

# The Supreme Court's Ruling for Same-Sex Marriage

---

## Introduction

Imagine that you had the opportunity to talk to someone who supports same-sex marriage.<sup>1</sup> Take two minutes to write down the biblical points you think would be important to bring up in the conversation.

## Bible Study

1. The early church father Augustine conveyed the idea that many things in the visible world mirror things in the spiritual world. Numerous biblical concepts key off earthly things such as darkness and light, sleeping and waking, or eating and drinking. With such a thought in mind, as we begin to consider marriage and the recent Supreme Court ruling allowing for same-sex marriage, recall what the blessed institution of marriage<sup>2</sup> reflects spiritually. Consider Ephesians 5:31,32 for some help in answering that question, which is divided more specifically into the following two questions:
  - Who does the husband picture?

---

<sup>1</sup> For Bible passages that demonstrate that homosexuality and lesbianism attack God's plan for humanity, see Romans 1:18-32 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. The Bible makes it clear that these lifestyles are sinful. Just because the United States Supreme Court has said that gay marriage is to be allowed, it doesn't mean that God's design for marriage has changed. The Bible says marriage is to be between one man and one woman for a lifetime. We also want to remember that while homosexuality and lesbianism are against God's will, these lifestyles are no more and no less sinful than other thoughts, words, and actions that go against God's holy will.

<sup>2</sup> Jesus defines marriage as the divine uniting of one man and one woman for a lifetime in Mark 10:1-9 and Matthew 19:1-12. In connection to Jesus' definition of marriage in Matthew 19, Jesus underscores that human sexuality is only to be practiced among people within the marital union. Because of Jesus' definition where he upholds the reference of Genesis 2:18-24, humankind is not free to redefine marriage any other way, as we have seen done recently in our country.

- Who does the bride represent?
2. If marriage is redefined to allow for two men, or two women, or one man plus two women, etc.; spiritually speaking, what are we saying about Jesus Christ and his relationship to the holy Christian church or about the church's relationship to Jesus?
  3. Marriage wasn't just given, however, to be a spiritual picture of our relationship with God and from that a portrayal of the way spouses are to treat each other. It was also given to be a blessing for society. Look at the passages below and discuss the following questions:
    - What are three purposes (which are also blessings) God gives for marriage?
    - In what ways are these three purposes a blessing to society?

Genesis 1:27,28 –

Genesis 2:18 –

1 Corinthians 7:2-5,9 –

4. Let's reconsider those three gifts.
  - When God's design for marriage isn't followed, in what ways are each of those three gifts impacted?
  - When God's design for marriage isn't followed, in what ways could society be negatively impacted?

## SUMMARY TRUTH

It is for scriptural reasons such as these that marriage is to be protected in society by Christians as they wisely live out their sanctified lives under an earthly government.<sup>3</sup> It is falsehood to conclude that same-sex marriage is of no consequence to individual Christians, congregations, pastors, or society at large. Same-sex marriage is harmful for all, even if one does not perceive or seemingly experience any harmful effects by it. Anyone who approves of same-sex marriage or remains unconcerned by it fails to keep God's law: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart' ... and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself'"* (Luke 10:27).

Out of love, Christians will want to look for opportunities to help connect misguided souls to Jesus, who alone can change hearts and attitudes. It's important that we share the truth of what God intends marriage to be. It's also vitally important that we proclaim the truths about Jesus and his forgiving love. We do so remembering 1 Peter 3:15, *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."*

After our study today, pick out three points you will want to remember as you talk to someone who supports same-sex marriage.

---

<sup>3</sup> Some helpful resources concerning engaging our wayward culture in light of this issue: chapter 7, "The Christian and Politics," of *Civil Government* by Prof. Daniel Deutschlander; Chapter 11, "Sweet Land of Liberty," of *Rainbow Savior* by Rev. William Monday. Both resources can be ordered through [www.nph.net](http://www.nph.net).

## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Many Christians are especially distressed by others whom they know and love—family, friends, fellow church members—who have openly celebrated the ruling of the Supreme Court in very visible, public ways (Facebook, Instagram, social occasions, etc.).

1. In the book of Ephesians (Ephesians 5:3) God tells us we are to avoid every hint of sexual immorality. Since same-sex marriage is sexually immoral, it would be sinful for us to support it. Consider the following passages and share thoughts on what we should do if a fellow Christian shows support for same-sex marriage.

- Matthew 18:15-18

- Galatians 6:1,2

2. Apply the truths of these two passages by specifically addressing the following scenario:

**Facebook Post (6/26/2015)**

***Aunt Jenny (Christian):*** Hooray for the Supreme Court! Love wins!

***You:*** \_\_\_\_\_ (Fill in the blank.)

