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# *Love First: What Is Marriage?*

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, May 12, 2019*

## The Supreme Court vs Christianity

1. Is Marriage A Genderless Institution?
2. Or Is Sex-Difference (Male and Female)  
A Necessary Part of What Marriage Is?

## **Sex-Difference Is a Part of What Marriage Is**

“Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him.” *Genesis 2:18, GNB*

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” **Genesis 2:24, ESV**

What's the Meaning of “One Flesh”?

Forming A New Relational Bond in Marriage

One-Flesh Idea Also Refers Specifically to  
Sexual Intimacy Within Marriage

“[Jesus Quoting Genesis] “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?’” **Matthew 19:4–5, ESV**

“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.” **1 Corinthians 6:16, ESV**

According to Genesis 2 & Jesus, Sex-Difference Is  
Not A  
Take-It-Or-Leave-It Option for Marriage

**Marriage Reflects God and His  
Relationship to His People**

*NT: Christ (Husband – Male) Church (Wife –  
Female)*

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.” ***Ephesians 5:31–32, ESV***

*OT: God’s Love for His People Referred to As A  
Husband’s  
(Male) Love for His Bride (Female)*

“Yes, you are an adulterous wife who takes in strangers instead of her own husband. Prostitutes charge for their services—but not you! You give gifts to your lovers, bribing them to come and have sex with you.” *Ezekiel 16:32–33, NLT* (Read All of Ezk 16; See also Hosea 3)

The Bible Says That Sex-Difference Is Necessary for What Marriage Is – There’s Nothing in The Bible or In Christian Tradition That Says Marriage Is A Genderless Institution

**Does the Fact That We Accept Divorce Mean That We Should Accept Same-Sex Marriage?**

One of The Blessings of The LGBT Conversation Is That It Has Forced the Church to Reflect on Its Own Sins

1. Not Every Divorce Is Against God's Will
2. The Bible Never Gives the Slightest Hint That Sex-Difference Is Somehow Irrelevant or Optional for Marriage

Should You Attend a Same Sex Wedding?

4 Different Options:

1. Attend
2. Ask for Time to Think
3. Attend the Reception but Not the Wedding
4. Don't Attend

<https://www.centerforfaith.com/resources>