

# Sermon:       **TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE**

## **Marriage Between a Man and Woman Case**

### **Key Questions:**

What makes something right or wrong?

What is marriage, and why is it important?

Natural Rights vs. Civil Rights

The Four Lenses to Interpret Reality

Where does your definition come from?

How do the Scriptures inform your definition?

### **Biblical Text:**

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:27**

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. **Genesis 2:24**

### **Introduction:**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we gather today to discuss the topic of traditional marriage, I want to guide us through a reflection based on the Word of God found in Genesis 1:27 and 2:24. These verses clearly outline the divine design for marriage as instituted by God Himself.

In Genesis 1:27, we read that "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." This verse highlights the complementary nature of male and female as part of God's perfect plan for creation. It is through the union of man and woman that the image of God is fully reflected.

Moving on to Genesis 2:24, we are reminded of the divine purpose for marriage: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." This verse reinforces the idea of marriage as a sacred covenant between one man and one woman, united in love and commitment for a lifetime.

In a world that increasingly challenges and redefines the institution of marriage, it is essential for us as Christians to hold fast to the biblical definition of marriage as outlined in

Genesis. Traditional marriage between one man and one woman is not simply a cultural or societal construct but a reflection of God's eternal plan for humanity.

**The law of the opposite** suggests that truth and error are always in opposition. Essentially, this means that if one statement is true, any statement that directly contradicts it must be false.

- First, what is your definition of marriage? That is, do you agree with the first or second definition above?
- Second, where did you get that definition from?
- Third, how does Scripture inform your definition of marriage?

These questions get to the absolute heart of the theological debate about same-sex marriage in the church.

What is marriage?

**Marriage** is a one-flesh covenant union between two sexually different persons (male and female) from different families, and God intends for sexual relations to take place within this marriage covenant.

## **Natural Rights vs. Civil Rights**

### **Biracial Marriage**

- **Activist**: Mildred and Richard Loving
- **Supreme Court Ruling**: Loving v. Virginia
- **Year**: 1967

### **Same-Sex Marriage**

- **Activist**: Edith Windsor, Jim Obergefell
- **Supreme Court Ruling**: Obergefell v. Hodges
- **Year**: 2015

**The legality and acceptance of biracial marriages around the world have varied widely depending on cultural, religious, and legal contexts. Here's an overview of how biracial marriages have been treated in different regions and historical periods:**

## Africa

Colonial Period: During European colonial rule, many colonial authorities implemented policies restricting or discouraging interracial relationships. These policies were often influenced by racial segregation and apartheid ideologies.

- **Post-Colonial Era**: After independence, many African nations removed colonial-era restrictions. However, social acceptance of biracial marriages can vary widely depending on local cultural norms.

## Asia

Colonial and Pre-Colonial Periods: In many Asian cultures, intercultural and interracial marriages were more common historically, especially in trading hubs like India, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Modern Era: Legal restrictions on interracial marriages are rare, but social acceptance can vary. For instance, Japan and China have seen increasing acceptance in urban areas, while rural areas might still hold conservative views.

## Europe

Colonial Era: European colonial powers typically discouraged interracial unions in their colonies but did not have such laws domestically.

- **20th Century**: Western Europe saw increasing acceptance of biracial marriages in the mid-to-late 20th century, correlating with broader social changes and immigration patterns.

- **Eastern Europe**: Acceptance has been more varied and can be influenced by ethnic and nationalist sentiments.

## Latin America

- **Colonial Period**: European settlers intermingled with indigenous populations and African slaves, leading to a mixed-race population. Despite this, colonial caste systems often stratified society based on racial background.

- **Modern Era**: Most Latin American countries do not have legal restrictions on biracial marriages, and such unions are generally more socially accepted compared to other regions.

## North America

- **United States**: Anti-miscegenation laws were prevalent until the 1967 Supreme Court decision in Loving v. Virginia.
- **Canada**: Canada did not have laws specifically banning interracial marriage, but societal attitudes varied.

## Middle East

- **Historical Context**: The Middle East has a long history of diverse interactions due to trade and conquests. Mixed marriages were not uncommon historically.
- **Modern Context**: Legal restrictions are generally absent, but social norms can vary significantly, sometimes influenced by tribal or religious considerations.

## Oceania

- **Australia**: Policies like the "White Australia" policy (early 20th century) indirectly discouraged interracial marriages but did not explicitly outlaw them. Modern Australia recognizes and largely accepts biracial marriages.
- **Pacific Islands**: Many Pacific Island cultures were traditionally more accepting of interracial marriages, particularly due to historical interactions between different groups.

## Global Trends

- **Post-WWII**: Following World War II, many countries began to dismantle legal restrictions on interracial marriage as part of broader human rights advancements.
- **21st Century**: Most countries today do not have legal barriers to interracial marriage. However, social acceptance can still be an issue in some regions, influenced by cultural, religious, and ideological factors.

The timeline for when biracial marriages became legal and socially accepted varies greatly, reflecting each region's unique historical, cultural, and legal backdrop. Today, while legal acceptance is widespread, social acceptance continues to evolve globally.

## Creation Narratives

The importance of distinctive sexual differences in marriage as God's covenant between a man and a woman is deeply rooted in biblical theology. This case can be outlined through key biblical passages, linguistic insights from Hebrew and Greek, and theological interpretations.

1. **Genesis 1:27 (NIV)**: "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

- **Hebrew Insight**: The Hebrew terms for male (זָכָר, "zakar") and female (נְקִיבָה, "neqebah") emphasize the distinctiveness and complementarity of the two genders. This implies intentionality in their creation.

2. **Genesis 2:24 (NIV)**: "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."

- **Hebrew Insight**: The term "one flesh" (בָּשָׂר אֶחָד, "basar echad") signifies a unique unity that is only achievable between a man and a woman, highlighting the completeness of the union.

### **Jesus' Affirmation:**

**Marriage is a one-flesh covenant union between two sexually different persons, male and female, from different families.**

3. **Matthew 19:4-6 (NIV)**: "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 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'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

- **Greek Insight**: The Greek word for male (ἄρσεν, "arsen") and female (θηλυς, "thēlys") reiterate the creation narrative, underscoring that Jesus affirmed the foundational principle of sexual difference in marriage.

Notice that Jesus quotes **Genesis 2:24**, but instead of connecting it to Genesis 2:23, he brings in **Genesis 1:27** - an even more explicit statement about sex difference: "The Creator 'made them male and female.'" According to Jesus' logic, the word grabs hold of the male-female sex difference in Genesis 1:27 and builds it into the definition of marriage in **Genesis 2:24**. Just like in its original context in **Genesis 2**, "the two" who "will become one flesh" are precisely the "male and female" cited in **Genesis 1:27**.

### **Paul's Letters Teachings**

4. **Ephesians 5:31-32 (NIV)**: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church."

- **\*\*Greek Insight\*\***: The relationship between Christ and the church is mirrored in the **marital covenant**, emphasizing that marriage is a divine illustration of God's relationship with His people, predicated on complementary differences.

Is it unloving to hold a traditional view of marriage?

What is God's Love?

UNIVERSAL

UNCONDITIONAL

IMPARTIAL

Pope Francis's Position:

### **Traditional Understanding of Marriage:**

"Marriage is between a man and a woman." Pope Francis reaffirms that the traditional definition of marriage is sacred and foundational to the Church's teachings.

Benefits of God's Design for Biblical Marriage

The Procreation and Education of Children

Mutual Help and Comfort – brings about happiness and companionship to the spouses.

Remedy for Concupiscence – God intends for sexual relations to take place within the marriage covenant.

A Higher Economic and Societal Contribution than single people.

### **Benefits: The Procreation and Education of Children**

1. **\*\*National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (1994-2008) - \*\*Finding:\*\***

Adolescents raised in traditional households have lower risks of depression, substance abuse, and behavioral problems. - **\*\*Published by:\*\*** Add Health, a program project designed by J. Richard Udry, Peter S. Bearman, and Kathleen Mullan Harris.

2. **\*\*The Family Structure and Children's Health (2014) - \*\*Finding:\*\*** Published in the Maternal and Child Health Journal, researchers found that children in traditional households had better physical, emotional, and cognitive health outcomes compared to their peers in single-parent families.

3. **\*\*Effects of Parental Divorce on Adult Well-Being (Amato, 2001) - \*\*Finding:\*\*** This literature review found that children from divorced families typically showed poorer

outcomes in terms of academic achievement, mental health, and family relationships. -  
\*\*Publication:\*\* Journal of Marriage and Family.

## **Theological Significance**

1. **Imago Dei (Image of God)** : The distinctive sexual difference is rooted in the creation of humans in God's image. This complements the concept of relational standing, reflecting the diversity within the unity of the Trinity.
2. **Procreative Purposes**: The union of a man and a woman in marriage fulfills God's mandate to "be fruitful and increase in number" (Genesis 1:28, NIV). This is inherently tied to the biological and relational complementarity of male and female.
3. **Covenantal Relationship**: Marriage as a covenant reflects God's faithfulness and His plan for human relationships. The distinctiveness and unity of male and female serve as a living testimony of the divine covenant.

In conclusion, the theological case for the importance of distinctive sexual differences in marriage is firmly grounded in Scripture and further elucidated through the original languages of the Bible. This distinction not only fulfills God's creational design but also serves as an essential representation of the divine covenant between Christ and His church.

**I affirm the church's historical Christian values and teachings are that God created marriage as a sacred covenant for one man and one woman and that any sexual relations outside of this boundary constitutes sexual immorality: – pre-marital sex, same-sex sexual relationships, impurity, debauchery, and lust, are inherently sinful.**

As believers in Christ, it is our duty to defend and uphold traditional marriage as a sacred covenant ordained by God Himself. Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to honoring the divine design for marriage, knowing that it is through this union that we reflect God's image and participate in His redemptive plan for creation.

May we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all our thoughts and actions concerning marriage, and may we stand firm in our defense of traditional marriage as a sacred institution established by God for His glory and our good.

## **Call to Action**

Listen, Learn, and Love. Go back to the Scriptures.

Embrace and promote God's design for marriage, rooted in the biblical understanding of gender and sexuality.

Don't be afraid to ask forgiveness on behalf of the church.

Don't be a hypocrite. Be consistent.

**Quote: Pope Francis's Position:**

Pastoral Care:

- While maintaining traditional teachings, Pope Francis also calls for understanding and pastoral care for those who do not conform to these teachings. He emphasizes compassion, mercy, and support for all individuals, regardless of their life situations.

**Conclusion**

The Bible says that sex difference is necessary for what marriage is in God's design. There's nothing in the Bible or in Christian tradition that says marriage is a genderless institution. God's design for relationships is based on His perfect wisdom and should guide our understanding and actions.

I, Pastor losmar Alvarez, will not officiate same-sex weddings.

**Prayer:**

Gracious God, help us to honor Your design for relationships and to treat one another with love and respect. Guide our conversations about sexual identity and marriage. Amen.

**Benediction:**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen your commitment to honor God's design in relationships, and may His love be evident in your interactions with others.