Man with Man/Woman with Woman
(Same Sex Marriage)

What God has NOT Joined Together (10)

Introduction

- Tonight, we continue our 2026 theme, What God has NOT joined together.
- This is likely the most controversial lesson I have presented in this series. Yet it is needed if we are to address the “whole counsel of God”
- We want address what God’s word says about “same-sex” marriage and relationships

Introduction

- Since 2015, when the supreme court ruled, same-sex marriage has been legalized in all 50 states. June 2013, California legalized it granting same-sex couples all state-level spousal rights.
- Since this acceptance, it has become more prevalent.
  In 2024, (Gallup) there were 830,000+ same sex marriages, with about 1.4 million same sex couple households.
- 2025 (Gallup), more than 2/3 of Americans believe it should be legal and 64% see it as morally acceptable (about double what it was in 2000).
- Pew research – Among religions, “religious evangelicals” – ~30% approve, while among non-evangelical and Catholics more than 60% approve of same-sex relationships.

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Does this make it acceptable to God?

The Biblical definition of marriage

- From the beginning, the Bible has defined marriage as between a man and a woman.
- **Genesis 2:22-25**
- **Genesis 1:26-28, 4:1** – be fruitful and multiply – an intent of marriage.
- Throughout the Old Testament, marriage was always recognized as between a man and a woman. There is no approved same-sex relationships. This is also true in the NT.

The Biblical definition of marriage

- The Bible has defined marriage as between a man and a woman - **Genesis 2:22-25**
- **Matthew 19:4-6,** Jesus affirmed this when asked about divorce for any reason.
- Paul in **Ephesians 5:31** also quoted **Genesis 2:24**
- **1 Corinthians 7:2-3,** he described marriage as between a man and a women.

The Biblical and homosexuality

- Sodom and Gomorrah

- **Genesis 18:20-21** – the LORD determined to investigate Sodom and Gomorrah.
- **Genesis 19** describes its depravity and judgment by God
- **Jude 7** – they were destroyed, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange (unnatural) flesh.

The Biblical and homosexuality

- The Law of Moses - **Leviticus 18:22, 20:13** – described as an abomination and listed among other sexual perversions (neighbor's wife, animals, incest, etc.) It carried capital punishment for both parties involved in the act
- **Romans 1:24-28** describes the act as "against nature" and "vile passions"
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** – Both partners in the act are described among those who will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Biblical and homosexuality

- Combining what God's word says about these 3 points:
  - Marriage is between a man and a women
  - Homosexual acts are sinful
  - Respecting the boundaries of God's word
- The Biblical conclusion is that same-sex marriage AND relationships are NOT acceptable to God and sinful.

Arguments justifying same-sex marriage

- The Bible is a fluid document

- It is argued that interpretation of the teachings of scripture change as society changes.
  One source cited the Jews accepting Gentiles without requiring circumcision (Acts 15) as an example.
- Answer: *WHY is this argument being made? It acknowledges that at face value, the Bible clearly condemns homosexuality*
- *God's word does is not altered with the times* – **Hebrews 13:8, James 1:17.**
- **Psalm 119:89**, *Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.*

Arguments justifying same-sex marriage

- The Bible is a fluid document

- Answer: Jesus declared that His words will judge us in the last day – **John 12:48**
- *The argument is very subjective* – it makes your faith about what you want, and you can dismiss what you do not like. E.g., "attend the church of your choice."
- *We must PUT scripture in its proper context*. Consider **Acts 15** – their conclusion was based on prophecy (**Amos 9:11-12**), God's direct instructions and approved examples. The conclusion was not "adapting to the times" but fulfilling's God's will from the beginning.

Arguments justifying same-sex marriage

- Sound Bible teaching produces good fruit.

- Appeals are made to the trauma experienced by children "coming out" when they are rejected. Because of the increased likelihood of this result (over acceptance), it is "bad fruit"
- Answer: *The argument is very subjective* –Who gets to define what is "good fruit"?
  - possible negative results do not invalidate a legitimate argument.

Arguments justifying same-sex marriage

- Sound Bible teaching produces good fruit.

- Answer - *Jesus described good fruit as that which the Gospel produces – salvation and godly living*.
  Bad fruit is that which does not.
- **Matthew 15:18-19 –** "bad fruit" is evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication, thefts, false witness, blasphemies, etc.
- **Galatians 5:19-21** – the "works of the flesh" which includes "fornication" would be bad fruit (contrasted the "Fruit of the Spirit")

Arguments justifying same-sex marriage

- Sound Bible teaching produces good fruit.
- Answer – *When someone tries to correct someone guilty of sin, if they refuse to change, does that make the effort "bad fruit"?*
  Attempts to correct sinful behavior often produces negative feelings, when one does NOT want to submit.
- **Matthew 19:22 –** The rich, young ruler walked away sorrowful
- **Matthew 18:15** – often a brother, when confronted, will not repent. Further action is necessary.
- **Matthew 15:12** – the Pharisees were offended at the teachings of Jesus.

Arguments justifying same-sex marriage

- The Christian tradition does not address sexual orientation
- The argument is made that until very recent times sexual orientation was not fully understood. Christians did not understand that a small minority whose orientation was directed toward the same-sex. But now we are more enlightened and need to change our interpretation. As an example: For centuries most "Christians" believed our solar system revolved around the earth, until the invention of the telescope. Through science, when we learned the truth, we changed our beliefs.
- Answer – *This is the argument that some people are born with the tendency toward homosexuality.*

Arguments justifying same-sex marriage

- The Christian tradition does not address sexual orientation

- Answer – *What does this say about inspired scripture?*
  As we have noted, at face value, the Bible clearly condemns homosexuality. Were the authors ignorant to the truth? This will lead to our next argument.
- Answer – studies about this being hereditary are inconclusive.
- Answer – there is a difference between a tendency and acting upon it. We ALL have tendencies (hereditary?) toward something that we must control (and things that will not tempt us). **Genesis 4:6-7, Titus 2:11-12, 1 Corinthians 6:12**

Arguments justifying same-sex marriage

- Redefining Biblical texts
- To reconcile these beliefs, texts that condemn homosexual acts are designated with specific situations.
  - Sodom and Gomorrah – violence, lack of hospitality, violating an angel
  - Leviticus – we are not under that law anymore
  - Romans – those acting unnaturally and unrestrained
  - 1 Corinthians – involuntary violation of slaves
- Answer – *Time in this lesson will not permit detailed answers to each of these, but consider this:* That is NOT what the texts say!
- To make such arguments is to acknowledge that, at face value, the texts condemn the homosexual lifestyle.
- **2 Peter 3:15-16** – speaks of twisting scripture
- This is the tactic Satan used against Eve – **Genesis 3**

What do we do about this?

1. We CANNOT compromise the truth! God's word does not change and interpretations do not adapt to what is popular in society. **Ephesians 5:11, 2 John 9-11**
2. When asked, be truthful AND kind in answering.
   If someone is searching for answers, be willing to, with love and gentleness discuss the subject.
   Time will reveal "the fruit".
   1 Peter 3:15, Matthew 5:43-45
3. In God's eyes, this sin is no different from any other sin.
   1 John 3:4-6. Like any other sin, it must be repented of.

What do we do about this?

4. Redemption is available to any and all who are willing to repent. **Romans 6:23, 5:20**
   1 Corinthians 6:11
5. Am I willing to suffer for righteousness?
   Matthew 5:10, 1 Peter 3:14

What do we do about this?

6. Finally, realize that you CANNOT force anyone to obey God. If someone refuses to repent or discuss something openly, that is on them. **Matt. 15:14** This is NOT justification to act hatefully or uncaring. You must still be a Christian!

7. In judgment, we will all stand before God and give an accounting for ourselves – **2 Corinthians 5:10**

Concluding thoughts

God has NOT joined together same-sex relationships, whether married or not.

God's truth is not something we have the right to dismiss.

At times His word will cut to the heart (**Hebrews 4:12**). When it does, there is a decision to be made.

In all things, whose patern are you going to follow?