

# SCIENCE OF MIND IN THE DESERT

Rev. Terry Scott

## MARRIAGE FOR ALL

Two years ago, I performed a legal gay marriage in Vancouver, Canada. My church home office in Los Angeles, obtained a 30 day permit allowing me to conduct the service. What a sense of pleasure and fulfillment I had in that moment when I could say “LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE RAYMOND ALAN ANDERSON AND MICHEL ANDRE TARKO, NOW RECOGNIZED BY CANADA AND US HERE PRESENT AS A “LAWFULLY MARRIED COUPLE.” I think I pretty much shouted it out!

This must be the sense of Joy and Love that we all are experiencing as we attend gay weddings here in California. We are celebrating, not just civil unions, but **Matrimony** in the most Holy sense; two people committing to be more as individuals and to acknowledge the essence of “we and us” in their choices and decisions.

This quotation from Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall, of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, is one I value and use in the marriage ceremony.

MARRIAGE IS A VITAL SOCIAL INSTITUTION. THE EXCLUSIVE COMMITMENT OF TWO INDIVIDUALS TO EACH OTHER NURTURES LOVE AND MUTUAL SUPPORT: IT BRINGS STABILITY TO OUR SOCIETY. FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO MARRY, AND FOR THEIR FAMILIES, MARIAGE PROVIDES AN ABUNDANCE OF LEGAL, FINANCIAL, AND SOCIAL BENEFITS. IN RETURN, IT IMPOSES WEIGHTY LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS.... WITHOUT QUESTION, CIVIL MARRIAGE ENHANCES THE “WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY.” IT IS A “SOCIAL INSTITUTION OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE.”

MARRIAGE ALSO BESTOWS ENORMOUS PRIVATE AND SOCIAL ADVANTAGES ON THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO MARRY. CIVIL MARRIAGE IS AT ONCE A DEEPLY PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING AND A HIGHLY PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF THE IDEALS OF MUTUALITY, COMPANIONSHIP, INTIMACY, FIDELITY, AND FAMILY.... BECAUSE IT FULFILLS YEARNINGS FOR

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SECURITY, SAFE HAVEN, AND CONNECTION THAT EXPRESS OUR COMMON HUMANITY. CIVIL MARRIAGE IS AN ESTEEMED INSTITUTION AND *THE DECISION WHETHER AND WHOM TO MARRY IS AMONG LIFE'S MOMENTOUS ACTS OF SELF-DEFINITION.*

(Emphasis mine.)

Last month I married Ronnie Dale Smith and Boyd Leslie Wheeler in a ceremony at their home in Cathedral City. I am reminded again at how tender and touching this event can be even though they had been domestic partners for 25 years. As they bring Consciousness to their marriage, they strengthen it and reinforce it with renewed intention.

Bringing Consciousness to an event, situation or condition forces us to be in the Now, in the moment. This moment is changeable. And bringing Consciousness into the moment allows us to consider the action, the word spoken, and the thought process; to consider it against a higher Truth. I think that's why happier marriages work, because one or both partners are willing to step back when necessary and go for the higher Truth. Partnership, marriage requires constant reinforcement of the We and Us in order to thrive and the only way *I* know to do that is to daily raise and praise my intimate relationship. We have chosen intimacy and primary connection over a private and solitary life.

All of this is not to say that marriage is for everyone. Clearly it is not. But for those who have chosen intimacy and connection, here in California at least until November, Marriage is for everyone.

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