Sunday, November 15, 2026 pm

What God Has NOT Joined Together
Man with Man and Woman with Woman
(Same Sex Marriage)

Tonight, we continue our theme for 2026, What God has (and has NOT) joined together. Tonight's lesson is likely the most controversial from a social standpoint, yet it is one that needs to be addressed if were are to proclaim the "whole counsel of God". In this lesson we want to address what God's word says about same-sex marriage.

Since 2015, when the Supreme court of America ruled that same-sex marriage be legalized in all 50 states. In June 2013, California legalized it granting same-sex couples all state-level spousal rights. Since then the acceptance of same-sex marriage has become more prevalent. In 2024 there were more than 830,000 same-sex marriages, with about 1.4 million same-sex couple households. As of 2025, according to Gallup polls[1], more than 2/3 of Americans believe that same-sex marriage should be legal and 64% it is morally acceptable, about double what it was in 2000. According to pew research[2], Among religions, "religious evangelicals" about 30% approve, while among Catholics and non-evangelical protestants that number is in the 60s%. The point is that it has become increasingly more acceptable and defended.

But has God joined together same-sex couples?

I. The Biblical definition of marriage

a. From the beginning the Bible has defined marriage as between a man and a woman.

b. Genesis 2:22-25 – God found a suitable help-meet for Adam formed from his side. Moses elaborated upon this saying, *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh*. (2:24)

c. One of the intents of marriage was to "be fruitful and multiply" – Genesis 1:26-28, cf. 4:1. This is not biologically possible with a same-sex couple.

d. Throughout the Old Testament, marriage was always recognized as being between a man and woman. You will not find the example of a same-sex married couple, OR an approved same-sex relationship (though some attempts have been made). NOTE: The same is true of the NT examples as well.

e. Jesus affirmed that marriage is between a man and a woman – Matthew 19:4-6 when asked about divorce for any reason. Jesus quoted Genesis 1:27 & 2:26, affirming God's intent.

f. Paul in describing the relationship between a husband and wife noted in Ephesians 5:31 quoted Genesis 2:24. Also 1 Corinthians 7:2-3, *Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.*

II. The Bible and homosexuality

a. Genesis 18:20-21 – Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of it. Genesis 19 records their repulsive behavior as they seek to assault the 2 men sent by God to investigate the city. Jude 7 describes their judgment, *as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

b. Under the Old Law, homosexually was condemned and a capital crime – Leviticus 18:22, 20:13.

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[1] Brenan, M. (2024, June 24). *Same-sex relations, marriage still supported by most in U.S.* Gallup.Com. https://news.gallup.com/poll/646202/sex-relations-marriage-supported.aspx

[2] Borelli, G. (2022, November 15). *About six-in-ten Americans say legalization of same-sex marriage is good for society*. Pew Research Center; Pew Research Center. https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/11/15/about-six-in-ten-americans-say-legalization-of-same-sex-marriage-is-good-for-society/

c. Romans 1:24-27 describes homosexuality as base behavior that is "against nature". It was about self-will.

d. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – Paul mentions both partners in a homosexual relationship as being the unrighteous who will not inherit the kingdom of God.

e. WHEN we put together these 2 points, we can see that Biblically God does NOT approve of such relationships. Therefore, He has NOT joined them together.

III. Some arguments made to justify same-sex marriage

a. The Bible is a fluid document. This argument states that when the Bible was written in the first century, it was relevant for its time, but as society changes so should our interpretation of scripture. One source used as an example: Early Christians chose to include Gentiles in the church without requiring them to follow the LOM. Citing Acts 15:8, 10.

i. Answer – This argument is made because the Bible clearly condemns homosexual behavior Romans 1:24-27 & 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, and all the observations previously made in this lesson.

ii. The Bible clearly declares it does not change – Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. James 1:17, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.* Psalm 119:89 – Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. John 12:48, Jesus declared that His words would judge those who reject Him in the last day.

iii. This argument is very subjective – you can interpret it to say whatever you want it to say. Keep what you like and dismiss what you do not like. Similar to "attend the church of your choice."

iv. As to the example: They included the Gentiles because it was what God SAID they would the Gentiles in prophecy. James quotes from Amos 9:11-12 that Gentiles would be included. And the conclusion was reached setting aside "the doctrine of Christ". Recall also that Peter was told to go to the house of Cornelius.

b. Sound Bible teachings should produce good fruits. The argument is that the results of the gospel should always be good fruit. If something produces negative reactive and harmful reactions it must be wrong. The illustration is given of the "harm" done when children are rejected by their parents because of they declare homosexual tendencies. They are more prone to suicide, depression and drugs than families that accept their orientation.

i. Again the argument is subjective. Who gets to define what is good fruit and what is bad fruit?

ii. To Jesus, good fruit was that which was based on what the gospel teaches. Matthew 15:18-19 He described bad fruit as evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies, etc. Galatians 5:19-21 describes the works of the flesh which includes fornication (which by definition would include homosexuality – because it is relations outside of the holy marriage bed – Hebrews 13:1), etc. This is contrasted with the "fruit of the Spirit."

iii. When someone tries to correct someone in sin who refuses to change. They may feel bitter, depressed or worse, but that does not mean we should not try and change them.

iv. When Jesus sent away the rich, young ruler who was sorrowful at His answer, was that bad fruit? Matthew 19:22.

v. Redefining sin, or something that God says is evil, does NOT make it so! Isaiah 5:20.

c. ***The Christian tradition does not address sexual orientation***. The argument is made that until recent times Christians did not understand that there is a small minority whose sexual orientation was directed toward the same-sex. But now, thanks to science we are more enlightened.

i. This is an argument that some people are born homosexual. For most of our history, man, including believers in God did not understand these things, though they were misinformed.

Used as an illustration of this, they cite how men believed the solar system rotated around the earth rather than the sun, until the telescope was invented. This provided new information and we changed our beliefs.

ii. ***What does this say about the inspired authors of scripture?*** Of course, their answer is that the condemning texts all describe specific types of deviant behaviors – involuntary (abusing slaves) or perhaps those who were only thinking of their sensual desires rather than what they knew was natural. <u>BUT the problem is the texts do NOT make that distinction</u>. Romans one simply says, "men with men" left women to pursue men.

iii. ***Also, the research associated*** with sexual orientation being natural is unclear. AND, if such were the real cause, why does the LGBTQ+ community continually want kindergarteners to start being oriented, deny parents their rights to be informed, overly portray their lifestyles in a positive light, and other forms of recruitment, etc. WHY is there an attempt to silence and punish (persecute) those who dare to disagree with them Biblically?

d. ***There is also the redefining of Biblical texts:*** *Sodom and Gomorrah were about inhospitality and involuntary violation; Romans 1 is about the unnatural lustful desire; 1 Corinthians 6 is about the master dominating the slave; Leviticus is the LOM so it doesn't apply to us, etc.*

i. Time will not permit adequate answers to these arguments. But let me just encourage you to read the texts for themselves. To reach their conclusions require reading into the text.

ii. Why is this done? Because these texts at face value condemn their lifestyles. To call themselves believers they HAVE to dismiss the texts.

iii. 2 Peter 3:15-16 addresses those who twisted Paul's writings to their own destruction.

iv. And lest we forget, that is the same tactic Satan used to deceive Eve (Genesis3).

IV. What do we do about this?

a. <u>We must not compromise the truth</u>! God's word does not change and adapt to the views of society. Ephesians 5:11 – have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. 2 John 9-11.

b. <u>Be truthful but kind when asked</u>. If someone is searching for answers or asks a question, be ready to give a defense (1 Peter 3:15) with meekness and fear (reverence toward God). We must show love and compassion toward anyone who is genuinely searching.

c. <u>In God's eyes this sin is no different than any other sin</u>. 1 John 3:4-6, *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.* The homosexual relationship and/or marriage must be repented of like any other sinful relationship (e.g. adulterous marriages and unlawful divorces, cohabitation, polygamy, etc.) It must be repented of. And we ought to be consistent in this.

d. <u>Redemption is available to any and all who repent</u>. Romans 6:23 – the wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. Romans 5:20 – God's grace is greater than any sin. Remember also 1 Corinthians 6:11, "And such wee some of you…" Emphasize that if someone <u>wants</u> to change they can.

e. <u>Are you willing to "suffer for righteousness sake"</u> if that is what is called for? 1 Peter 3:14. Also remember Matthew 5:10 – Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake. The point being, we CANNOT compromise God's laws, no matter the price.

In this lesson we can see that God has NOT joined together those in same-sex relationships, whether married or not. Please understand it is not my intent to be harsh or uncaring, but God's truth is NOT something I have the right to dismiss. At times the truth will cut to the heart (Hebrews 4:12). When it does, there is a decision to be made. Whose path are you going to follow? Think about it.