

SACRED LOVE

A Scriptural Argument for Full LGBTQ Inclusion

THE BIBLE SAYS:

The most common argument for excluding LGBTQ people into the sacrament of marriage and from ordination is that it is counter to a plain reading of Scripture. I contend that Scripture holds that people of the LGBTQ community are an intended part of God's creation and must be welcomed into all of our sacraments and into the ministry or we are harming God's beloved and failing in our Christian duty to love each other as ourselves.

3 most common threads:

“The Bible says it, I believe it, that's the end of it”

“You are using your experience and making the Bible say what you want it to”

“The Bible defines marriage as between a man and a woman”

“CLOBBER PASSAGES”

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Genesis 19:5 Leviticus 18:22 Leviticus 20:13

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 1:26-27 1 Corinthians 6:9 1 Timothy 1:10

GENESIS 19:5

“Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we may know them.”

Genesis 19:5

- “Know” – what exactly are they asking for?
- Daughters
- Ezekiel: “Now this was the sin of Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.”
- Hospitality – Helen of Troy

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 be put to death; their blood is upon them.”

Idolatry or idols (Deuteronomy 7:25, Deuteronomy 13:14, Isaiah 44:19)

Illicit sex (e.g. prostitution, adultery, incest) (Ezekiel 16:22,58, Ezekiel 22:11, Ezekiel 33:26)

Illicit marriage (Deuteronomy 24:2-4)

Offerings from the above (Deuteronomy 23:18)

Temple prostitution (1Kings 14:24)

Mixed lawn grass (Deuteronomy 22:9, Leviticus 19:19)

Wearing mixed thread clothing, cross-breeding animals, shaving, haircuts, tattoos (Leviticus 19:19)

Child sacrifice to Molech (Jeremiah 32:35)

Cross-dressing (Deuteronomy 22:5)

Cheating in the market by using rigged weights (Deuteronomy 25:13-19, Proverbs 11:1)

Dishonesty (Proverbs 12:22)

Shrimp, scallops, mussels, clams, oysters, cheeseburgers, pig, rabbit of any kind, ostrich, shark, catfish, eels, snakes, snails, lizards, (Deuteronomy 14, Leviticus 11)

Stealing, murder, and adultery, breaking covenants (Jeremiah 7:9,10)

Usury, violent robbery, murder, oppressing the poor and needy (Ezekiel 18:10-13)

Divorce (Matthew 19:3-12)

ALL OF THESE ARE ABOMINATIONS

LEVITICUS

- Death Penalty -- “They deserve to die” – Blood be upon them
- Why do we need Leviticus? – 9 “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest.
- 10 And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.
- 11 “You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. 12 You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.
- 13 “You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. 14 You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.
- 15 “You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. 16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.
- 17 “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. 18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

ROMANS 1:26-27

For this reason God gave them up to degrading passions. Their women exchanged natural intercourse for unnatural, and in the same way also the men, giving up natural intercourse with women, were consumed with passion for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the due penalty for their error.

ROMANS 1:26-27

- “Natural use”
- “God gave them”
- Romans 1:32 -- Though they know God's decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them but approve those who practice them.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9 - 10

Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, sodomites, thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, robbers—none of these will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 TIMOTHY 1:9-11

This means understanding that the law is laid down not for the innocent but for the lawless and disobedient, for the godless and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their father or mother, for murderers, fornicators, sodomites, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

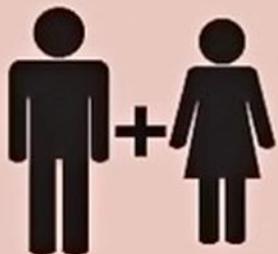
1 CORINTHIANS 6:9 – 10, 1 TIMOTHY 1:9-11

- *Arsenokoitēs* = *arrēn* + *koitē*
- *arrēn* = man or man child, *koitē* = *bed, chamber, conceive*
- Roman “Maleness” and Paul’s Roman-ness
- Roman sexual slavery: prostitute = slave
- What made someone “*Arsenokoitēs*”

MARRIAGE =

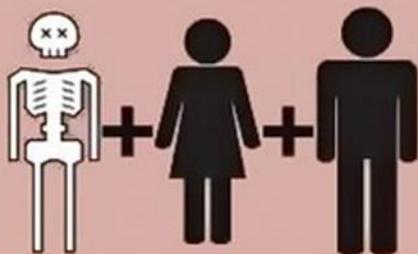
MAN + WOMAN (NUCLEAR FAMILY) Genesis 2:24

wives subordinate to their husbands
interfaith marriages forbidden
marriages generally arranged,
not based on romantic love
virgin who could not prove her
purity was stoned to death



MAN + BROTHER'S WIDOW (LEVIRATE MARRIAGE) Genesis 38:6-10

-widow who had not borne a son
was required to marry her brother in law
-must submit sexually to her new
husband



MAN + WIVES + CONCUBINES

Abraham (2 concubines), Gideon (1),
Simeon (1), Jacob (1), Eliphaz (1),
Solomon (≥ 1), Caleb (2), Manassah (1),
Solomon (300), Belshazzar (> 1)



RAPIST + HIS VICTIM Deuteronomy 22:28-29

-virgin who is raped must marry
her rapist
-rapist must pay victim's father
50 shekels of silver for property loss



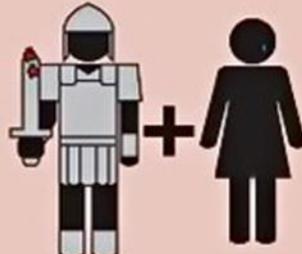
MAN + WOMAN + WOMAN'S PROPERTY Exodus 16

husband could acquire his wife's
property including her slaves



MALE SOLDIER + PRISONER OF WAR Numbers 31:1-18, Deuteronomy 21:11-14

-under Moses' command, Israelites
kill every Midianite man, woman and
child; save for the virgin girls who
are taken as spoils of war
-wives must submit sexually to
their new owners



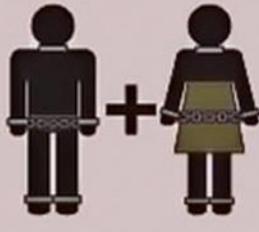
MAN + WOMAN + WOMAN + WOMAN... (POLYGAMY)

Abraham (2 wives), Esau (3), Jacob (2),
Simeon (2), Gideon (many), Elkanah
(many), David (many), Solomon (700),
Solomon (3), Abijah (14), Jehoram,
Jehoshaphat, Ahab, Jeholachin, Belshazzar



MALE SLAVE + FEMALE SLAVE Exodus 21:4

-slave owner could assign female
slaves to his male slaves
-female slaves must submit
sexually to their new husbands



-“I Believe there are times when God calls us to ask question of our Bible, and as we do, we set aside those things that ma not reflect the timeless will of God, even as we recognize and guard against a temptation to set aside what is simply inconvenient.”

FROM – *MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE,*
CHAPTER 29 BY ADAM HAMILTON –
METHODIST THEOLOGIAN

STATS OF HARM TO LGBTQ COMMUNITY

LGBTQ people are:

- Approximately 5% of the population (higher as you move younger, 8.5% of millennials identify as LGBTQ)
- 15% to 40% of the homeless in the USA (60,000 to 220,000 people), most often after fleeing home or being kicked out for being LGBTQ (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- 17% of all hate crime victims (up 3%-5% in the last 5 years). Over 600 in the last 10 years (Nat'l Coalition for Anti-Violence, Matthew Shepard *Laramie Project* journalists)
- Cast as child molesters and sexual abusers without supporting evidence, being LGBTQ is nothing like pedophilia scientifically speaking.
- Significantly more likely to be sexually assaulted (“corrective rape”), bullied, physically abused, and die by suicide (3rd highest cause of 15-24 year old suicide stem from being targeted for being LGBTQ) – San Francisco University study, 1999

THE 3 MAJOR ARGUMENTS

➤ Space and Time

➤ Different meanings, different guidance

➤ SO WHAT??

IMAGO DEI

26 Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

27 So God created humankind[e] in his image,

in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them. -- Genesis 1:26-27

**THE IMAGE OF GOD (IMAGO DEI) IS NOT SINGULAR; IT IS PLURAL.
THEREFORE, OUR UNDERSTANDINGS OF HUMANITY**

WHAT IS THE GREATER SIN??

WHAT IS THE PRIORITY OF CHRIST?

Mark 3; Luke 13: Healing on the Sabbath?

Matthew 9: Matthew the Tax Collector

Matthew 25: For the Least of These is God

WHO DO WE SAY THAT CHRIST IS?

METHODISTS ARE CALLED TO REVISIT OUR BELIEFS AS AN ACT OF FAITH

- Wesley's Quadrilateral – Scripture, Tradition, REASON AND EXPERIENCE
- The Small Group
- Infallibility is our greatest arrogance