

## Think Again - a house or spouse; homosexuality and Judaism

Let's face it probably the most difficult desire to channel is the notion of one person living forever with another person .....until death do us part. This is what marriage represents; Marriage is for this reason a struggle and I believe that only because of God's ruling and Biblical perspective on marriage way back to Adam and Eve does marriage even stand a chance.

Marriage; The contractual arrangements of marriage cannot be like the contractual arrangements of buying a house; it is much more than that; it is about a soul mate. A spouse becomes part of you, another limb, a limb that you cannot simply amputate at will. Marriage is even more, it is much like adopting a child - getting married is sharing life with someone else caring for them and loving them as if they were your adopted child. This is why Marriage is on the one hand so hard but is also probably the most striking and beautiful feat that we can ever pull off. It is a Godly institution and I believe can only survive if the couple whether Jewish or not, brings some spirituality into their lives.

The impetuous to address this subject in this brief format of our newsletter stems from the labour party's decision last Sunday to include homosexual Marriage as party platform and doctrine. In a sentence; marriage is Godly but just because you are not married does not make you a bad person.

I am of the personal belief and this is the Jewish view as well, that homosexuality is a matter of conscience between you as an individual and between God; I also am of the opinion that like the Torah, it is good for Governments to build an attitude on social standards. I believe it is the role of Governments to portray and uphold social ethical and moral standards. It is good to have strong socio and elevated policy and to have a moral position on the sanctity of marriage. I can never understand that if marriage is an act ordained by God in the Bible then why do sections of society want to package homosexuality together with marriage. A homosexual relationship has equal rights with any other person living in all modern democracies so the necessity to make a homosexual relationship as an act of God and marriage completely eludes me.

However homosexuality is not evil, like murder. The Torah bundles Homosexuality with many other laws making its adherence no different than any other commandment of the Torah. The Torah like a Government sets a standard and moral position for which to strive for; The Torah is there to give us aspiration and goals to focus on. It asks us to try hard, however the Torah never cuts off or abandons one who does not adhere or achieve every ruling of the Torah. In fact the Torah encourages the adherence of even one small mitzvah regardless of the fact whether you keep every other mitzvah in the Torah. The word Torah means to teach, the torah is our guide on ethics and values, it is a teacher and way of life, for every individual, it is there for both the adherent and the sceptic. Gods Torah is there for both the heterosexual and the homosexual as well.

I had better hurry its late for Shabbos and I have to buy the wife a bunch of flowers , now that is something that makes perfect sense..... until death do us part.

As always see you in shule

Good Shabbos

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