

The movement of legalising homosexuality has been rolling throughout the world. Legislations on same sex marriage have been passed in many countries. In Australia, the Parliament is debating whether same sex marriage should be passed.

On this particular issue, believers should pray for this and express our objections as well as reflecting whether our family lives are God-pleasing and after His own heart.

We believe that the traditional one-man-one-woman marriage has continuously been twisted, mainly because of the serious crisis in today's marriages and families. As a result of increasing divorces and broken families, the next generations cannot feel the love and warmth in their families. In such circumstances, how can we tell our children that heterosexual marriages are the best and most suitable ones?

The church's sub-theme for this quarter is "commitment". On this special occasion of "Father's Day", I do hope that each and every father is willing to commit himself to God, marriage and family so that our children can feel the happiness, love and sense of security of marriage set up by God.

In his book entitled "The Company of the Committed", Elton Trueblood said, "Being committed is more than believing, it is the determination to follow what one believes." Ronald Reagan, a famous former US President, and his wife, Nancy, had built up an admirable and happy marriage through their mutual commitment.

Nancy Reagan, being an influential person, had been regarded as politically ambitious. However, she accompanied her husband humbly when the latter was suffered from dementia after retiring from the presidency. While everyone expected that she would leave her husband, she accompanied him, who might be unable to recognise her, during his last ten years in his life. Nancy did so mainly out of her commitment to marriage. In her graduation album, Nancy wrote, "The goal of my life is to have a successful and happy marriage."

At the party celebrating his 80th birthday, Reagan openly said, "My live really began when I first saw her." When he was assassinated in 1981, Reagan talked to Nancy casually to ease her anxiety, "My dear, I just forgot to escape."

Reagan, who was a strong-built man, liked to talk humorously and eat candies. He was diagnosed dementia 10 years before he died. Then Nancy spent all her time and effort to look after her husband, with a hope that he could eventually recognise her in his mind. One day when Reagan was taking a walk with his body guard, he suddenly pushed the gate of a villa which was unknown to them. Knowing that Reagan might have mis-identified the place, the body guard said, "Mr. President, this is not our garden..." But Reagan tried hard to reply, "Oh, oh... I just want to pluck a rose for my lover!"

Reagan eventually failed and died after his 10 years' struggle against his illness and left her wife, Nancy, alone after living together for 52 years. This couple demonstrated the happy marriage designed by God to the world by loving, respecting, valuing one another.

In the book "Chicken Soup for the Soul", there was a story about a boy who saw a family receiving an arriving father in the airport. The father hugged his wife and kids fervently, as if he had been away from home for a long time. Out of his curiosity, the boy asked the man politely whether he had left home for a long time. The man replied, "Yes, very long, two weeks already!" With great surprise, the boy asked the man how he could maintain a happy marriage and family. The father said, "Young man, don't just think. You should put it into action."

Brothers and sisters, we absolutely believe that the marriage set up by God is the best. Let us take action to drive away all coolness, hatred, suspicion and quarrel, and replace them by love, happiness, forgiveness and warmth. Let us build up a marriage that is blessed and admirable, so that our next generations can feel the love and warmth in the families.

