

# SEPTEMBER 1 – 7

## NATIONAL SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE WEEK

*Is. 60: 1-3 Arise, Shine, for your light has come...”...*

The institution of marriage as the union of a man and a woman is under attack by courts, activists and the federal government. It is the responsibility of the church to proclaim the truth by defending the biblical definition of the institution of marriage,

We invite you to join your voice with others across Canada in defending the institution of marriage, so that future generations will be grateful that God’s people stood here and now for that which is most precious – our faith and our family.

### ***WHAT YOU CAN DO:***

- **Speak Out:** During this week take the time to call, write, or visit your MP and ask him or her to protect the current definition of marriage. Ask your friends to do the same thing. For contact information on your MP, visit: [www.sanctityofmarriage.ca](http://www.sanctityofmarriage.ca) or call 1-800- 463-6868.
- **SUNDAY SEPT. 7: Attend a local Marriage Prayer Rally:** Attend a Marriage Prayer Rally, to be held at each MP’s constituency office at 3:00 p.m. local time on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the national prayer rallies is to bring together Christians of all denominations, Jews, and others who want to express support for marriage as a sacred institution ordained by God, a voluntary, life-long covenant between one man and one woman. Clergy will lead in prayer, and Members of Parliament will be invited to briefly address their constituents about the marriage legislation.

For the address of your local constituency office, check your telephone directory. If you don’t know your MP’s name or your riding, visit: [www.sanctityofmarriage.ca](http://www.sanctityofmarriage.ca) or telephone Elections Canada at: 1-800-463-6868

Join millions in a united voice, declaring that the desecration of the sacred institution of ‘marriage’ will not be accepted and will not go unchallenged by the church.

*Sanctity of Marriage Week is a joint initiative of many Canadian evangelicals, Jews, Catholics, and Protestants.*

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### BACKGROUND:

A legislative crisis has been brewing in recent months as a result of court rulings in Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec. A handful of Judges have told Canadians and the government that the exclusive definition of marriage as between one man and one woman is “unconstitutional” and that marriage must be redefined as between “any two people.”

Elected officials, not by appointed judges, should make decisions regarding marriage. The federal government should have appealed these ridiculous court rulings. Not only did they refuse to appeal, they have begun drafting new legislation that reflects the judges’ personal opinions dictating same sex “marriages.”

Canadians have been expressing their outrage at such foolish decision-making by the government. To this point, the democratic wishes of Canadians have been ignored. However, Parliament will be voting on this legislation, as early as this fall, though perhaps not until 2004. That vote is where our elected MPs have an opportunity to do the **right thing**, the **very thing** they have been elected to do: represent the views of the people.

Most Canadians do not want marriage re-defined. They want to preserve the current definition: “between one man and one woman exclusive of all others”. Not only must this definition be preserved; the legislation must be strengthened to ensure courts cannot haphazardly alter it again. **Parliament alone has the power to do that**. It is up to all of us to ensure that our MPs continue to hear from us.

It is especially crucial that God’s people speak out on this issue. As Billy Graham has said, “Democracy is only as good as the people who get involved.” We are responsible for speaking the truth in love on this critical issue that will affect Canadians for all future generations.

You can help get the message across by becoming a part of “Sanctity of Marriage Week”. Join with people of faith from all denominations across Canada for a public declaration and prayer on September 7<sup>th</sup>, expressing support for marriage as a sacred institution ordained by God. This is a critical moment for the nation of Canada. As God’s people, let us not neglect our calling to defend righteousness. Let us stand together in support of the holy institution of marriage.

[www.sanctityofmarriage.ca](http://www.sanctityofmarriage.ca)