

# Depth Perception

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## *The powers invested by ordination.com*

A recent wedding provided the fullest picture yet of our society's remaking. We gathered under the trees for the five minute ceremony with our fresh, colorful tattoos and body ornamentation, cleavage peeking out from everywhere, children running underfoot from households in varied stages of marriage or no. Amidst our giggles and snickers the groom and bride promised to love and support each other through multiple movie marathons and to make each other laugh every day. Then the officiant, duly credentialed by ordination.com (more snickering) declared them married, whereupon we dismissed to the feast, followed by a night of clubbing.

The integrity of this event is that there was no religious pretense, no money wasted on something not believed in, no name of a deity invoked when no relationship with this deity was intended. It was not an anti-God event. It was a non-God event.

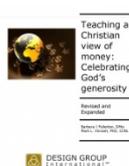
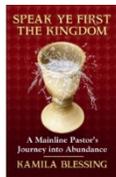
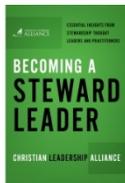
An insight from this wedding is that the definition of civil marriage which our society now debates is this one: *friends who like to be together and love each other*. Can same-gendered relationships or an intimate partnership among three or more adults also promise to support each other in their hobbies and receive the requisite tax breaks and access to divorce attorneys?

A first century Christian perspective on marriage held that a follower of Jesus would not marry, unless they find that their longing for companionship and intimacy with a special someone impedes service to Christ. In such a case, it was good for them to marry and serve each other in the way Christ served the church—ready to give one's self completely that the other might have life. See 1 Corinthians 7 and Ephesians 5 for evidence of this understanding. Regardless of the societal debate and practice regarding civil marriage, this is the covenantal approach the church was originally called to foster and practice. In our society's remaking, civil and covenantal are now put asunder.

May the newlyweds married under the trees have many happy years together. May they love each other through many movie marathons. May they have more reasons to gather with friends and get celebratory tattoos. And somehow, some way, may they learn the profound grace of a solemn promise to love, cherish, suffer, weep and share the entire fabric of life as an expression of their love. And may they teach their descendants the same.

-[mark l vincent](#)

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