

## The Problems With Counterfeiting

*I have been having a problem lately with something that I think should be a personal decision, but others around me don't seem to be willing to accept standards that are not like theirs; in fact, they seem to want to control my life.*

*It all started when I realized that a one dollar bill is really just a nicely printed piece of paper. I decided that I would print my own one dollar bills. They are not just like the one dollar bills that everyone else uses; in fact I think mine are better in many ways because mine are more colorful and they are printed on nicer paper.*

*The problem arises when I try to use them to buy things. I guess people are afraid of them because they are different. I have explained the whole thing about them just being a piece of paper. I have pointed out there is a long history of people printing their own money, although they may have done it in secret because they were afraid of what others would think. Still nobody will take my money.*

*One of the most foolish arguments is that somehow my money affects the value of their money. That is absurd, because I haven't even touched their money. Their money is in their own pockets or wherever they keep it, I haven't printed on it or done anything with it. I don't understand why people are so irrational about this. I wish they would extend to me and my money the same rights they have with their money.*

*One point that I thought would sway more people to my side was that fact that at least I am using money. Many people steal to get what they want; I am willing to pay for the things I want. I am going to start a national movement to get the respect that my money deserves, because in this day and age it is ridiculous that people could be so narrow-minded.*

Imagine the reception I would get if I actually tried justifying counterfeiting using these arguments. I would be laughed out of any public forum I visited, and not only would people disapprove of what I was doing, I would even get arrested and thrown in jail. However, I have tried as carefully as I could to imitate the arguments used to justify homosexual marriage, and those arguments are swaying a lot of people.

According to those who back homosexual marriage a marriage is just

an agreement between two people, and it shouldn't matter who those people are. In the example of the dollar bills, they are just pieces of paper. What gives dollar bills their worth is the confidence that we place in them. I can take a dollar bill and go into a store and buy something.<sup>1</sup> Without that implicit agreement, dollar bills would be essentially worthless. It is not the backing of the government alone that gives dollar bills their value, but the belief of all concerned that they have value.

Counterfeiting is a serious crime. First, it attempts to create value by presenting the illusion of value where none actually exists. Second, the very fact of counterfeiting decreases that confidence on which the use of money rests. Imagine what would happen if you knew that there was commonly counterfeit money out there. You would look much more critically at money, and be more concerned about whether you were being given worthless money. Carried to its logical extreme the whole money system would break down.

So is marriage more than just an agreement. In its true form it is a covenant relationship between a man and a woman, sealed by God's authority. Marriage has value because of the commitment we make to abide by God's conditions relating to marriage. Marriage is accepted by society and governments as having validity because it does generally lead to societal beneficial results. If we allow other forms of relationships to be recognized under the heading of marriage then we cheapen those relationships that are actually marriages. It doesn't matter if another's homosexual "marriage" doesn't directly interact with mine; if a homosexual union is granted the same legal status as a real marriage then marriage loses its true significance, and becomes something common and of little worth.

We are told that homosexuality has been around for a long time, as if that somehow granted it validity. Murder has also been around a long time, and few feel that it is a desirable - or even allowable - practice. Homosexual rights activists point out that some people live together without the benefit of marriage, as if somehow that makes their desire for a "marriage" more palatable. Theft is wrong, and cohabitation without marriage is a form of theft.

Ultimately, it is probable that we will sway no one with logic when it comes to opposing homosexual marriage. Any argument I can produce can be countered by someone smarter or more clever than

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<sup>1</sup> OK, I can't buy much with a single dollar bill, but I think you get my point.

me. The actual basis for supporting the true form of marriage is that we have a divine mandate to do so. Therefore when we get in discussions with others about the issue it is best if we make that point clear. Others may not even believe in divine authority, but the reminder may help us to remember what we are actually supporting.