

What God Says About Same-Sex Marriage: What is Marriage?

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I. Introduction

Same-Sex Marriage is now the law of the land, doesn't that settle the issue? What could be so wrong about two people who are deeply in love marrying each other, so what if they're the same gender? Isn't marriage about mutual love and support, why bring God into it?

II. One of the Components of *Same-Sex Marriage* is Marriage, So What is Marriage?

Now that the Supreme Court has legalized Same-Sex Marriage, you can marry whomever you want. That is, if you're a male, you can marry a female *or* a male and vice versa. In fact, many in society today believe that you should have the right to marry whomever you happen to love; what could be wrong with this?

Contrary to what some believe, marriage was not created by mankind, nor by society, nor by culture, nor is it something that is ultimately sanctioned by the State. Marriage was given to us by God and His definition is very specific both as to the participants and as to its purpose.

Can it be boy/boy or girl/girl or must it be boy/girl? Marriage is a union between a man and a woman not a man/man or woman/woman. Why? When God created mankind He made two types of people: male and female. Why? Why didn't He just make males or just females? Why is it so important that mankind be made up of males *and* females? When God created Adam, He said something curious about him, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him," Genesis 2:18. No matter how many males you have, they will be incomplete without the females, that is, it's not good to just have males alone. Males by themselves are missing something. And that something is not another male. What's missing is something that is similar to the male, but different. That is, someone who is the opposite of the male and at the same time corresponds to the male, "a helper comparable [suitable] to him." That's why when God called the female the "helper," He wasn't just setting the roles of leader and helper, He was showing Adam and every male after him that the woman would be his corresponding half that would complete everything that was missing in him, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.¹

This idea is inherent in the very definition of marriage, that is, when God sees a married couple, He doesn't see two people. He sees one entity comprised of two corresponding halves, Genesis 2:24. This is why two males or two females married to one another do not make a complete couple, because marriage is oneness, a coupling of two opposite yet suitable halves which complete that which is missing in the other. Marriage is not a coupling of two of the same sex; to call this marriage is to highjack God's authority and redefine the reality He gave mankind.

And as we look at the three dimensions in which husbands and wives relate—emotional, physical, and spiritual—we see a difference in males and females but we also see a correspondence.

¹ A point about the "helper" status of the female: some think that when God says "helper" in Genesis 2:18 or "submit" in Ephesians 5:22 that He intends for the woman to have no voice in the marriage: the husband is the leader and therefore, the wife should be silent and do what she's told. This is ***NOT*** what God has in mind AT ALL! God believes in strong women; His idea of the ideal wife is a woman who is independent, strong, and highly respected, Proverbs 31:10-31. Thus, the roles of the husband as the leader and the woman as the helper do not mean that marriage is a male-dominated dictatorship. Additionally, males and females have the same standing before God; they have the same right and access to God. But in their respective roles within a marriage there is a difference.

For example, emotionally women are more sensitive than men. This doesn't mean that there aren't emotional men. But in general the baseline for each is different. And this is neither a stereotype nor accidental, in fact, it's genetic. This is how God designed us and for good reason. For example, when a child gets injured, the child needs both the loving arms of a mother who will soothe the pain and the toughness of a father who will use the experience to toughen up the child so that he/she doesn't fall apart every time they get hurt. God equipped the male with certain emotional abilities that are crucial and necessary for leading and loving his wife, children and society at large. Likewise, God also equipped the female with an emotional radar that is different than the male's. In general, she will be more sensitive and nurturing in certain situations which complement and fill the gap left by the male. And none of this means that gay couples cannot relate to each other or children emotionally. There are many gay couples who profess profound love for each other and their children. But you cannot avoid the fact that there is a fundamental difference in the emotional makeup of males and females. It's interesting that in general, gay males take on feminine characteristics and gay females take on masculine characteristics. Why? Because you need both halves to make a complete couple. This is likely why in many gay couples (male or female), one plays the role of the male and one plays the role of the female.

There is also a physical coupling. But again, it's a coupling of opposite/corresponding halves. Males produce more testosterone than women and women produce more estrogen than men. This contributes to the differences in their physical makeup, which is why in general men are more muscular than women. But these differences complement each other. This is especially evident in procreation. The sexual organs of the male and female correspond to one another so that they can produce offspring. But the woman is also able to produce milk to feed the offspring, something men cannot do.

Finally, there is a spiritual coupling. Males and females were put on this earth as God's representatives to rule over the earth jointly with wisdom and care. For this to happen, there needs to be a constant spiritual connection with God. And because the man was designed by God as the leader and protector, God holds him responsible for the spiritual welfare of his wife and children. He is to ensure that His wife and children have a proper spiritual relationship with God which will guarantee a wise and caring rule over the earth. But as with every other dimension, the wife is there as the helpmate who will provide whatever is lacking spiritually in the husband. For example, Sarah wisely knew that her son Isaac and Ishmael could not co-exist so she informed Abraham of the matter and God confirmed it, Genesis 21:8-13. Likewise Rebekah, Isaac's wife, kept him from giving the blessing of the firstborn to Esau instead of Jacob, Genesis 25:23; 27:1-29. Further, when this spiritual coupling is done incorrectly things can go very wrong and there will be disharmony and imbalance in the family. We see this clearly in Adam and Eve's marriage. Adam abdicated his spiritual leadership role, therefore his wife took the lead and Satan led them both into sin. This resulted in Adam mistreating his wife, in both Adam and Eve blaming someone else, and in a lot of heartache and misery for both of them and every future generation, Genesis 3.

What's the purpose of marriage? Basically, everything in life is supposed to stem out of marriage. That is, its purpose is to populate the world and to be the nerve center from which every aspect of life—family, social, or business—is overseen, Genesis 1:26-28. And in every one of these aspects both the male and female talents and abilities are needed. God gave these two mandates to couples made up of a male and female. So if you don't have both, then you cannot properly carry out the mandates. This doesn't mean that single males or females cannot thrive on their own. But it does mean that the optimum will not be achieved if you do not have both halves present.

For example, procreation cannot happen with just one of the sexes. It is obvious that you need both, even single females who wish to have children cannot accomplish this without the male's sperm. And as for overseeing the other aspects of life—family, social, and business—both males and females are needed here too. And again, it's not that single males and females cannot do well alone. But God designed it for males and females to work together to oversee the affairs of this world. And it's clear that both play a needed yet different role in each of these aspects. In family, there's overlap, but generally mothers and fathers play different yet important roles; they will each handle things differently. Socially, here too males and females behave differently. But both are needed, e.g., a male can be a brute by himself until a mother's or woman's touch comes along to smooth out the rough edges in his speech, in his dress, etc. In business, males may dominate—though females are very capable too—but they didn't do this independently, whether it's the mother who gave birth to him or the wife who looks after the family while he tends to business, or the wife who is his business partner and catches things he missed or cannot see because it requires a woman's intuition. In business the female will complete that which is lacking just as God designed it: males and females working together to oversee the affairs of this world.

Is there any scientific proof that men and women are different and that their differences complement each other? Even though secular scientists, philosophers, and doctors do not approach men and women from a Biblical point of view, they show that the differences between men and women are real and complementary:

Chemistry *Male and female brains process the same neurochemicals but to different degrees and through gender-specific body-brain connections. Some dominant neurochemicals are serotonin, which, among other things, helps us sit still; testosterone, our sex and aggression chemical; estrogen, a female growth and reproductive chemical; and oxytocin, a bonding-relationship chemical. In part, because of differences in processing these chemicals, males on average tend to be less inclined to sit still for as long as females and tend to be more physically impulsive and aggressive. Additionally, males process less of the bonding chemical oxytocin than females.*

Structural Differences *Females often have a larger hippocampus, our human memory center. Females also often have a higher density of neural connections into the hippocampus. As a result, girls and women tend to input or absorb more sensorial and emotive information than males do. When it comes to discussing feelings and emotions and senses together, girls tend to have an advantage, and they tend to have more interest in talking about these things.*

Blood Flow and Brain Activity *While we are on the subject of emotional processing, another difference worth looking closely at is the activity difference between male and female brains. The female brain, in part thanks to far more natural blood flow throughout the brain at any given moment (more white matter processing), and because of a higher degree of blood flow in a concentration part of the brain called the cingulate gyrus, will often ruminate on and revisit emotional memories more than the male brain. Males, in general, are designed a bit differently. Males tend, after reflecting more briefly on an emotive memory, to analyze it somewhat, then move onto the next task. During this process, they may also choose to change course and do something active and unrelated to feelings rather than analyze their feelings at all. ... Scientists have discovered approximately 100 gender differences in the brain, and the importance of these differences cannot be overstated.²*

² *Brain Differences Between Genders*, Post published by Gregory L. Jantz Ph.D. on Feb 27, 2014 in Hope for Relationships, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/hope-relationships/201402/brain-differences-between-genders>.

How Males and Females Use Mental Skills While the brain allows us to think, it also drives our emotions. It may not come as a surprise, then, that the ability to identify and control emotions varies between sexes. "Women are faster and more accurate at identifying emotions," says Ruben Gur, PhD, a neurologist at the University of Pennsylvania. Studies have shown women to be more adept than men at encoding facial differences and determining changing vocal intonations. Women, as a whole, may also be better than men at controlling their emotions. Gur and colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania recently discovered that sections of the brain used to control aggression and anger responses are larger in women than in men.

Gender-Based Skills Overlap and Complement ...Some researchers believe that nurturing one's brain can enhance what nature has provided. Consider, for instance, the general superiority of males' spatial abilities. "There's a lot of evidence that we build up our brain's representation of space by moving through it," Denckla tells WebMD. As anyone who spends a significant time around children knows, boys tend to get a lot more practice "moving through space" -- chasing a ball, for instance -- than girls do. "My hypothesis is that we could possibly erase this difference if we pushed girls out into the exploratory mode," Denckla says. She predicts that as more and more girls engage in sports traditionally reserved for boys, like soccer, the data on spatial ability will show fewer disparities between females and males. Others believe brain variations between sexes are for the best. "Most of these differences are complementary. They increase the chances of males and females joining together. It helps the whole species," Gur says.³

The difference between males and females begins at the genetic level. The 23rd chromosome pair differs in men and women by half of a pair, with women having an XX pair and men having an XY pair. This difference stimulates the gonads in males to develop into testes and in females to develop into ovaries. The release of the sex hormone in males (testosterone) and in females (estrogen and progesterone) causes the bodies sexual organs to develop into the penis and vagina. The hormones released also affect how the skeleton develops, with males having larger and thicker bones, while females have a pelvis more suited for childbearing.⁴

Thus, the differences between men and women complement one another and not just physically. What each brings to the table emotionally and spiritually also fits together as God intended: He blessed the wife with the emotional and spiritual capacities to complete that which is missing in the husband and all of it is necessary to raise a family, enjoy life, and do the work that needs to be done. Therefore, everything about marriage tells us that you can't make a marriage with two of the same sex. Two of the same sex can mimic a marriage, but one of them has to play the role of the opposite gender along with its corresponding characteristics. This is perhaps why in general gay males take on feminine characteristics and gay females take on masculine characteristics.

III. Conclusion

And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

³ *How Male and Female Brains Differ*, Researchers reveal sex differences in the brain's form and function, <http://www.webmd.com/balance/features/how-male-female-brains-differ>.

⁴ *Biological Differences Between the Sexes: Overview*, Ch. 4, Lesson 12, Devin Kowalczyk (has taught Psychology and has a master's degree in Clinical Forensic Psychology, and will earn a PhD in 2015) <https://study.com/academy/lesson/biological-differences-between-the-sexes-lesson-quiz.html>.