

FIRST CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY



WELCOME to First Christian Assembly, an independent church whose mission is articulated by Jesus in Mark 16:15 when he said "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". Following this great commission, First Christian Assembly preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we trust that God, working through His Holy Spirit will draw souls to salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Definition of Marriage

On June 26, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling that gives same-sex couples who hold a legal marriage in their state the same federal benefits as married straight couples. Around the world, at least fifteen other nations have legalized marriage between same-sex partners. Obviously, the definition of marriage is changing. But is it the right of a government to redefine marriage?

In Genesis chapter 2, God declares it is not good for Adam to live alone. All the animals are there, but none of them are a suitable partner for Adam. God, therefore, in a special act of creation, makes a woman. Just a few verses later, the woman is called "his wife" (Gen 2:25). Eden was the scene of the first marriage, ordained by God Himself. This passage in Genesis 2 gives several points for understanding God's design for marriage.

First, marriage involves a man and a woman. The Hebrew word for "wife" is gender-specific; it cannot mean anything other than "a woman." There is no passage in Scripture that mentions a marriage involving anything other than a man and a woman.

The **second** principle is that marriage is intended to last for a lifetime. Verse 24 says the two become "one flesh." Eve was taken from Adam's side, and so she was literally one flesh with Adam. Her very substance was formed from Adam instead of from the ground. Every marriage thereafter is intended to reflect the unity shared by Adam and Eve. Because their bond was "in the flesh," they were together forever.

A **third** principle from this passage about God's design for marriage is monogamy. The Hebrew words for "man" and "wife" are singular and do not allow for multiple wives. Even though some people in Scripture did have multiple wives, it is clear from the creation account that God's design for marriage was one man and one woman. Jesus emphasized this principle in (Matt 19:4—6).

It should come as no surprise that the world desires to change what God has instituted. "The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so" (Rom 8:7). Though the world is attempting to provide their own definitions for what they call "marriage," the Bible still stands. The clear definition of marriage is the union of one man and one woman for life.

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

⇒ **Month of August** – There will be **NO Bible studies on Sunday, 9:45 AM or Thursday, 7:00 PM.** These will resume the normal schedule after Labor Day.

Missionaries - India

Follow-up on Pastor Binu John's family:

1st email received after information detailed in the 7/13/14 newsletter article stated:

After a few days of improvement, my daughter started to have high fever again. The lab result shows that there is infection in her blood. Therefore she got admitted in the hospital yesterday.

Last email received about the above:

It was difficult to watch the family suffer, especially the little one.

After the intense treatment, the blood test was repeated on fourth day and the report came normal. Therefore my daughter is discharged from the hospital today. I praise God for His healing.

We, as a family, are grateful for your fervent prayers. He guided us through the tough days.

(FCA) First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

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The Philadelphia Access Center is a ministry of First Christian Assembly. Our mission is *revealing Christ through compassionate service*. Services available at PAC include social services information and referrals, biblical counseling, support groups, volunteer training, and community outreach. All services are free of charge and available to anyone. To learn more, visit us in person (across the street from FCA) or online at www.philaccess.org or www.facebook.com/philaccess.

WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS

	FCA	PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study</i> 11:00 AM <i>Worship Service & Children's Sunday School</i>	
Monday		7:00 PM <i>Stepping Stones</i>
Tuesday	6:30 PM <i>Prayer (Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 PM <i>Worship (Sanctuary)</i>	
Wednesday	6:30 PM <i>Men's Fraternity (on hiatus)</i>	1:00 PM <i>Women at the Well</i> 1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i>
Thursday		6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i> 7:00 PM <i>Bible Study</i>
Friday		7:00 PM <i>Right Path</i>

- *Coram Deo*: A men's Bible study and Christian fellowship.
- *Right Path*: A Christ centered support and recovery group for people whose lives have been affected by drug and alcohol addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support and fellowship; in genuine confidential sharing, coupled with a Biblical twelve step model of recovery.
- *Stepping Stones*: A Christ centered support group for men and women impacted by a loved one's addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support, fellowship, confidential sharing, and intercessory prayer.
- *Women at the Well*: This group is Biblically based and promotes hope, healing, and fellowship for women impacted and struggling with brokenness.

Looking Ahead



- ❖ *A church picnic is being planned for Saturday September 20, 2014, 12 Noon to 5:00 PM. Details will follow. See Gloria if you are interested in attending.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ministries (present and future) at First Christian Assembly and the Philadelphia Access Center
- Christians around the world being persecuted for their faith.
- Our supported missionaries
- For our Pastor and his family.

