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*Reformation in Responsibility is a short four week study on contemporary theology and ethics – see the table of contents below.
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Essay 8 Social Security & the Sanctity of Marriage

Genesis 2:24 – Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ^(NKJV)

The homosexual community will never destroy the sanctity of marriage. No doubt, some readers are wondering why I would say such a thing. The reason is simple, the heterosexual community beat them to it by destroying the sanctity of marriage before the LGBT agenda even got started. Yet, the importance of marriage for any society remains unchanged. The intertwining of a man's life and a woman's life is the double helix of society, and that truth will never change, no matter how much we tamper with it. When marriage is undertaken with a sense of responsibility toward one's family and society, it gives direction to a family, to a community, and to a nation. Strong marriages are like a budget surplus to a nation. They provide strength and stability. Unfortunately, our nation hasn't pursued either for some time now. It's sad that our nation's elected leaders can't seem to put a balanced budget on the table, but they're quick to promote same-sex marriage and the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell moving both the American economy and the American family in same failed direction.

The sanctity of marriage has been absent from our nation for quite some time. In large part, this is due to the weakness of the Church. It's hypocritical for Christians to take a strong stand against homosexuality while at the same time turning a blind eye to the dysfunctional and irresponsible activity of heterosexuals. As a minister, I'm confronted with heterosexual sin on a regular basis. The general sentiment that people are entitled to pursue their own happiness, regardless of the negative effects it will have on the lives of those around them, is to blame for much of the domestic dysfunction in our country. This irresponsible pursuit of happiness is a cultural epidemic. Fornication, co-habitation, infidelity, and divorce are rampant in our society because they are all rooted in the same thing, self-centered irresponsibility. The discipline and sense of responsibility needed to refrain from living together before establishing that which a legal marriage represents (e.g. joint property ownership, a plan for wealth distribution in the event of death, etc.) is the same discipline needed to keep a marriage together when things get tough, and all marriages have their tough times. Why is there such a lack of discipline and responsibility in our society? You guessed it—it's due to irresponsible individualism and the ignoble pursuit of happiness at all costs. When I counsel couples, and I have counseled hundreds over the years, it's pretty clear that one thing usually drives the relationship, the pursuit of happiness, and when the happiness ends so does the relationship.

Our society has forgotten that marriage is a sacred responsibility precisely because marriage is much more than two people making a decision to live, "happily ever after." With no exaggeration, the success or failure of a marriage has an enormous impact on the rest of society. Ask any District Attorney in the country to identify the biggest drain on the U.S. court system and many of them will cite domestic issues resulting from failed relationships and unfulfilled responsibilities as the major drain on the U.S. court system. Domestic dysfunction drains our economy as men and women pay lawyers millions of dollars that should be going toward the benefit and stability of their families and futures. Fractured families drain our workforce as the stresses and strains of failed relationships distract people from their daily work and force them to appear before judges during the week. Imagine the number of lost hours in the labor force over the course of a generation. Most importantly, broken homes drain our children socially and emotionally as they bounce back and forth from one parent to another. Yet, secular and liberal leaders naively think the best way forward is establishing the individual's right to same sex marriage and eventually polygamous marriage. If the courts think they're burdened with the domestic dysfunction of people who try to do marriage the traditional way, they had better "buckle their judicial seat belts" for the roller coaster of dysfunction that will come in the decades ahead as those who want nothing to do with the traditions of the past start showing up for their hearings.

When it comes to the dysfunction of our society, the government is like a weak parent that doesn't have the ability to say no to an irresponsible child who is emotionally and financially draining the rest of the family. Case in point, when the government provides a living for a woman who has five children from five different men, none of whom provide any child support, then the government enables dysfunction and masks the superiority of responsible living. Refusing to provide assistance to irresponsible people is the best way to demonstrate the negative effects of irresponsible living. No doubt, some would say that's not a compassionate or Christian response, but from a biblical perspective God has no problem letting irresponsible people suffer the negative consequences of their actions. Hell is the quintessential example of people being forced to take responsibility for their beliefs and actions—a point that will be discussed further in Essay 13. Propping up irresponsible and dysfunctional lifestyles actually encourages others to live irresponsibly and creates social insecurity. That's why the current welfare system in America is destined for failure. The more irresponsible our society becomes, the more the government becomes responsible for social irresponsibility. Thus, the only way to reform our society is to reform the current system. The government needs to stop enabling dysfunction and irresponsibility in order to force people to start taking responsibility for the well being of their family members.

You see, social security doesn't come in the form of a government check. If you want social security, then make people, not the government, responsible for taking care of one another. Authentic social security is found in the way a husband treats his wife. It is found in the way adult children treat their elderly parents. If your marriage is strong and you raise your kids to have a strong work ethic, to honor their elders, and to respect authority, then you will have social security—a social security that's infinitely better than a government check. Social security starts and ends with strong marriages and strong families. Although our selfishness has destroyed the sanctity of marriage, nothing will ever take away the importance of marriage. Marriage will always be the most important institution in society, and our nation will prove this one way or another. Either we will return to the traditional values that built this nation and the government will start promoting social responsibility, or we will continue to grow as a welfare state, and we will decline further into the abyss of irresponsibility. If America is to succeed in the future, the people of the United States need to stand against heterosexual irresponsibility, same-sex marriage, and polygamy, and they need to take a courageous stand for the defense of traditional marriage.