



**PRESENTATION BY BAHAMAS FAITH MINISTRIES
INTERNATIONAL**

BEFORE

**THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMISSION
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

BY DR. MYLES MUNROE

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

(ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS)

**FOCUS: PREAMBLE, MARRIAGE & HUMAN
RIGHTS**

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To: Constitutional Reform Commission

From: Dr. Myles Munroe President, Bahamas Faith Ministries International

Date: March 10th, 2013

Re: FURTHER SUBMISSIONS ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

Thank you for this second opportunity to appear before you and share some of my thoughts on the important constitutional issues you are considering.

Since we last appeared before you, we have had an opportunity to refine our thoughts on several of our previous submissions. We therefore submit the attached on the preamble, gender rights and marriage.

As with our last report to you, our overriding objective is to identify Articles in the Constitution:

1. That protect our traditional values and cultural norms
2. That have an adverse effect on our current state of affairs and that will negatively affect the future of our nation if left unchecked
3. That violates or infringe on natural law and human natural justice.

I will make myself available to expand on any and all of our recommendations as the Commission deems necessary.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Myles Munroe
President
Bahamas Faith Ministries International

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

ON PREAMBLE, GENDER RIGHTS AND MARRIAGE

THE VALUE OF THE PREAMBLE

The fundamental principles and tenets of democracy framed by the thinkers of the western world's evolution from dictatorships, oppressive regimes and tyrants were based on man's noble attempt to establish a governing ideal and system that would protect against abuse of or the attainment of absolute power.

In my view, democracy is the most appropriate form of governing in the development and preservation of a free and fair society. The protective safeguards of checks and balances inherent in the concept of separation of powers in democracy are a source of security and provide a sense of safety for the citizens.

One of the most vital components embedded in the philosophical and ideological framework of democracy is the fundamental rights of the individual and protection of those fundamental rights within the context of the whole society.

In democracy, this right to protection of the individual's fundamental human rights is equally balanced by **the principle of majority versus minority**.

This tension between the two ideas of **majority versus minority** is the greatest contention within the concept of democracy as it creates a contradiction of social normalcy and national convictions. The idea of the majority being the guide of what is considered the norm in a society and yet the necessity of protecting the perspective of the minority seems to result in the following:

1. The will of the majority can become a victim of and suffer at the mercy of the minority.

2. The will of the majority can be defined as a form of “discrimination” to the minority.
3. There is no establishment of absolutes as it relates to truth, right and acceptable behaviour. What is normal or natural becomes “relative”.
4. The perception that the “recognition of established, fundamental, traditional or natural laws”, that through the test of time have proven beneficial and good for the development and preservation of an orderly civil society are fluid and unstable.
5. The measure of social standards, civil boundaries, acceptable behavior and customary norms are all at the mercy of the Human.

In conclusion therefore, democracy, in its ideal sense is fundamentally “Humanism” by which I mean “the Human” is the measure of all things and mankind serves as the ultimate authority and takes the place of “a divine power” with the prerogative to change any custom, tradition, standard, law or definition as suits his preference or purpose.

THE VALUE AND PURPOSE FOR THE PREAMBLE

It is for this very reason that any form of democracy that hopes to safeguard itself from perpetual moral relativism that can slowly erode the fabric of a society must determine, recognize and define an “AUTHORITATIVE POINT OF REFERENCE” that will serve as the common guide and ultimate authority.

In essence, it is impossible to have “civilized society” without an established “Authority or point of Reference” that defines what is “civil”, “right”, “just”, “acceptable” and “fair”.

It is my view then it would appear that the “PREAMBLE” was established by the framers of our constitution as the authority or point of reference, as they were cognizant that there had to be an authoritative reference against which all of our “Laws” and “Civic Norms” would and could be measured.

Therefore it is my view that the “PREAMBLE” is not and should not be treated as merely introductory or as an insignificant precursor to the Constitution, but rather established as the CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATION of our Constitution.

Further to our original submission, it is for this reason that we respectfully submit that the following section of the “PREAMBLE” should be inserted into chapter 1 of the Constitution as a new article 2.

MARRIAGE

Throughout time, from the beginning of the recorded history of humanity, the concept and institution of MARRIAGE was established as the foundation block of human social order, procreation, civil development, and the healthy preservation of the human race.

The issue of the definition of this “sacred” and “socially honored” component in human social order was never questioned in any other civilization as we know it.

This lack or absence of a need to redefine the traditional concept of MARRIAGE in all previous civilizations or societies is because of the fact that its definition is a product of NATURAL LAW.

MARRIAGE in its purest context is not derived just from “love” as a basis of its validity but rather “PROCREATION” and the “EMOTIONAL INCUBATION AND SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT” of the species.

In essence, MARRIAGE is a sacred entity sanctified by NATURE to preserve the human species in the context of an orderly social structure.

Therefore, to fulfill the purpose and natural reasons for MARRIAGE the issue of GENDER “naturally” arises and consequently defines the INSTITUTION ITSELF.

In essence MARRIAGE defines itself and cannot be defined by human legislation. MARRIAGE can only be recognized, affirmed, respected, honored, preserved and protected.

Despite the reality that throughout history and in recent years this “indispensible socially sacred institution” has had its challenges and in some cases been the blame or scapegoat for many social elements of social stress and emotional discomfort, yet Marriage still stands as the indisputable context for the most effective procreation and preservation of the Human Species.

RECOMMENDATION

It is therefore our recommendation (in further support of our original submission on this issue), that MARRIAGE be enshrined as the NATURAL FUNDAMENTAL, FOUNDATIONAL, and NATURALLY AFFIRMED ENTITY and must be established between MALE and FEMALE within the context of Natural Law, and our spiritual and social values as stated in the body of the PREAMBLE of the constitution.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The concept of ‘human rights’ in recent times has been the cause of much debate as it relates to gender.

As gender is a result of “natural Birth” the need to address it as a “rights” issue is unnecessary.

Gender is not a “preference” or “an orientation” or an “alternative choice” but a natural product of creation and nature. As we have indicated in our original submissions, we reiterate that all forms of gender discrimination should be eliminated from the constitution, particularly where Bahamian women are concerned. Once male and female are treated equally, we do not see the need to create any additional categories based on what is described as “sexual orientation” or any other so called “preferred” category or classification.

Our PREAMBLE states that we as a nation would submit to “CHRISTIAN VALUES” (see quote below):

“Whereas the People of this Family of Islands recognizing that the preservation of their Freedom will be guaranteed by a national commitment to Self-discipline, Industry, Loyalty, Unity and an abiding respect for Christian values and the Rule of Law”

As a result therefore, I recommend that we maintain as our national standard “the Values of Biblical Principles of Christianity”.

Agreeing to adhere to Christian values does not prevent or infringe on the individual right to choose any lifestyle or behavior that does not violate the constitutional laws of the Bahamas, but requires that the Government of the people preserve and protect the fundamental PRINCIPLES and VALUES imbedded and inherent in our constitution. (CHRISTIAN VALUES) It should be noted that accepting Christian values as a national standard does not infer or imply that everyone in the country is a Christian and/or is forced to follow Christian precepts, but it does provide an important reference point when fundamental moral issues have to be determined.

SEE APPENDIX BELOW:

HISTORICAL REFERENCES: (For your ease of reference)

Here below are some statements with regard to our national commitment to respecting “CHRISTIAN VALUES” from the BIBLICAL TEXT RELATIVE TO THE SUBJECT OF GENDER AND RELATED ISSUES:

Gen 19:1-9

19:1 The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. 2 "My lords," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning."

"No," they answered, "we will spend the night in the square."

3 But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate. **4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom--both young and old--surrounded the house. 5 They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."**

6 Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him 7 and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing. 8 Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof."

9 "Get out of our way," they replied. **And they said, "This fellow came here as an alien, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them."** They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door. NIV

1 Cor 6:9-11

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.** 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

NIV

Lev 18:21-30

21 "Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molech, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.

22 "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.

23 "Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion.

24 "Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. 25 Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. 26 But you must keep my decrees and my laws. The native-born and the aliens living among you must not do any of these detestable things, 27 for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled. 28 And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you.

29 "Everyone who does any of these detestable things--such persons must be cut off from their people. 30 Keep my requirements and do not follow any of the detestable customs that were practiced before you came and do not defile yourselves with them. I am the LORD your God."

NIV

Lev 20:13-17

13 "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

14 "If a man marries both a woman and her mother, it is wicked. Both he and they must be burned in the fire, so that no wickedness will be among you.

15 "If a man has sexual relations with an animal, he must be put to death, and you must kill the animal.

16 "If a woman approaches an animal to have sexual relations with it, kill both the woman and the animal. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

17 "If a man marries his sister, the daughter of either his father or his mother, and they have sexual relations, it is a disgrace. They must be cut off before the eyes of their people. He has dishonored his sister and will be held responsible. NIV

Rom 1:19-20

19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world **God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.** NIV

Rom 1:24-29

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-who is forever praised. Amen.

26 Because of this, **God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.** 27 **In the same way the men also abandoned natural**

relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice.

NIV