment and therapy.
 - a. Robert Spitzer did research which claimed that 200 subjects changed their sexual orientation. Follow-up research, however, revealed that over 50% still have same-sex fantasies
 - b. Dr. Myers cites Charles Colson’s argument that Scripture speaks against homosexuality. However, he must ignore 31,103 Bible verses that say nothing about the subject, versus 7 that might address the “issue.”
 - c. Dr. Myers quoted Dr. Lewis Smedes’ argument for same-sex union from “Sex for Christians.”

- IV. Why gay marriage?
 - a. Human need to belong
 - b. Equality of rights
 - c. Equality of responsibility

- V. Case against gay marriage
 - a. Same-sex marriage is a contradiction. Age-old definition of marriage is between a man and a woman.
 - b. Procreation is implied in marriage
 - c. Children need 2 parents (father-mother). Recent studies refute this.
 - d. Gays are promiscuous (so are “straight” men/women)

- VI. Conclusion: Public attitudes toward gay marriage are changing dramatically, particularly among younger people.

For more information, see www.davidmyers.org