

The Catholic Church on homosexuality and same gender marriage

- The Catholic Church respects and loves the homosexual person the same as it does the heterosexual. Catholicism teaches that homosexual people must be treated with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every act or thought of hatred, violence, or persecution toward the homosexual is condemned.
- The Church considers any and all sexual activity outside of marriage as sinful and immoral. Masturbation, fornication, adultery, homosexual acts, pornography, and artificial contraception are all sins in the eyes of the Catholic Church. The need to be repented of and confessed in the Sacrament of Penance before one receives Holy Communion at Mass.
- The Church opposes same-sex unions based on Genesis 1:25–28: "God created man in his own image....**male and female he created them**... and God said, 'Be fruitful and multiply' " and Genesis 2:24, "**a man shall be joined to his wife**, and they shall become one flesh." Jesus himself uses these same quotation in Mark 10:6–9 when asked about marriage.
- The prohibition of sexual activity between same gender people is writ large on the pages of Sacred Scripture particularly in **St Paul to the Romans 1:26**.
- Catholics believe that marriage is the permanent, faithful, and God-willing fruitful **union of a man and woman** who have entered the covenant relationship of husband and wife. The sacrament of Matrimony is a sacred bond that imitates the love between Christ and his bride, the Church.
- The Church believes that because God instituted marriage, neither the Church nor the secular state (civil government) has the authority to redefine or substantially change the nature of marriage. When governments flout the law of God in this regard they destabilise society as well.
- Despite the decision of some Christian bodies to accept openly gay ministers who are in relationship, the Catholic Church can never go down that path.