

**A Prayer
for the
Preservation of Marriage
in Australia**

10 June 2016

The Structure of a Doctrinal Spiritual Warfare Prayer Patterned on the Lord's Prayer

No	PART	The Lord's Prayer ¹	CONTENT
1	ADDRESS GOD	<i>Our Father in heaven,</i>	Bring Yourself before the One True God
2	WORSHIP	<i>hallowed be Your Name,</i>	Praise, Adore, Ascribe etc.
3	DECLARE	<i>Your² kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.</i>	Declare God's will and purpose based on the Truth of His Word
4	PETITION	<i>Give us today our daily bread.</i>	Bring relevant needs before God
5	CONFESS, REPENT and FORGIVE	<i>And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.</i>	Confess sins of commission and omission, sins of identification etc., repent, ask for forgiveness and forgive others
6	DEMOLISH STRONGHOLDS	<i>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.</i>	In the Name of Jesus, take authority over every work and deception of the enemy and make it obedient to Christ
7	GIVE GLORY	<i>For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen</i>	Declare God's Kingdom authority and give thanks for the victory

¹ Parts 1 to 6 are from Matthew 6:9-13 NIV and Part 7 is from a 1988 English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC) version of the Lord's Prayer

² In this document, capitals are used for pronouns referring to God in the text and in the Scripture quoted.

WELCOME

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to this prayer for the preservation of marriage in Australia – the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit!

It is written as a doctrinal spiritual warfare prayer. When Jesus prayed and fasted for forty days in the wilderness³, He quoted the written Word of God to counter the attacks of Satan. This prayer is an attempt to follow the example of Jesus.

As shown in the table on the previous page, it is patterned on the seven parts of the Lord's Prayer. All quotes from Scripture are taken from the New International Version (NIV). It is formatted so that it can be printed as an A5 booklet.

We encourage you to pray through this prayer at least once in its entirety, and then as led, before the Federal election. Then afterwards, in anticipation of a plebiscite or a vote on marriage, we ask you to do the same.

As it is a lengthy prayer it can be prayed through at different times. You can focus on different segments as you feel led. You may, for example, want to give more time to making petitions or you may feel a burden to pray for a particular stronghold.

Before praying this prayer I recommend that you ask for God's protection over yourself, family, friends, church fellowship and all you are doing for the Lord. You can refer to Scripture passages such as Psalm 18:1-3, Psalm 91:1-16, Romans 8:28-39, Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Peter 5:6-11 and Revelation 12:10-12.

After praying you might like to sing songs of victory into the heavenly realms. You might even sing a hymn traditionally sung at weddings or a song from your own wedding! Your feedback or suggestions on how to improve this prayer are very welcome.

So much is at stake for the future of our nation and our children. Please share this prayer with others. As we pray for the preservation of marriage in Australia, let us declare with the apostle Paul, *"thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"*.⁴

Yours faithfully,

David Rowsome

Prayer Co-ordinator | The Canberra Declaration

Organising Team | National Day of Prayer and Fasting

Mobile: 0438 967 116 | **Email:** with1accord@outlook.com

Home Phone: 07 3422 0969 | **Website:** www.canberradeclaration.org.au

Postal Address: 95 Middleton Street, Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122

³ Luke 4:1-13

⁴ 1 Corinthians 15:57

ADDRESS GOD

Loving Father, Wise Creator, Most High God,

WORSHIP

You are *“worthy to receive all glory and honour and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being”*.⁵

You are *“the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love. You do not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities”*.⁶

You alone are God who is love - not that we first loved You, but that You loved us and *“sent Your Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins”*.⁷

We give thanks and praise to You that *“while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”*.⁸ For You *“so loved the world that You gave Your one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”*.⁹

Thank You that Your Word assures us that nothing *“will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* and that *“we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”*.¹⁰

Thank You for the precious privilege of interceding for the preservation of marriage in Australia knowing that the *“Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express”* and that Jesus is at Your right hand and *“is also interceding for us”*.¹¹

DECLARE

God in Heaven, this day we bring before You the attempts from different segments of our society to radically alter the definition of marriage as found in the Marriage Act - *“the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life”*.

Your Word declares that in the beginning *“God created man in His own image - male and female He created them”*.¹² You created the first man from the dust of the earth and the first woman from the man's flesh and bone. In so doing, You showed us Your design for marriage saying, *“a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh”*.¹³ This we acknowledge is the mystical union of a man and a woman that is ordained by You. The two become one flesh in the intimacy and commitment of sexual union that is reserved only for marriage.

⁵ Revelation 4:11

⁶ Psalm 103:8-10

⁷ 1 John 4:10

⁸ Romans 5:8

⁹ John 3:16

¹⁰ Romans 8:37-39

¹¹ Romans 8:26,34

¹² Genesis 1:27

¹³ Genesis 2:24

You gave marriage as a gift and any sexual union outside the sacred bond of marriage is detestable in Your sight. We thank You for the beautiful and intimate story found in Your Word in the Song of Songs of a man and a woman - their love, their courtship and their marriage. We furthermore declare the precious and *“profound mystery”*¹⁴ that the sacrificial love of a husband for his wife is a picture of how *“Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy”*. We rejoice that even now Jesus is *“cleansing her [the Church] by the washing with water through the Word ... to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless”*.¹⁵

In the light of these unchangeable truths, we acknowledge that this recent move to redefine marriage did not happen overnight but is the culmination of decades of the undermining of marriage and family in Australia. In particular, we look back to the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s which ushered in a plethora of unrighteous and unjust laws such as the Family Law Act 1975. This legalisation of no-fault divorce in Australia has had long term effects and continues to devastate thousands of marriages and families every year. Lord, we are grieved by the subsequent suffering of men, women and children and the weakening of our society.

You declared through the prophet Malachi that *“I hate divorce”*. For as Malachi explains, *“has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because He was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth”*.¹⁶ Jesus also sternly warned in regard to divorce, *“so they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate”*¹⁷ teaching that divorce is not permissible *“except for marital unfaithfulness”*.¹⁸

We are particularly grieved that Australia, like many Western nations founded on Judeo-Christian values, is now rejecting the foundational truth that true marriage is exclusively between a man and a woman. Even though You have clearly stated in Your Word that homosexual behaviour is *“detestable”*¹⁹ in Your sight, much of our society has been seduced to believe that it is normal and acceptable.

Your Word declares that homosexual behaviour has its beginnings when men and women *“suppress the truth”* about You as the Creator and Sustainer of the heavens and the earth.²⁰ Because of this You *“gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another”*.²¹ Then as they continued and *“exchanged the truth of God for a lie”*, You *“gave them over to shameful lusts”* and *“indecent acts”*.

¹⁴ Ephesians 5:32

¹⁵ Ephesians 5:25-27

¹⁶ Malachi 2:14-16

¹⁷ Matthew 19:4-6

¹⁸ Matthew 5:32

¹⁹ Leviticus 18:22

²⁰ Romans 1:18-20

²¹ Romans 1:24

As a result some men and women have *“exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones”* and have embraced a homosexual lifestyle. In so doing they have *“received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion”*,²² for the person *“who sins sexually sins against his [or her] own body”*.²³ And for the Christian this is even more serious because the *“body is a temple of the Holy Spirit”*.²⁴

But we declare that while You, O God, hate the sins of divorce and homosexuality, You love the sinner. You have declared in Your Word, *“I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they will turn from their ways and live”*.²⁵ So great is Your compassion that You are *“not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance”*.²⁶ Thank You for calling us to be ministers of Christ’s love and compassion to men and women held captive by sexual immorality. We steadfastly resolve to pray for them and *“speak the truth in love”*.²⁷

PETITION

Righteous God, we ask that You preserve marriage in Australia as exclusively between a man and a woman as You ordained in the beginning. We acknowledge that in ourselves we are powerless before political leaders, homosexual advocacy groups, media magnates, leading academics and corporation heads in our society who want to redefine marriage. Our society stands at a critical point in time, when all that we cherish about marriage and family, is gravely threatened. We acknowledge that *“we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You”*.²⁸

Abba Father, the apostle Paul fearlessly proclaimed Your truth during the persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor, Nero. He urged that *“supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way”*.²⁹ For Your Word states that *“the king’s heart is in the hands of the LORD; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases”*.³⁰

We therefore pray that in the upcoming Federal election on 2 July 2016, that godly politicians will be elected who will be surrounded by godly counsellors. We pray that those elected to form a new government will go ahead with a plebiscite that is well-worded and fair and according to Your appointed time.

We pray that in the debate leading up to the plebiscite that You put a guard over our mouths by Your Holy Spirit, so that our words convict but do not condemn. As we take part in the national debate let *“no weapon formed against us prosper”*.

²² Romans 1:26-27

²³ 1 Corinthians 6:18

²⁴ 1 Corinthians 6:19

²⁵ Ezekiel 33:11

²⁶ 2 Peter 3:9

²⁷ Ephesians 4:15

²⁸ 2 Chronicles 20:12

²⁹ 1 Timothy 2:1-2

³⁰ Proverbs 21:1

Help us *“to refute every tongue that rises against us in judgment”*.³¹ Give us the strength and perseverance to fight this battle. Cause us to be sober and vigilant watchmen.

Your Word tells us that *“the person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit”*.³² And speaking to those who were ready to kill Him, Jesus said, *“He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God”*.³³

O God, reveal Yourself to our political, civic, corporate, academic and church leaders who support the push to redefine marriage. May the fear of God come upon them! For those who have not invited Your Son Jesus into their hearts, bring them to repentance, faith and life in the Lord Jesus Christ. Bring them to faith by the convicting work of Your Holy Spirit for as Jesus said, *“no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him”*.³⁴ For those who are already believers reveal to them by Your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, any matter where they have been seduced or deceived. Have mercy on our leaders. Open their eyes and unblock their ears to the insidious and destructive dangers of this **agenda to redefine marriage**. We bring before You –

- Rodney Croome (National Director of Australian Marriage Equality)
- Penny Wong (Labor Senator who is outspoken on LGBTQI issues)
- Bill Shorten (Leader of the Opposition who has said he will call a vote for homosexual ‘marriage’ without a plebiscite within 100 days of being elected)
- Tanya Plihesek (Deputy Leader of the Opposition who made a push to force Labor MPs to support the redefinition of marriage without a conscience vote)
- Graham Perrett (Labor MP who has chaired inquiries into ‘marriage equality’)
- Richard Di Natale (Leader of Greens Party which aims to redefine marriage)
- All Federal, State and Territory Supreme Court Justices
- Daniel Andrews (Premier of Victoria who had a rainbow flag flown on top of the Parliament of Victoria as part of a ‘Gay Sorry Day’)
- Graham Quirk (the Lord Mayor who declared Brisbane a ‘Marriage Equality’ city)
- Over 800 CEOs who advocate a change in the definition of marriage
- Gay and Lesbian Rights and LGBTQI Lobby Groups
- GetUp! a large activist group which promotes ‘marriage equality’
- Latrobe University’s Australian Research Centre for Sex, Health and Society
- (others as you feel led)

God our *“Lawgiver and Judge”*³⁵, be with our Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull and political leaders, newspaper columnists and church leaders as they speak against changes to the definition of marriage. Let media, social media and other discussions

³¹ Isaiah 54:17

³² 1 Corinthians 2:14

³³ John 8:47

³⁴ John 6:44

³⁵ James 4:12

bring traditional marriage out of the shadows and into the public square. Give them (pray by name as you feel led) courage, wisdom and the right words to say.

Gracious Father, We thank You that marriage has been preserved thus far in Australia despite eighteen attempts to legislate to redefine marriage. Thank You that our previous Prime Minister Tony Abbott promised a plebiscite and that our current Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has honoured that promise. We ask You for a decisive victory that will allow our Government to more effectively govern.

Sovereign God, thank You that You use Christian ministries to bring awareness to the Body of Christ and to the general public. Give them Your strategies to address this flood of evil across our land. Enable them to spur us on to boldly pray and speak out against the redefinition of marriage. We bring before You these organisations, their leaders and workers -

- Australian Christian Lobby
- Australian Family Association
- Australian Marriage Forum
- Australian Prayer Network
- Canberra Declaration
- Christian Federation
- Culture Watch
- Endeavour Forum
- Family Voice Australia
- National Civic Council
- Salt Shakers
- (others as you feel led)

Give the Body of Christ the courage to speak fearlessly in unity and strength. The preservation of marriage in Australia is pivotal to the future of our nation and our children. Move us to contend for marriage so that it will not be pushed aside and ignored in debate. Stir us to shout the truth about marriage from the rooftops!

CONFESS, REPENT and FORGIVE

Holy God, we now confess our part in not dealing with those things in our society that have made us vulnerable to the push to redefine marriage. We bring before You our actions and lack of actions which have undermined the Judeo-Christian foundations of religious freedom, marriage and family and the sanctity of human life.

- We confess our part in **looking to the wisdom of man** and not *“humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God”* as set out in our Constitution. We are sorry for our ingratitude for all the blessings You have bestowed upon us. In our affluence we have vainly imagined that we do not need You. O God, forgive us.
- We confess our **prayerlessness in regard to the on-going effects of the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s**. This rebellion against You separated sex from procreation and sex and procreation from marriage. It now attempts to deconstruct the gender differences between men and women.

We are sorry for not resisting Satan, the instigator of the Sexual Revolution, as we ought. In our apathy we have let things spiral down. Please forgive us.

- We confess our **complacency with no-fault divorce** to the extent that the number of divorces have dramatically increased since the Sexual Revolution. We are sorry that the divorce rate amongst Christians is also high. This has left behind a legacy of fatherless or motherless homes. Many young children are living with undeserved rejection and disillusionment. Many are blaming themselves for the break-up of their parents. They have not been listened to and their lives have been permanently scarred. We have lacked real empathy. Have mercy on us.
- We confess our **silence in allowing legalised prostitution to go unchallenged**. This sends the message that sex outside a marriage relationship is wholly acceptable. Many do not know that sex is a sacred part of the mystical one flesh union of a married couple. Since the Sexual Revolution, sex has been reduced to a commodity that can be purchased in any registered brothel. We have not adequately confronted this evil. Please forgive us.
- We confess our **lack of outrage for the shedding of innocent blood of unborn babies through abortion**. This has wiped out, on the altar of convenience, a third of a whole generation since the Sexual Revolution. We are saddened that more and more children and young adults are realising that they are the 'survivors' that their parents' generation chose not to kill. This can only alienate the generations with a huge wedge of distrust between them. We mourn for the atrocious and deliberate killing of approximately 4 million unborn Australian babies. Our hearts cry out! O God, we are sorry. Have mercy on us.
- We confess our **indifference to the teaching of atheistic evolution in our schools**. This unproven worldview has convinced a whole generation since the Sexual Revolution that they are just another animal on the evolutionary ladder. We are sorry that we have allowed our schools to continue teaching that man is just a cosmic accident and that emotions such as love are just evolutionary mechanisms which help to ensure the survival of the fittest. Without You life is meaningless. Without You, there is no accountability for how we live and no right or wrong. In our dullness we have not spoken out. Please forgive us.
- We confess our part in **allowing the insidious pornification of our society**. This means that a whole generation since the Sexual Revolution cannot escape early and frequent exposure. Indeed our society has been so saturated with pornography that our collective attitude toward sex has been poisoned with perversion, violence and self-gratification. We are appalled at what goes into our children's minds through television, the internet and public advertising. Such things have hastened the sexualisation of our children and robbed them of their childhood. For too long we have been looking the other way. Have mercy on us.
- We confess **distancing ourselves from those caught in a homosexual lifestyle**. We confess our part in rejecting men and women, made in Your image, who are ensnared in homosexuality. Please forgive us. Fill us with Your unconditional love and move us to help them to be set free.

We now repent and turn from these sins. We ask You Father to have mercy on us and forgive us. Give us wisdom, discernment and strength to resist the continuation of these sins that have shaped a whole new generation since the Sexual Revolution. Burden our hearts in such a way that we take steps to overcome these evils. Help us to make restitution or restoration where these are needed. Please also move us to forgive and have compassion on those who are perpetrators of these things. In many cases they do not know what they are doing. Stir us to pray and fast for revival so that the Church and society will be transformed. Then marriages and families as You ordained will once again have their rightful place in our society.

DEMOLISH STRONGHOLDS

Almighty God, though we are dismayed by all that is happening ... we now take our stand. Your Word says that *“our struggle is not against flesh and blood”*³⁶ and that *“the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world”*.³⁷ Thank You that these weapons *“have divine power to demolish strongholds”*³⁸ and that we can *“demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”*.³⁹ We now target, in the Name of Jesus, specific spiritual strongholds which militate against the preservation of marriage in Australia.

We affirm that the shed blood of Jesus on the cross, His mighty resurrection and glorious ascension has utterly defeated Satan, the enemy of our souls. Jesus declared him *“a murderer from the beginning”* and *“a liar and the father of all lies”*.⁴⁰ Now as Satan thrashes about in fury, causing as much damage as he can, *“because he knows his time is short”*,⁴¹ we affirm that Your Word tells us to *“resist the devil, and he will flee from you”*.⁴² We therefore humbly submit ourselves to You and appropriate and claim by faith the victory of the finished work of Jesus Christ. As we pray and demolish the strongholds of Satan, we affirm our full authority and position of victory over Satan and all of his kingdom of darkness.

Stronghold 1 – Rejecting God’s Design for Marriage

In the Name of Jesus, we come against the lies of Satan that marriage is not exclusively between a man and a woman but can also be between two men or two women. Reminding His hearers of Your design for marriage Jesus said, *“Haven’t you read ... that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’”*. Then quoting Your words from the sixth day of creation He said, *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh”*.⁴³

³⁶ Ephesians 6:12

³⁷ 2 Corinthians 10:3

³⁸ 2 Corinthians 10:4

³⁹ 2 Corinthians 10:5

⁴⁰ John 8:44

⁴¹ Revelation 12:12

⁴² James 4:7

⁴³ Matthew 19:4,5

Your words encapsulate the majesty and mystery of Your design for a heterosexual and monogamous marriage relationship. In the beginning it was that *“ancient serpent”*⁴⁴, the devil, who tempted Adam and Eve to sin - the very first man and woman whom You created and brought together in marriage. O God, we pray that You will nullify the efforts of those Satan is using to destroy and dismantle Your design for marriage. We resist their efforts to impose a radical sexual ideology that promotes homosexuality and genderless relationships. In the Name of Jesus, we denounce and totally demolish their unrighteous social engineering agendas.

Stronghold 2 – Depriving Children of their Birthright of a Mum and a Dad

In the Name of Jesus, who was raised by loving parents Mary and Joseph, we come against the work of Satan, *“the thief who comes only to steal, kill and destroy”*.⁴⁵ His desire is to rob a child of his or her birthright to be raised by a mother and a father. We are grieved by those who replace this birthright with two ‘fathers’ or two ‘mothers’ despite the overwhelming evidence that children do best when raised by their married biological mum and dad. In the Name of Jesus, put an end to this form of child abuse. For we know that raising children who love You is one of Your ideals for the marriage of a man and a woman. Your Word says, *“Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because He was seeking godly offspring”*.⁴⁶ Although fathering and mothering have much in common, we acknowledge Your creation of men and women with inherent differences vital for children’s development. Enable our society to understand and appreciate the unique contributions mothers and fathers both make in their children’s lives. Transform our society such that every child can be welcomed into a loving home with, if at all possible, his or her married mother and father.

Stronghold 3 – Validating a Sexually Immoral Lifestyle

In the Name of Jesus, who had no sin, yet bore all our sin, so that *“in Him we might become the righteousness of God”*⁴⁷, we ask that You rebuke Satan and all the powers of darkness who are behind those *“who call evil good and good evil”*.⁴⁸ As time goes on we see more clearly that the push to redefine marriage is not about ‘discrimination’ and so-called ‘equality’. It is about giving the final legal stamp of approval to the homosexual lifestyle and imposing it with force upon society, even upon Christians and the Church. In the Name of Jesus, we demolish all arguments and pretensions to redefine marriage that will require our children be indoctrinated with a godless radical sexual ideology. We are outraged by this usurping of parental authority. We take our stand against the forcing of parents to relinquish their right to raise their children according to their own conscience and values. Raise up leaders in the Church to fearlessly speak out on these issues in their congregations and in the public square.

⁴⁴ Revelation 12:9

⁴⁵ John 10:10

⁴⁶ Malachi 2:15

⁴⁷ 2 Corinthians 5:21

⁴⁸ Isaiah 5:20

Stronghold 4 – Claiming Homosexuality is Normal

In the Name of Jesus, who was single and yet perfect in His humanity, we reject the lies of the devil that sexual experience is essential to human fulfilment and that homosexuality is a normal and natural mode of sexual expression. We are alarmed that those who want to redefine marriage have been extremely successful in convincing a large part of society that homosexual orientation is innate, unchangeable and normal. Your Word, O God, makes it clear that homosexual practice is a deviation from Your norm. Paul warned the Corinthians, *“do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ... will inherit the kingdom of God”*. *“And that is what some of you were”*, he cries. *“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”*.⁴⁹ We bind all powers of darkness set to destroying those we know caught in a homosexual lifestyle (you can name them) and loose them from their blinding in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. God of Compassion, give local churches a vision to be communities of love, understanding, acceptance and support for those caught in a homosexual lifestyle. Move us to be channels of the redeeming love of Christ so that their healing will become a glorious reality. Your grace is more than sufficient!

Stronghold 5 – Using Intimidation to Silence the Truth

In the Name of Jesus, whose cousin, John the Baptist, was imprisoned and beheaded for speaking out about the divorce and adultery of King Herod,⁵⁰ we come against the works of Satan, *“the accuser ... who accuses [believers] before our God day and night”*.⁵¹ We pray that You will silence those who label others as ‘homophobes’ or ‘bigots’ the moment a person speaks the truth about marriage as You ordained. Their aim is to crush and wipe out any dissent. We nullify the attempts of LGBTQI, progressive left and feminist groups to shout down peaceful rallies with blaspheming and profanities and threats of physical violence. We resist their attempts to take legal action by calling upon the ‘*thought police*’ and invoking so-called ‘*anti-discrimination*’ laws. Help us to resist the temptation to retaliate by getting into a shouting match. Instead, grant us the self-control to respond in the opposite spirit as Jesus commanded. For He told us to *“love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you”*.⁵² Help us to speak the truth in love so that their eyes may be opened.

Stronghold 6 – Claiming Love and Commitment are All that Matter

In the Name of Jesus, whose sacrificial love for the Church is the high standard of how a husband should love his wife ⁵³, we come against Satan and his demonic forces who twist and distort the meaning of love.

⁴⁹ 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

⁵⁰ Mark 6:18

⁵¹ Revelation 12:10

⁵² Luke 6:27-28

⁵³ Ephesians 5:25

The apostle Paul writes, *“There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money ... not lovers of the good ... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God”*.⁵⁴ We are troubled that this selfish love is a driving force behind the frenzied push to redefine marriage. It is wrong that only 2% of the population can demand that the timeless definition of marriage be radically changed for the rest of society. Marriage redefined is marriage destroyed. It is a heart-breaking tragedy that homosexual couples who want to have children are prepared to deprive those children of being raised by a mum and a dad. We are disturbed that much of the marriage debate revolves around the lie that love and commitment of individuals are the over-riding criterion for marriage. This only opens the door for the redefinition of marriage to accommodate polygamous or polyamorous or other relationships. And while the Marriage Act makes marriage between a brother and sister void, the redefinition of marriage could encourage others to push for marriage between siblings of the same sex. In the Name of Jesus, we refute and demolish the deplorable and twisted lies of the enemy that seek to destroy marriage.

Stronghold 7 – Denying the Freedoms of Religion, Speech and Conscience

In the Name of Jesus, who performed His first public miracle, the changing of water into wine, at a wedding in Cana ⁵⁵, we ask that You rebuke our adversary Satan who wants to bring ruin to these sacred occasions. We stand against Satan who tries to desecrate and make a mockery of the wedding ceremony by using it to ‘solemnize’ and ‘celebrate’ homosexual relationships. We also stand against any persecution of priests, pastors and ministers and those in the wedding industry - celebrants, florists, photographers, bakers etc. - who choose not to violate their consciences by providing a service to homosexual ‘wedding’ celebrations. We are outraged by the lawsuits and vitriolic verbal abuse and threats Christians receive for any expression of their religious convictions. We ask that You would give all of us the courage and resolve to testify to the sacredness of marriage and the wedding ceremony.

Stronghold 8 – Inflicting Radical Intolerance

In the Name of Jesus, who forgave a woman caught in the act of adultery and saved her from being stoned to death⁵⁶, we ask You to rebuke Satan, the slanderer, who relentlessly accuses and condemns those who are made in Your image. In the Name of Jesus, we demolish the stronghold of radical intolerance of those who want to redefine marriage. They claim to be tolerant yet vehemently attack anyone who holds to a traditional view of marriage. In spite of this, we affirm before You our responsibility to graciously yet firmly present the case for the Biblical position on sexuality and marriage. We will not be cowed into compromising the truth. God our Strength, help us do this in the context of the preaching of the Gospel, which when properly understood, brings conviction of sin. Instil in us a loving concern for all people regardless of their views on sexuality and marriage.

⁵⁴ 2 Timothy 3:1-5

⁵⁵ John 2:1-11

⁵⁶ John 8:1-11

Thus we do not seek to stand in condemnation of those who have embraced the homosexual lifestyle or have rejected the Biblical concept of marriage. Help us to follow the example of Jesus as He ministered to the adulterous woman. He did not condemn her for adultery neither did He condone her actions.

Stronghold 9 – Embarking on New Stolen Generations

In the Name of Jesus, whose genealogies are recorded in the Bible - 42 generations back to Abraham on His human father's side of the family and 75 generations back to Adam on His mother's side⁵⁷, we ask that You rebuke Satan who wants to rob men, women and children of their family heritage and identity. You established the natural family formed by a man and a woman, as a place where procreation can take place and where children can be raised and nurtured. But in the case of a homosexual couple wanting children, they need to rely on adoption or donor-conception involving most times an anonymous third party of the opposite sex to provide a separate ovum or sperm. We are alarmed by the injustice of depriving a child of the knowledge of his or her origins. Sadly, the injustice is intergenerational as any offspring of that child will also be denied the same knowledge of family ancestry, pertinent medical information, cultural heritage and probably a relationship with one or more grandparents. As seen in adopted children, there is an in-built longing to know where he or she came from. Even with loving adoptive parents, they often want to know and meet their true biological parents. God of Compassion, open the eyes of our leaders to learn from the apology made in 2008 to the Stolen Generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait children who were forcibly separated from their parents by the state. We pray that You will nullify the strategies of Satan and stop our government from deliberately embarking on new stolen generations of motherless or fatherless children.

Stronghold 10 – The Flaunting of God's Judgment

In the Name of Jesus, who cited the ancient city Sodom several times in the Gospels⁵⁸ as an object of God's wrath and judgment, we ask that You rebuke Satan, *"the god of this age who has blinded the minds of unbelievers"*⁵⁹, who incites men and women to exchange natural relations with individuals of the opposite sex for unnatural ones with the same sex. The public nudity and shameless flaunting of homosexuality at Gay Pride and Mardi Gras parades along with the lampooning of those who hold to the sacredness of marriage are grievous - especially as many impressionable children are among the spectators. By Your mercy and grace help our culture and society to heed the repeated warnings of Jesus. Jude further elucidates the frightening consequences of Your judgment, reminding us that, *"Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire"*.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 3:23-37

⁵⁸ Matthew 10:15, 11:23-24; Luke 10:12, 17:29

⁵⁹ 2 Corinthians 4:4

⁶⁰ Jude 7

Jesus, warning of the suddenness of judgment, said, *“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away”*.⁶¹ We ask that in Your mercy You would reveal Your holiness and righteousness to those who flaunt Your judgment before it is too late. For You take no joy when the lost suffer punishment.

Stronghold 11 – The Imposition of Queer Theory

In the Name of Jesus, who said, *“At the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female’”*, we ask that You rebuke Satan, whom Jesus declared is *“a liar and the father of all lies”*.⁶² We pray that You would invalidate Queer Theory with its false propositions that there are 51 gender categories (and growing). We pray that You would expose this for what it is – an outrageous and gross distortion of truth. It is an attempt to deconstruct Your created order. We pray that You will bring to an end this imposition of a radical and godless sexual ideology on our society. Confound the thinking of the theorists and the strategists. Bring to nought their plans to indoctrinate our children through the insidious Safe Schools Coalition Australia program, the deceitful Building Respectful Relationships program by Deakin University and harmless-sounding Start Early program by Early Childhood Australia through schools and pre-schools. Have mercy on those who deny Your wisdom as the Creator God who made us male or female. Bring an end to their rebellion.

Stronghold 12 – Desecrating the Colours of the Rainbow

In the Name of Jesus, who is the *“Light of the world”*⁶³, we come against the evil intentions of Satan, who *“masquerades as an angel of light”*⁶⁴ to use Your special creation, the rainbow, to symbolize the so-called *‘marriage equality’* movement for normalizing homosexuality and gender fluidity in our society. We are sorely grieved by this intentional desecration of the rainbow that surrounds Your eternal throne in heaven.⁶⁵ You set the rainbow in the sky after the Flood as a sign of Your covenant for all generations to come. You sent this very first rainbow to Noah after You had blessed Noah and his family and commanded them to *“be fruitful”*⁶⁶ to repopulate the earth. Today some politicians in support of redefining marriage, literally wrap themselves in the six-coloured counterfeit rainbow which is also flown in parades of homosexuality. We ask that You put an end to this flagrant desecration. We celebrate the rainbow that surrounds Your throne in heaven. We declare that Your rainbow is a precious reminder of Your mercy and grace with Your covenant people. In the Name of Jesus, we reclaim the rainbow and all its seven glorious colours!

⁶¹ Matthew 24:37-39a

⁶² John 8:44

⁶³ John 8:12

⁶⁴ 2 Corinthians 11:14

⁶⁵ Revelation 4:2

⁶⁶ Genesis 9:1

Eternal Father, we are appalled with this most recent push to redefine marriage. It is a massive open assault of Satan and all the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms against the Judeo-Christian foundations that have made Australia a great place to live. In the mighty Name of Jesus, we demolish, tear down, smash and destroy every satanic stronghold set to destroy and dismantle marriage in Australia. Your Word says that the followers of Jesus *“overcame [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony”*.⁶⁷ We rejoice in the victory that Jesus won at Calvary *“through His blood shed on the cross”*.⁶⁸

Sovereign God, be with us in this battle for the preservation of marriage in Australia. With Jesus as our Captain, help us to contend for You, *“in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left”*.⁶⁹ May You be glorified through the preservation of marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman in this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit!

GIVE GLORY

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, let Your glory be over all the earth”.⁷⁰

“[Your] works are perfect and all [Your] ways are just”.⁷¹ *“[You are] faithful to all [Your] promises and loving toward all [You] have made”*.⁷²

“[You] are near to all who call on [You], to all who call on [You] in truth”.⁷³ *“Your compassions never fail. ... Great is Your faithfulness!”*⁷⁴

Thank You for the promise of Jesus that we may ask for anything in His Name and He will do it *“so that the Son may bring glory to the Father”*.⁷⁵

We delight in the privilege You have given us, as Your sons and daughters, in sharing Your love in the power of the Holy Spirit to a lost and dying world.

Thanks be to You, O God, *“You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”*⁷⁶

“May the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea”.⁷⁷

In the most precious and glorious Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

⁶⁷ Revelation 12:11

⁶⁸ Colossians 1:20

⁶⁹ 2 Corinthians 6:6-7

⁷⁰ Psalm 57:5

⁷¹ Deuteronomy 32:4

⁷² Psalm 145:13

⁷³ Psalm 145:18

⁷⁴ Lamentations 3:23

⁷⁵ John 14:14

⁷⁶ 1 Corinthians 15:57

⁷⁷ Habakkuk 2:14