

## STANDING IN THE GAP IN PRAYER OVER

### THE REDEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

Over recent weeks the team at World Prayer Centre have been asked by many, how the Church should pray concerning the Government's proposal to redefine marriage. Realising the divisions this has caused both inside the church and in the nation, we are praying as we write, asking God for much wisdom and grace.

We join with the MPs and Lords, with organisations like the Coalition for Marriage - <http://c4m.org.uk>, Maranatha - <http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk> and many others who are campaigning against these proposals. At the same time we are calling the Church across the nation to prayer and to 'stand in the gap' at this crucial time as we:

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| Come humbly before our God and ask for His mercy and help  | Luke 18:1-8         |
| Pray for many people to 'stand in the gap'   | Ezekiel 22:30       |
| Ask God for His powerful intervention in all the political process                                 | Ephesians 3:20-21   |
| Pray for God's protection for all organisations and individuals who are opposing this current bill | Revelation 12:10-11 |

When St Paul wrote to Timothy regarding worship he said, "First of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness". We again today join with you in praying for Her Majesty the Queen, for Prime Minister Cameron and all members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

We believe that for any Government to redefine the time honoured nature of marriage is wrong; we are praying that the bill going before the House very soon will be defeated. Down through history marriage has been understood to be a life long commitment between one man and one woman. Throughout the bible from Genesis 2 onward the clear indication is that this is God's blueprint for the blessing of mankind, and Jesus quoting Genesis 2 reinforced the blueprint. He had ample opportunity to change the blueprint but he did not.

We ask you to join with us as we pray. We are also encouraging people to consider focused times of prayer and fasting for 3 days surrounding any debate or voting in either House of Commons or House of Lords in the coming weeks. We believe this Bill has serious consequences for today's society and future generations. This Bill is more than social engineering; it is an attack on the social and spiritual life of our nation. As followers of Jesus, we believe that this is not just an attack on marriage; it is also an attack on the relationship between Christ and His Church. If the heart relationship between the Son and His bride is destroyed, there will be a fundamental

undermining of the Gospel that will begin a tumbling of many things that God has instituted in this land.

At a recent WPC retreat God spoke to us through a prophetic word concerning this issue. We are taking this very seriously; click [http://www.worldprayer.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Prophetic-Word-re\\_Marriage-08-01-13.pdf](http://www.worldprayer.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Prophetic-Word-re_Marriage-08-01-13.pdf) for the full version.

We are not praying against people or any group of people. We are praying against spiritual powers that constantly war against individuals, families, communities and nations. As with Nehemiah, we call for a standing shoulder to shoulder as we build a wall of prayer for His will to be done and for His blessing on our Government and Nation today.

Prayer Resource from CARE:

<http://www.care.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Marriage-Redefinition-Prayer-Resource.pdf>

You may want to use this prayer:

The Parliamentary Prayer

(used since 17th century every day when parliament has been in session)

Lord, the God of righteousness and truth,  
grant to our Queen and her government,  
to members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility,  
the guidance of Your Spirit.  
May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power,  
desire to please, or unworthy ideals;  
but laying aside all private interests and prejudices  
keep in mind their responsibility  
to seek to improve the condition of all mankind  
so may your Kingdom come  
and Your name be hallowed.  
Amen