

- **Biblical Arguments against Gay Marriage**
  - **A Defense of Traditional Marriage against the rise of gay marriage**

## **Biblical Arguments against Gay Marriage**

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**Sermon Summary:** The gay marriage debate has become a contentious issue on the national scene. The intensity of **arguments against gay marriage** is matched, and sometimes surpassed, by the emotionally charged arguments **for** same sex marriage. The Bible, however, is very clear on the subject and leaves no doubt about God's position. Come and see.

There are **non-biblical** reasons that offer valid arguments against gay marriage:

1) thousands of years of traditional male-female marriage, across numerous cultures and religions.

2) The **public health** catastrophe among homosexual men.

3) Numerous studies showing the importance to children of a **father** and a **mother**.

- But today let's look at **biblical** arguments against gay marriages.

- These Scriptures may be meaningless to unbelievers.

- But **these** are the **biblical** reasons that should drive us who hold to the Word of God and resist the acceptance of same-sex marriages.

1 Corinthians 6:9 *Do you not know that the **wicked** will **not inherit** the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes **nor homosexual offenders** nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will **inherit the kingdom of God**.*

**(1)** God defines **homosexual** offenders as among "**the WICKED**."

- Ephesians 5:11, KJV *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful **works of darkness**, but rather **reprove them**.*

- The Christian's duty is to **reprove**, not to ignore, that which God calls wicked.

**(2)** God lists "*homosexual offenders*" among those who **HE** determines will "**not inherit the kingdom of God**."

- **No "TOLERANCE"** there. **No** bowing at the altar of "**DIVERSITY**" there.

- **No** endorsement from heaven of **homosexual churches** there.
- **No** platitudes about the **LOVE** of God **embracing all** lifestyles and behaviors, including gay marriages.

Genesis 13:13 Now the men of **Sodom** were wicked and were **SINNING GREATLY** against the Lord.

Genesis 19:4-5, 11-13, 24 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom — both young and old — surrounded the house. [5] They called to Lot, "Where are **the men** who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can **have SEX WITH THEM.**" ... [11] Then [the messengers from God] struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door. [12] The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here — sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, [13] because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the **LORD against its people** is so great that **HE has sent us to DESTROY it.**" ... [24] Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah — from the LORD out of the heavens.

**(3)** Homosexuality incurred **God's destructive judgment** upon an **entire city**.

- **Rampant homosexuality** was a major contributor to the decline and fall of the **Roman Empire**.
- I think San Francisco has not yet been judged because of the God-fearing Christians living there among the sodomites.

**(4)** The men of Sodom were said to be "**SINNING GREATLY**" because of their **MEN** having **SEX with MEN**.

- Other sins of Sodom are listed in Scripture, but this is the one that the Bible **features** as their **great sin** — the one that incurred **God's wrath** against their city.
- Bible-believing Christians **cannot** just look the other way and say that same-sex marriage is simply a "**personal choice.**" Not when God defines the participants in homosexual conduct as "**sinning greatly**".
- Christians **cannot** fall for the modern mantra that it's **not our** business what people choose to do "**behind closed doors**". The biblical arguments against gay marriage do not leave Bible believers the option of simply ignoring conduct that God is seen to have judged severely in the Bible record.
- **God** specifically says that homosexual conduct is "**sinning greatly,**" and Jesus came to **save us from** our sins.

Jude 1:7 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to **sexual immorality and PERVERSION**. They serve as an example of those who suffer the **punishment of eternal fire**.

**(5)** God labels Sodom's sin as "sexual **PERVERSION.**"

- Societies (again, ancient Rome) that remain in perversion are **doomed** — **Remember SODOM!**

Romans 1:18, 24-28, 32 *The **WRATH OF GOD** is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.... [24] Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to **sexual impurity for the DEGRADING of their bodies with one another.** [25] They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Amen. [26] Because of this, God gave them over to **shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for UNNATURAL ones.** [27] In the same way the **MEN ALSO ABANDONED NATURAL RELATIONS WITH WOMEN AND WERE INFLAMED WITH LUST FOR ONE ANOTHER. Men committed indecent acts with other men,** and received in themselves the **due penalty for their PERVERSION.** [28] Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a **depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.... [32] Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.***

**(6)** God's Word identifies **husband-wife** relations as "**NATURAL** relations" and **HOMO sexual** relations as "**UNNATURAL** ones." God defines **same sex marriages**, therefore, as "unnatural" relationships.

- Again (27) God calls this "**PERVERSION**" that receives a "**DUE PENALTY.**"

**(7)** God's word also **condemns "APPROVING** of those who practice [homosexuality]."

- That is why we need judges and legislators who will **show their DIS approval** of same-sex marriage and will rule and legislate **against** gay marriages.

Matthew 19:4-5 *"Haven't you read," [Jesus] replied, "that at the beginning the **CREATOR** 'made them **MALE AND FEMALE,**' [5] and said, 'For this reason a **man** will leave his father and mother and be united to **his wife,** and the two will become one flesh'?"*

**(8)** **Jesus** resolved the gay marriage debate once and for all — **GOD** made them "**MALE and FEMALE ... a MAN ... [and] his WIFE**". I see this as one of the most compelling biblical arguments against gay marriage. Jesus Christ Himself referred back to the biblical creation account and confirmed God's intent that marriage is to be between a **man** and a **woman**.

1 Corinthians 6:11, KJV *and **such WERE** some of you: **but** ye are **washed,** but ye are **sanctified,** but ye are **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God.*

- There is **hope** and **forgiveness** for all sins and all sinners who will **repent** and come to **Jesus**.

## **Summary of Biblical Arguments against Gay Marriage**

1. God lists "homosexual offenders" among "**the wicked**" (1 Corinthians 6:9).

2. God lists "homosexual offenders" among those who He determines will "**not inherit the kingdom of God**" (1 Corinthians 6:9).

3. Historically, homosexuality has incurred God's destructive **wrath** upon an **entire city** (Gen. 19:4-5, 11-13).

4. God's word defines the men of Sodom as "**sinning greatly**" because of their **men** having **sex with men** (Genesis 13:13; 19:5).

5. God calls Sodom's sin "**sexual perversion**" (Jude 1:7). Societies that **remain** in perversion (Sodom, Rome...) are on the road to **destruction**.

6. God's word identifies **husband-wife** relations as "**natural relations**" and **homosexual** relations as "**unnatural ones**" (Romans 1:26-27) and "**perversion**" (vs. 27).

7. God's word also **rebukes** those who "**approve of those who practice**" homosexuality (Romans 1:32).

8. **Jesus settled** the marriage issue once for all, declaring that God had made them "**male and female ... a man ... [and] his wife**" (Matthew 19:4-5). Jesus' affirmation of the **heterosexual** definition of marriage left no room for same sex marriages.

## **A Defense of Traditional Marriage against the rise of gay marriage**

*(This sermon was originally motivated by the 2004 USA election-year discussions **for and against gay marriage**. The issue has taken on new significance in 2012 with the U.S. president expressing his personal position in favor of gay marriage. This sermon is an unapologetic defense of **traditional marriage**.)*

Genesis 2:18, 21-24 The **LORD God** said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."... [22] Then the **LORD God** made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and **he brought her to the man**.... [24] For this reason **a man** will leave his father and mother and be united to **his wife**, and they will become one flesh.

- **Traditional marriage** — one man and one woman — was God's **first** human institution.
- Even before civil government and the church
- Traditional marriage — a **high** priority to God
- **Marriage vows** should reflect God's pattern — "**a MAN ... [and] his WIFE**" (Gen. 2:24), not two men or two women!

Genesis 1:27-28a, KJV So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; **MALE** and **FEMALE** created he them. [28] And God blessed them, and God said unto them, **Be FRUITFUL, and MULTIPLY**, and replenish the earth, and subdue it...

- [NIV] "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth."
- Requires a **man** and a **woman**.
- "**Male and female** created He them."
- But **not just any** "male and female." No, but rather "**a man ... [and] his WIFE**" (Gen. 2:24).
- **Traditional marriage vows** properly (and **biblically**) use expressions such as "**man** and **woman**," "**husband** and **wife**."

Proverbs 1:8 Listen, my **son**, to your **father's** instruction and do not forsake your **mother's** teaching.

Proverbs 6:20 My **son**, keep your **father's** commands & do not forsake your **mother's** teaching.

- God intends **Dads** and **Moms** to raise and train children in the ways of God.
- It **can** be done without both a father a mother — for example, Timothy's Mom and grandmother (Acts 16:1; 2 Timothy 1:5). But it is done **best** by a believing Dad and Mom.

Isaiah 62:5 as a young **man MARRIES a maiden**, so will your sons marry you; as a **bridegroom** rejoices over his **bride**, so will your **God** rejoice over **you**.

- Traditional marriage, a **man marrying a woman**, is a **parallel** to **God** and **His people**.
- Christ = Husband ... Church = Christ called bride.

Proverbs 18:22, KJV "Whoso findeth a **wife** findeth a good thing, and obtaineth **favour** of the **LORD**."

- A **man** finding and marrying a **wife** is a way of receiving the **FAVOR** of the **LORD!**
- Genesis 24 contains the beautiful story of Rebekah being found for Isaac, by the Lord's guidance of the servant.

1 Corinthians 7:1-2 now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. [2] But **since** there is so much **IMMORALITY**, each **man** should have his **own wife**, and each **woman her own husband**.

- Marriage of a man and a woman is an **antidote to immorality**
- Increasingly relevant in this immoral age.

- And note again that *each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband* [vs. 2] — a clear biblical stand **for traditional marriage** and **against gay marriage**.

*1 Timothy 3:1-2, 12... [2] Now the **overseer** must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife.... [12] A **deacon** must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.*

- **Married elders, deacons** = part of stable leadership in the church.
- Proven ability to maintain a relationship.
- Proven ability to show himself faithful.
- Proven ability to influence others for good, as evidenced in his own godly children.

*1 Timothy 5:14, KJV I **will** therefore that the **younger women MARRY**, bear children, guide the house*

- a positive encouragement [in context, to younger widows] to **marry, bear children...**
- Lacking a gift and call to celibacy, the prevailing pattern is traditional marriage — marry, bear children...
- Traditional marriage has served all nations and all cultures well since the **Garden of Eden!**

*Matthew 19:4-6 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the **Creator 'made them male and female,'** [5] and said, 'For this reason a **MAN** will leave his father and mother and be united to **his WIFE**, and the two will become one flesh'? [6] So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what **GOD has JOINED** together, let man not separate."*

- **Jesus strongly endorsed** traditional marriage — "a man...his wife."
- Jesus said that God the **CREATOR** had **established** marriage.
- Jesus said that God established marriage for "a **MAN ... [and] his WIFE.**"
- And Jesus said that it is **GOD** Himself who **JOINS** the man and his wife in marriage.
- **Gay marriage** is a direct **contradiction** to Jesus' definition of marriage.
- Therefore we **Christians**, we who believe the Bible, should be **vigorously defending** the sanctity of **traditional Christian marriage** between **one man** and **one woman**.
- I recommend to any *pastor* officiating at a **Christian marriage** that some form of **traditional marriage vows** be used to re-emphasize these biblical truths to all present at the wedding.