

Responding to Same-Sex Marriage with Grace and Truth

Pasi Turunen has written a book on same-sex marriage and debated the issue defending traditional man-woman marriage nationwide in secular TV and radio. He knows from experience that good arguments are important, but arguments alone are not enough. In addition to good preparation you need to know how to present your case in a winsome manner and know how TV and radio differ as media platforms. You also need to know how to maneuver through the minefield of red herrings, mischaracterization, and personal attacks. How can you as a Christian make a case for traditional marriage in a cultural context that could not care less about what Christianity says about marriage? How would you respond with grace and truth to a personal challenge that asks: “What would you say if your own child came to you and said he/she is gay and wants to marry?” Pasi was one of the leading figures in Finland to spearhead the national campaign that collected almost 107,000 signatures in six months for an initiative that aims to repeal the same-sex marriage bill in the Finnish parliament.

Pasi Turunen, theologian (M.Th.), author, blogger, and apologist, has been working as a Christian radio broadcaster for 25 years. He studied theology at Helsinki University and his master’s thesis dealt with Jewish views on resurrection in the intertestamental Jewish literature between Old Testament and New Testament times. Turunen is a well-known Bible teacher and is often invited to speak to various apologetic seminars in Finland. He has written four books dealing with cult evangelism, same-sex marriage, inerrancy of the Bible, and apologetics. He also has experience with Christian television. Currently he hosts a weekly radio program that analyzes current events and changing culture in light of the Christian worldview and the Scriptures. Turunen has also appeared on secular national television and radio programs in Finland defending Christian faith and views on contemporary issues. Turunen works for the Patmos Foundation for World Missions, which is an evangelical missions and relief organization bringing humanitarian aid and the Gospel of Christ to over 20 nations in the world. The Patmos Foundation has an extensive media ministry in Finland and was the first Christian organization in Finland to start broadcasting Christian programs on commercial radio stations in 1985. Pasi is married to Parvin, who was born in the Middle East and in 1984 was supernaturally led to Finland to find Jesus and be saved.

I. Ambassadors of Christ in the increasingly hostile culture (2 Timothy 2:23-26).

- A. *Respectful language*: We are talking about real people created in the image of God. Titus 3:2-5.
- B. *Situational awareness*: Where are you and whom are you talking to? Colossians 4:5-6
- C. *Don’t be intimidated* by insults: Rejoice! Luke 6:22-23

II. What is Marriage? – A mere social construct or something real?

1. Scriptural argument – creational theology
2. Natural Law – Public policy

IV. Same-sex unions – Consequences

A. *No difference?* What does social science really say on gay parenting.

B. *No negative consequences?* Challenges to freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

Suggested Readings:

VIDEO: *Grace and Truth in LGBT Engagement* (Darrell L. Bock and Caleb Kaltenbach, DTS, 2016)

www.dts.edu/thetable/play/balancing-grace-and-truth-lgbt-engagement

Sherif Girgis, Ryan T. Anderson and Robert P. George, *What is Marriage? - Man and Woman: A Defense*. (New York, Encounter Books, 2012)

Glenn T. Stanton and Dr. Bill Maier, *Marriage on Trial – The Case Against Same-Sex Marriage and Parenting* (Illinois, IVP, 2004).

Patricia Morgan, *The Marriage Files – The Purpose, Limits And Fate of Marriage* (London, Wilberforce Publications, 2014).

Loren Marks, *Same-sex parenting and children's outcomes: A closer examination of the American psychological association's brief on lesbian and gay parenting* (*Social Science Research* 41 (2012) 735–751)