



# LCRL PRAYER PARTNERS

## February: TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

### Just Because. . .

As any parent of a child who has learned the power of the word "Why?" knows, sometimes the answer that is most effective is, "Just because!"

A child is told to wear a jacket, the child asks, "Why?" The parent explains about temperature and that not wearing a jacket will cause a sickness. The child responds with, "Why?" The parent then cites studies and examples as to the benefit of wearing a jacket. The child smiles and says, "Why?" Eventually the parent resorts to, "Just because!" The parent then can add such explanations as, "I am the parent," or "Mom said so," or "Coach won't let you play on the team without a jacket," or "I love you so much."

The "Just because. . ." answer generally works with young children, for they understand that parents have the best interests of the family at the heart of every decision. Not so much with older ones, as they have been immersed in a popular culture that, for the most part, disdains absolute truth, discards old-fashioned values, relies on technology for information, values diversity, and desires to create an online public image.

A child that is told marriage is meant to be a lifelong union for one man and one woman asks, "Why?" The parent explains how men and women complement each other, the child responds with, "Why?" The parent launches into a scientific explanation, with some personal examples thrown in, and the child challenges, "Why?" Eventually the parent is frustrated and blurts out, "Just because. . ."

"Just because. . ." can be followed by: "that is God's plan and desire," or "that union is the only one that can create more humans," or "our society allows other forms for marriage and relationships, that doesn't mean traditional marriage is bad."

The world today is exponentially different than the world of just a generation past as technology has created instant communication with all of its strengths and weaknesses. Perhaps the greatest strength is also its greatest weakness – the speed of change.

In such a world, perhaps the best thing is knowing that there is another person, not like oneself, who has made the vow to be with you, "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part."

Just maybe when your child asks why you and your spouse are married, you can smile and say, "Just because. . ." and follow-up with the comfort of the wedding vow.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty advocates for Traditional Marriage.

Let Us Pray:

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 1 Timothy 2:1 ESV*

Father, we give thanks for the joy and blessings that You grant to husbands and wives through the gift of marriage. Assist them always by Your grace that they may honor and keep their marriage vows; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord, we give thanks to You for the gift and blessing of Christian marriage and for Your gift of children. Be with mothers and fathers as they train up their children in Your way; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Let Us Encourage:

PRINT – PERSONALIZE – Pray

The LCRL asks that you would commit to pray for those people and organizations that labor on behalf of traditional marriage during the month of February.

Not only do we ask that you would pray, but that you would share this prayer request with your family, friends, neighbors, and congregation.

Please see:

<https://www.lcms.org/social-issues/marriage>

for one such organization. You may be familiar with other local or national organizations.

The LCRL would like to share that you are praying for these organizations. We plan on informing them that there are many people praying for their ministry. In order to do that, we need your help.

Please let us know the name(s) of the organization(s) you prayed for AND the number of people who prayed. For example: if you pray with your family of 3 for LCMS Marriage Ministry, please send us the count of 3 for LCMS Marriage Ministry. If you publish a prayer request for a different marriage ministry organization in your church bulletin and pastor prays with 234 people in attendance, then use the number 234 and the name of the organization. Please count all numbers and send them by February 28.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR NUMBERS TO:

[LCRLPray@gmail.com](mailto:LCRLPray@gmail.com)

Please include the website information of the organization you are praying for.

Please feel free to personalize this bookmark with the name(s) of the organization(s) that you will pray for in January, cut it out and keep it in your Bible for handy reference.

## Marriage Ministry

*First of all, then, I urge 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. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV*

