

Marriage, Gender and Sexuality

A. Knowing the Challenge

1. Marriage:
 - a. Marriage was created by man
 - b. Marriage is something you do simply because you're "in love"
 - c. Marriage isn't really necessary for raising children or having a family--Recent report on Today Show: 37% of 18-24 year olds believe that marriage is an obsolete institution
 - d. Divorce and remarriage are normal and just a part of life
 - e. Two people of the same sex should be allowed to marry
2. Gender (biological sex):
 - a. Up until recently, gender referred to one's biological sex: male or female
 - b. Now, it refers to how one "self-identifies" meaning how one sees or feels about him or herself
 - 1) Facebook now lists 71 different genders to choose from
 - 2) Tumblr, a blogging site aimed at teens and pre-teens, has a growing master list of genders which is now up to 114 (<http://genderfluidsupport.tumblr.com/gender>) and over 50 different pronoun sets/200+ individual pronouns (<http://genderfluidsupport.tumblr.com/pronouns/>)
3. Sexuality (sexual attraction and behavior)
 - a. The world says you can be attracted to whomever you want—male, female or both—it's all normal and to be celebrated
 - b. Tumblr lists over 70 different sexual orientations (<http://genderfluidsupport.tumblr.com/orientations/>)
 - c. Sexual activity outside of marriage is okay, even healthy, and often necessary for healthy dating relationships
 - d. Sexual activity can be meaningless with no strings attached

B. Knowing the Truth

1. Marriage was created by God, not by man, which means that God governs it (Genesis 2:18-25)
 - a. It was created by God on the same day he created mankind
 - b. It has a God-given purpose--to help mankind accomplish the commands in Genesis 1:28: **"Be fruitful and multiple, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**
 - 1) Adam was alone at first and it wasn't good (2:18): **"It is not good for the man to be alone..."**
 - 2) He needed a helper (2:20): **"but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him."** – helper here refers to someone who will come along side and help carry out the task given to mankind
 - 3) So, God created woman (2:18b, 22):
 - a) **"I will make him a helper suitable for him"** (2:18b)

- b) **“So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man” (2:22)**
 - 4) God then created marriage to be the institution through which man and woman would work together to accomplish God’s purpose for them (2:24): **“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife...”**
 - a) **“For this reason”** refers back to not just v. 23 but the entire section
 - b) The reason a man and woman marry is because God created man and woman to be in a married relationship in order to accomplish their purpose
 - c. There is a supernatural element to it:
 - 1) **“and the two shall become one flesh” (2:24)**
 - 2) **“So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate” (Matthew 19:6)**
 - 3) One flesh is not simply a reference to sex (e.g. 1 Corinthians 6:16-20), but the supernatural binding of two people together—Paul refers to this as a mystery (Ephesians 5:32)
 - d. It is restricted to one man and one woman
 - 1) God established it at creation for man and woman
 - 2) Every marriage in the Bible is between male and female (not a single example of gay marriage)
 - 3) Polygamy is described and overlooked in the Bible, but it and its consequences are always portrayed in a bad light:
 - a) Abraham: rivalry between Sarah and Rebecca
 - b) Jacob: strife between Rachel and Leah
 - c) Elkanah: Hannah humiliated by Peninnah
 - d) David: Absalom’s murder of Amnon, his brother from a different mother
 - e) Solomon’s hundreds of wives lead him into idolatry
 - f) Kings, the ones tasked with upholding the Law, were prohibited from taking multiple wives (though many did; Deuteronomy 17:17)
 - 4) The Bible clearly condemns homosexuality (discussed below) which by its very nature would rule out same-sex marriage
- 2. God created only two genders: male and female:
 - a. Biologically there are only two HUMAN sexes:
 - 1) Evidence by genetics: male (XY) and female (XX)
 - 2) Evidence by physical characteristics (e.g. sexual organs)
 - 3) Note about hermaphroditism in animals:
 - a) Some animals are born with both male and female sex organs (e.g. some snails and worms)
 - b) Others can change their sex (e.g. clownfish; or certain species of sea stars that spend the first part of their lives as male but the rest as female)
 - c) This is by God’s design, but even so it’s the exception not the rule (most animals are male or female)

- d) And, this applies to the animal kingdom, not humans who were made in the image of God
- 4) Note about hermaphroditism in humans:
 - a) Refers to those born with ambiguous sex organs, or in some far more rare cases those having both male and female sex organs
 - b) God designed the human embryo to use the same design for both male and female in the very first stages of development and hormones and DNA determine whether the embryo becomes male or female and which sex organs develop
 - c) Sometimes, due to the corruption of sin in the world, this doesn't proceed as designed and sex organs don't develop as expected
 - d) So, this is the exception, not the rule
- b. The Bible clearly identifies only two genders when it comes to humans (Genesis 1:26-28; Matthew 19:4-6)
- c. Transgenderism is condemned in the Bible (Deuteronomy 22:5; 1 Corinthians 11:14-15)
- 3. Sexual attraction and behavior is also governed by God:
 - a. God designed men and women to be attracted to each other, not men and men or women and women—look at Adam's response (Genesis 2:22-23): **"The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."**
 - b. This all goes back to God's purposes in marriage (Genesis 1:26ff—be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, rule over it and subdue it)—only male-female relationships can do this
 - c. Sexual attraction and activity between two people of the same sex goes against nature (Romans 1:26-27)
 - d. Sexual attraction and activity between two people of the same sex is sin:
 - 1) Leviticus 18:22 (homosexuality)
 - 2) Romans 1:26-27 (homosexuality)
 - 3) 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (sexual immorality, homosexuality)
 - 4) 1 Timothy 1:10
 - e. Sexual activity outside of marriage is also sin because it violates God's purpose for sex:
 - 1) Sex was designed for marriage (1 Corinthians 7:1-6)
 - 2) We are to flee sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18-20) and abstain from it (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)
 - 3) God judges sex outside of marriage (Hebrews 13:4)
 - 4) Immorality is improper for saints (Ephesians 5:3)
 - 5) Sexual immorality is idolatry (Colossians 3:5)

C. Knowing How to Respond

1. Remember, your goal is not to prove anything or convince anyone. You simply need to give a defense for why you believe the Bible can be trusted.
2. Remember also that your answers are likely to be offensive to those who disagree

- Q.** Why shouldn't two guys who love each other be allowed to date/marry? Shouldn't they have the same rights as everyone else?
- A.** Well, the main reason is that the Bible says that God made marriage to be between one man and one woman, not between two men or two women. In Genesis 1 the Bible says that God created mankind as male and female so they could reproduce, fill the earth and care for it. In Genesis 2 it says that God created marriage to help man and woman do this. Since God made marriage, I believe only He has the right to determine what's right and what's wrong. Marriage isn't just about "love", it's about fulfilling **God's** purpose for marriage. Another reason I don't believe in gay marriage is because the Bible makes it clear that homosexual activity is offensive to God, which makes it a sin. As for rights, we all have the same rights and that's to live in the boundaries that God has established, and when it comes to marriage we all have the same rights to marry someone of the opposite sex.
- Q.** Gender is different than sex, and besides people don't choose their gender.
- A.** I disagree. The Bible says in Genesis 1:27 that God made us "**male and female**" and up until just the past couple of years gender has always been defined by one's physical sex—either male or female. Just because some people are now trying to redefine gender as something other than what it truly is, doesn't make it true. A boy calling himself a girl or some other new gender term doesn't change the fact that he's a boy, any more than calling myself a giraffe makes me a giraffe. However, I realize that because we live in a fallen world and sin affects how we see or feel about ourselves, some people get confused about who they are. Some boys may feel like girls, and some girls like boys, but how they feel doesn't change their gender.
- Q.** What gives you the right to judge someone just because he or she is gay or transgender?
- A.** It's not my place to judge, but God has that right and He's the one who said in the Bible that homosexuality is wrong. In Leviticus 18:22 God said, "**You shall not lie [have sexual intercourse] with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.**" This is why the New Testament calls it "**unnatural**" and says that God judges it (Romans 1:26-27). I am not judging anyone when I point out what the Bible says. I am simply restating what the Bible says because there are consequences for sin (e.g. physical, mental, emotional and spiritual) and I believe that speaking the truth sin is an act of love. In fact, saying homosexuality and transgenderism are okay when they offend God is the opposite of love.
- Q.** Marriage is outdated. You don't need to be married to be/make a family.
- A.** I think marriage is important because it was created by God and I don't believe He thinks it's outdated or unnecessary. In fact, He intends for families to be built upon solid marriages between husbands and wives and fathers and mothers.