

# Marriage and Sexuality

## Introduction:

“This class examines key biblical passages regarding Marriage and Sexuality, responds to popular objections, and will equip the Christian in how to live faithfully in a LGBTQ+ affirming world.”

In the United States, young people are delaying marriage later and later and many never do. Fertility rates are in decline globally and many countries, including the US, are not even keeping up with replacement.

The institution of marriage is widely understood as socially constructed or a man-made institution. Moreover, because of the effectiveness of contraceptives and abortifacients enabling sex without the consequence of children, the high divorce rate among people of my generations, the waning desire for raising children, and the unprecedented social stability for women apart from men, the institution of marriage has fallen into disfavor for younger generations.

The Critical Social Justice LGBTQ+ movement has a voice and social power disproportionate to its size. It seeks to destigmatize sexual behaviors and expressions that are unnatural and perverse. It does this by forcing social acceptance of the same and destabilizing social preference for natural sexual behaviors and the institution of marriage.

## 1. Marriage is a Divine Institution for the Adamic Commission

### **Genesis 1:26–28**

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the

heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

**27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male** and **female** he created them.

**28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be **fruitful** and multiply and **fill** the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

## **2. Marriage is Between a Man and a Woman**

### **Genesis 2:15–25**

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. **16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

**18** Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” **19** Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. **20** The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. **21** So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. **22** And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

**23** Then the **man** said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called **Woman**, because she was taken out of **Man**.”

**24** Therefore a **man** shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his **wife**, and they shall become one flesh. **25** And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- **Marriage is for Procreation**

**Genesis 1:27-28a**

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

**28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it ....”

**1 Timothy 2:12–15**

I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. **13** For Adam was formed first, then Eve; **14** and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. **15** Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

**1 Timothy 5:13–14**

Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. **14** So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.

- **Marriage is for Companionship**

**Genesis 2:18**

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

- **Marriage is for Sanctification**

## **1 Corinthians 7:8–9**

To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. **9** But if they cannot exercise **self-control**, they should marry. For it is better to **marry** than to **burn** with passion.

- **Sex outside of marriage is sin (Fornication & Adultery & Homosexual sex)**

## **Romans 1:18–27**

For the **wrath** of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

**24** Therefore God **gave them up** in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

**26** For this reason God gave them up to **dishonorable passions**. For their **women** exchanged natural relations for those that are **contrary to nature**; **27** and the **men** likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one

another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

### **1 Timothy 1:9–10**

understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, **10** the sexually immoral, men who practice **homosexuality**, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,

### **1 Corinthians 6:9–10**

**9** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice **homosexuality**, **10** nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

“The next two words are translated **as men who have sex with men**. The first word *malakoi* refers to ‘passive homosexual partners’ (NET), while the word *arsenokoitai* (cf. 1 Tim. 1:10) almost certainly comes from Leviticus: ‘Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman’ (Lev. 18:22); ‘If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable’ (Lev. 20:13). The two words *arsenos koitēn* together mean ‘bed of a male’, and we can see how Paul’s word *arsenokoitai* derives from Leviticus. Some think Paul speaks against pederasty (which refers to a man having sex with a young boy), but this is unconvincing for in that case

Paul would almost certainly have used the word ‘pederasty’ (*paiderastēs*). Significantly, both the passive and the active partners are condemned here, showing that Paul is not discussing cases of abuse or pederasty. It is clear in the Levitical context as well that both partners are considered to be equally guilty since the penalty for both is death (Lev. 20:13).”<sup>1</sup>

### **Leviticus 18:22**

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

### **Leviticus 20:13**

If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

### – **Lust is sin (Revoice)**

### **Nashville Statement: A Coalition for Biblical Sexuality (Aug 2017) Article 8**

“WE AFFIRM that people who experience sexual attraction for the same sex may live a rich and fruitful life pleasing to God through faith in Jesus Christ, as they, like all Christians, walk in purity of life.

WE DENY that sexual attraction for the same sex is part of the natural goodness of God’s original creation, or that it puts a person outside the hope of the gospel.”

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<sup>1</sup> Schreiner, T. R. (2018). [\*1 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary\*](#) (E. J. Schnabel, Ed.; Vol. 7, p. 122). Inter-Varsity Press.

## **Article 9**

“WE AFFIRM that **sin distorts** sexual desires by directing them away from the **marriage** covenant and toward sexual immorality— a distortion that includes both heterosexual and homosexual immorality.

WE DENY that an enduring pattern of desire for sexual immorality **justifies** sexually immoral behavior.”

## **Matthew 19:8–12**

He said to them, “Because of your **hardness of heart** Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. **9** And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

**10** The disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.” **11** But he said to them, “Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. **12** For there are **eunuchs** who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.”

## **3. Marriage is a Type of Christ and His Church**

### **Ephesians 5:31–32**

“Therefore a **man** shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his **wife**, and the two shall become one flesh.” **32** This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers **to Christ and the church**.

## 1 Corinthians 6:13–17

“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual **immorality**, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. **14** And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. **15** Do you not know that your bodies are **members of Christ**? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! **16** Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” **17** But he who is **joined to the Lord** becomes one spirit with him.

### Conclusion:

In view of the origin, purpose, and glory of marriage, we need to **balance** our response to the challenge of the Critical Social Justice promotion of LGBTQ+. **How** do we engage people participating in homosexual behavior?

- People who engage in sexually perverse behavior are still the **image of God**.
- Homosexual behavior is not the **only sin** or the **worse sin**.
- Homosexual behavior is “**contrary to nature**” and therefore “perverse.” Homosexual behavior is **worse** than sexual immorality in which natural relationships obtain. For this reason, it’s godly to feel a **revulsion** to homosexual behavior and “gender expressions” that are perverse.

Consider **polygamy**: God tolerated polygamy and regulated it by laws, even though it was a **twisting** of God’s original mandate. But God has

never tolerated homosexual behavior and even threatens the **penalty of death** for those who engage in it.

- Christians should promote **policies** and behaviors that facilitates human **flourishing**. Therefore, we cannot accept or celebrate behaviors that are “contrary to nature”.
- It’s **right** that people should feel **ashamed** about their public sins and sexually perverse behaviors. **Contrary** to the work of Critical Social Justice which seeks to **destigmatize** and **mainstream** homosexual behavior, Paul says it’s wicked to give **approval** for homosexual behavior (and other sins). Indeed, even unbelievers at some level know these behaviors are are worthy of **death**.

### **Romans 1:32**

Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but **give approval** to those who practice them.

### **Romans 6:20–21**

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now **ashamed**? For the end of those things is **death**.

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  - Lust is sin (Revoice)

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