

## THE BIBLE'S VIEWPOINT OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

**Jisman Nainggolan**

*Evangelical Theological Seminary of Indonesia - Surabaya*

*E-mail: jisman@sttii-surabaya.ac.id*

### **Abstract**

*This research aims to explain and understand or understand what same sex marriage is, which is against the Bible's principles, and what factors cause such marriage, and what impact it has on society and the church. So this Biblical study discusses Christian marriage and its implications for God's children in order to understand true Christian marriage. For this reason, the research method used is a qualitative method, namely through documentation and literature research. So this research is to contain the Biblical understanding of Christian marriage, as a basis for providing answers to the rise of same-sex marriage in this era of globalization, and to have a better understanding of Christian marriage based on the Bible for Christians, so that Christians will be able and courageous. bringing in the LGBT community, who in fact are the vast majority of perpetrators of same-sex marriage. Often referred to as gender identity disorder, also known as transsexualism is the mental awareness a person has about their gender, about whether they are male or female in which the gender identity of a transsexual is opposite to the gender that is "imposed" on them based on his physical genitals. Male to female transsexual or what is known as homo and lesbi, namely transsexual male to female, has a male body and a female soul. Until now, the presence of LGBT people around us is still not fully accepted. Not infrequently they are treated like miracles who deserve ridicule, ridicule, or other forms of rejection. In fact, it is the resistance and anti-patience of the community that has been able to trigger the aggressive behavior of LGBT people.*

**Keywords:** *Bible, Christian Marriage, Same-Sex Marriage (LGBT).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The background in writing this dissertation is to explain how the Bible views same-sex marriage. According to the Bible, marriage has been established by God between a man and a woman (Gen 2: 21-24; Matthew 19: 4-6). And according to the Bible, marriage is a union between man and woman for life, especially in building

a family and providing a stable atmosphere for the family. Wherever the Bible deals with marriage, the context is always male and female. The first quote about marriage, Genesis 2:24, describes a man who leaves his parents and is united to his wife. In passages dealing with instructions regarding marriage, such

as 1 Corinthians 7: 2-16 and Ephesians 5: 23-33, the Bible clearly describes that marriage is between a man and a woman. The author sees a controversial phenomenon these days among the public even for God's church regarding same-sex marriage or their legality of calling the LGBT community, which is increasingly prevalent throughout the world. Even in Indonesia they already exist, even if they are not openly clear because Indonesia is a religious country and also has strong customs. For this reason, the authors conducted research on how the Bible's view of same-sex marriage is an urgency for God's church, especially Christians to have a correct understanding of same-sex marriage.

And to answer the phenomenon that is happening so that it is not misunderstood and also so that Christians have a loving attitude in dealing with it. Indeed, the topic of same-sex marriage has often been discussed these days in various forums and seminars, but here is the author to raise this issue from a biblical perspective to further emphasize the Bible's truth about marriage, and to

explain whether same-sex marriage is contradictory or permissible in Bible teachings. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender are often highlighted as perpetrators of same-sex marriage practices.<sup>1</sup> Because in this globalization era, same-sex marriage has occurred everywhere, especially among God's children. Justin Lee is the founder of the Gay Christian Network.<sup>2</sup> He concluded that there is a higher principle, an undeniable principle, the fundamental principle that two gay men or two gay women commit to each other to live together is pleasing to God. It is the law of love, the great Law.<sup>3</sup> Likewise with M.W. Sphero, a proponent of "Gay Christian", expresses his opinion even more strongly:<sup>4</sup>he summarizes his view in 1 John 4: 8, which he quotes with the emphasis: whoever does not love, does not know God, because God is love. " Therefore, argue and claims that the view that the Bible is against homosexual practices is nothing more than a cruel hijack of the gospel by contemporary Pharisees who hate homosexuality.<sup>5</sup>

The argument against the existence of homosexuals and lesbians, namely that

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<sup>1</sup> *Let's get this straight: the ultimate handbook for youth with LGBTQ parents* (Berkeley, CA: Seal Press, 2010), 13-14.

<sup>2</sup> Michael L. Brown, Ph.D., *Gay Dan Kristen* (T.k.: t.p., t.t.), 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* 2

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid* 11

<sup>5</sup> M.W.Sphero, *The Gay Faith: Christ, Scripture, and Sexuality* (T.k.: t.p., t.t.), 500.

same-sex marriages occur in "eastern" countries, the majority of which are based on the results of studies conducted by religious experts. Meanwhile, those who accept the existence and even legalize same-sex marriage often occur in "western" countries.

However, it is clear that the Bible condemns homosexual / same-sex relationships as immoral and unnatural sin. Leviticus 18:22 shows same-sex relations as an abomination, a detestable sin.

Romans 1: 26-27, declares homosexual lust and acts of sex between the sexes as shameful, unnatural, lustful, and indecent. 1 Corinthians 6: 9 states that homosexual couples are not righteous and will not inherit God's kingdom.

History itself is against same-sex marriage. Modern secular psychology recognizes that men and women are designed to complement each other psychologically and emotionally.<sup>6</sup> If the Bible, together with views from historical, psychological, and natural perspectives all support marriage between man and woman, why is it such a controversial issue today? Why is opposing same-sex marriage hateful and intolerant.

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## RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a qualitative research which is library research which uses books and other literature as the main object (Hadi, 1995: 3). This type of research is qualitative, namely research that produces information in the form of notes and descriptive data contained in the text under study (Mantra, 2008: 30).

With qualitative research, descriptive analysis is necessary. Descriptive analysis method provides a clear, objective, systematic, analytical and critical description and information regarding same-sex marriage that is opposed by the Bible.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this second chapter, the author will describe the theories of same-sex marriage, how the views of same-sex marriage, which according to LGBT people do not violate religious norms or legal norms and continue to struggle to ask for the same recognition as heterosexuals with arguments. LGBT people, because LGBT people are often discredited in the midst of society and religious leaders. It is this same sex marriage perpetrator who develops into a community called LGBT. And it is this community that is often reviled in various

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<sup>6</sup><https://www.gotquestions.org/Indonesia/pernikahan-sesama-jenis.html>

social spheres, the basic rights of LGBT citizens as citizens are often ignored, and even insults, ridicule and heinous treatment are often addressed to LGBT people, even if they do not commit criminal acts that disturb social order. LGBT people are aware of their different sexual orientation from the surrounding community. However, this disorder of sexual orientation does not mean a form of crime that can lead to various social pathologies. Moreover, in fact, not a few of the members of the LGBT community are more sensitive and care about social weissues.

So on this basis they seek legal protection. Because LGBT are often underestimated because they are a form of oddity and an attempt to fight God's destiny.<sup>7</sup> So, for more than the last decade or so, the issue of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender), emerged in the world. This is none other than the increasingly visible social problems including health among LGBT people. Lesbian, gay and bisexual are a matter of sexual identity (sexual identities), while transgender is a problem of gender identity (gender identity).<sup>8</sup> And also society views LGBT as deviant because it is against religious teachings and is a

disease because it is contagious and is associated with risky sexual relations. In addition, there are those who consider LGBT people as different people who cannot be free because they are constrained by people who still hold strong religious values.<sup>9</sup>

For this reason, in discussing the biblical perspective on same-sex marriage, the writer does not want to judge the perpetrators of same-sex marriage or homosexuals, even though the Bible clearly shows that homosexuality is a sin, but the Bible does not state that the perpetrators are, in this case, gay. and lesbian (LGBT), are free to be treated in injustice as happened recently. It is true that the Lord Jesus hates the sin of homosexuality, just as He hates other sins, but He still loves those who are involved in Him. God wants these gays and lesbians to be treated in the light of divine love, so that one day they can repent and be restored from homosexual sins.

### **General Definition of Marriage**

The definition of "marriage" according to the big Indonesian dictionary

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<sup>7</sup> Farid Muttagin, *observing the Islamic theological context: Contemporary Indonesia Muslim Feminist Agenda Toward Recognition of Gay and Lesbian Rights* (Athen: Ohio University, t.t.), 1.

<sup>8</sup> [www.decipher.uk.net](http://www.decipher.uk.net)

<sup>9</sup> UNDP\_USAID Laporan LGBT Nasional Indonesia -Hidup Sebagai LGBT di Asia UNDP& USAID 2014.

is thing (urus) kawin; wedding.<sup>10</sup> Then the basic word "marry" is to form a family with the opposite sex; having sex; fuck. In Indonesian, marriage comes from the word "kawin" which according to the language means forming a family with the opposite sex, having sexual relations or having intercourse. Marriage is also called "marriage", derived from the word nikah (Arabic) which according to the language means to collect, enter and use for intercourse. The word "marriage" itself is often used to mean coitus (coitus) as well as for a marriage contract.<sup>11</sup> And according to the Indonesian dictionary Poerdarminta,<sup>12</sup>

Marriage is a social bond or legal agreement between individuals that forms kinship and is an institution in the local culture that formalizes interpersonal relationships which are usually intimate and sexual. Marriages are generally started and formalized with a wedding ceremony. Generally, marriages are carried out with the intention of forming a family.

## The Biblical View Of Same-Sex Marriage

To understand same sex marriage, it is very important to understand correctly who humans are from the point of the Bible. Human existence and life is a mystery. Where did humans come from? How do humans live? And many other questions.

There have been so many studies that have tried to explore what and how humans really are, and the meaning of human life. People base their research on the disciplines of biology, physics, history or even theology. But dissatisfaction is still experienced by most people. Human efforts to explore the what and how of humans, will never find satisfying and definite answers if humans do not know the source of human life itself. Humans continue to seek the truth. The Bible is true because it tells people about the present, past and future realities. The Bible testifies to humans that God is the source of human life.<sup>13</sup>

Therefore, Christian marriage is one of the important teachings in Christian doctrine. Because the human created by God is a special creature, who is glorious

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<sup>10</sup> Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, *KBBI* (Jakarta: Balai Pustaka, t.t.), t.h

<sup>11</sup> Abdul, Rahman Ghazaly, *Fiqh Munakahat, cet ke-1* (Bogor: Kencana, 2003), 7.

<sup>12</sup> W.J.S. Poerdarminta, *Kamus Bahasa Indonesia* (T.k.: t.p., t.t.), t.h.

<sup>13</sup> G. I. Williamson, *Pengakuan Iman Westminster* (Surabaya: Momentum, 2009), 64.

from other creations. The Bible says "in the image" and "in the image" of God (Gen. 1:26), namely: Allah said, "Let us make men in Our image and likeness, so that they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over livestock and over all the earth and over all the creeping things of the earth.

The word נַעֲשֶׂה - NA'ASEH is from the verb עָשָׂה - ASAH, in the Verb Qal Imperfect 1st Com. Pl., So that means: let's make, the prefix "nun" here denotes the verb for the subject which is "plural."

Transformation form בְּצַלְמֵנוּ - BETSALMENU from the root noun: צֶלֶם - TSELEM, meaning: "image" with the prefix בְּ - BE ("with", "inside") and the first person adverb plural possessive suffix נֹנוּ - NU ("we / we"). Then "BETSALMENU" means "with our TSELEM" -> "with our image". Likewise with the word כְּדִמוּתֵנוּ - KIDMUTENU from a root noun: דָּמוּת - DEMUT, which means "likeness" with a prefix (prefix): כִּי - KI ("like") and the first person adverb plural possessive ending נֹנוּ - NU ("we / we"). So "KIDMUTENU" means "like our FEMAT" -> "as we are."<sup>14</sup>

THE NEW BIBLE COMMENTARY: "Let

us make humans according to our image and likeness". The plural form of the first person "us" should be explained in this way: that the Creator speaks as the King of Heaven before the Heavenly army. In other parts of the Bible this expression appears, that ministering spirit beings (angels) were present near Him (compare Gen. 3:22, 24; 11: 7, and 18:21; compare Gen. 18 : 2; 19: 1 and Isa. 6: 8).

Humans and heavenly spirit beings (angels) are both personal beings who are involved in a responsible historical relationship with God. This image of Allah is indispensable and irreversible, but the direction of decency can be reversed. The picture takes its right form, of course, in conformity with God's holy will.<sup>15</sup>

So the word "image" in Hebrew uses the word צֶלֶם (selem), while in Greek it uses the word eikon tou qeou (eikon tou Theou). The Latin word for this term is Imago Dei, which means that God created man to be like His own nature.

And what is very important is that God created man as one pair, namely "male" and "female", in verse 27: "So Allah created man in His image, in the image of Allah He created him; male and female He created

<sup>14</sup> R.Laird Harris ; Gleason L Archer, Jr; Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Word book of the Old Testament* (Chicago: The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, 1980), t.h.

<sup>15</sup> Tafsiran Alkitab Masa Kini (*The New Bible Commentary – Revised* vol. I) (London: Inter-Varsity Press, 1976), 82.

them. "

בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ בְּצַלְמֵ אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ  
(וַיִּגְמְקָהּ בָּרָא אֹתָם: זָכָר אֹתוֹ)

Translit. Interlinear, VAYIVRA '{and He creates}' ELOHIM {Allah} 'ET-HA'ADAM {the man} BETSALMO {in His image} BETSELEM {in the image}' ELOHIM {Allah} BARA '{He creates}' OTO { her} ZAKHAR {male} UNEQEVAH {and female} BARA '{She created}' OTAM {them}<sup>16</sup> (ZAKHAR (male); UNEQEVAH (female).

So in Genesis 1:27 it says: "So God" created "man in" His image .... " Hebrew word used for "create"

is "bara." This means that Allah created humans as creatures that had never existed before (creatio ex nihilo), and He had never formed another creature like humans.<sup>17</sup> And the first Man who was created by Allah was Adam (male). Then, from Adam's rib God created (Heb. Bana: build) Eve (woman) as a helper commensurate with Adam, as his wife. Then from Adam and Eve filled the earth with people, with various tribes, nations and languages (Gen. 1:28). So God did not make humans of the same type or same sex, but different sexes

(male and female).

Theories regarding the meaning of images and forms:<sup>18</sup> these are: one, Irenaeus and Tertullian, which include: the physical aspects of humanity and the spiritual aspects of humanity. Two. Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Athanasius, Hilary, Ambrose, Augustine, and John of Damascus, namely: the image of the immaterial characteristics of man and human aspects that can be developed such as holiness or morality, and if not developed it will be lost . Three. The Scholastics (Thomas Aquinas), stated: the image-ability and rational freedom of man (natural), original forms of truth and supernatural gifts that were lost at the fall of man. Four. The Reformers, explain: all basically reject any difference between the two terms (Gen. 5: 1; 9: 6). Both Luther and Calvin expressed this concept in different terms, but basically stated the same truth. Five, I think they refer to personality; awareness; language skills; desire; and / or morality.

It is true that throughout history there have been disgraceful and hateful acts directed against LGBT people in society and the church for various reasons. Often the Church has responded to this issue with

<sup>16</sup> *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary, Vol 1, 28.*

<sup>17</sup> Tong, *Peta dan Teladan Allah*, 11.

<sup>18</sup>[http://www.freebiblecommentary.org/pdf/ind/VO\\_L01AOT\\_indonesian.pdf](http://www.freebiblecommentary.org/pdf/ind/VO_L01AOT_indonesian.pdf)

anger, hatred, judgment, protest and a number of other expressions that should not have happened. However, the injustice felt by some LGBT people cannot justify what is clearly wrong and sinned. Truth does not need to adapt itself to be accepted by contemporary culture. Truth is consistent over time; truth is truth or not.

The mistakes and sins committed by the church or by believers in Christ do not diminish Bible truth or damage the Creator's Blueprint for marriage. Absolutely not. Homosexuality is still a sin, and same-sex marriage remains a grave error even though the church fails to live up to biblical truth as a community of believers. Christians are often criticized for the divorce rate that occurs among heterosexual couples. Therefore, we will see from the perspective of the Bible, how does the Bible actually view same-sex marriage? or often called the LGBT people.

### CONCLUSION

The conclusions obtained from this study indicate that the most basic principles of the Bible regarding Christian marriage are listed in the first pages of the Scriptures (Gen. 1: 26-28), namely: First, Allah created man according to Allah's model

map.<sup>19</sup>

The only book that talks about humans as God's map and example is the Bible. When God created everything and then created man, Allah determined to create man according to His own map and example. The sequence of events in Genesis 1 of creation climaxes at the creation of man. This means that the presence of humans on earth is not accidental and not due to natural events alone.

Thus, humans become the only creatures that resemble the Creator. So Allah created man according to His model map, this is a statement in which He created beings that are higher than all others. Allah created man as the highest creation. So that everything can be subdued under humans. The first human being was Adam (male gender). Both "male" and female "were created in God's image. This confirms the ontological equivalence.

There is no indication in the story of the creation of ontological superiority or inferiority between "men" and "women." Men and women as men and individuals women, are equally equal as the image of God before Him. This equality does not have a sexual meaning but rather equality of position as a being created in an image and

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<sup>19</sup> J.A. Telnoni, *Tafsiran Alkitab: Kejadian Pasal 1-11* (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, t.t.), t.h.

likeness. Second, it is not good for humans (Adam: man) to live alone, so Allah created women to help men. This means that God created sex for humans between men and women, not homosexuals. David Atkinson in his series on Understanding and Application of the Bible today "Genesis 1-11" on pages 82-83 describes the words of *ezer kenegdo* (in Hebrew) which are translated "equal help".<sup>20</sup> The meaning of *Ezer* is someone who helps and encourages, who completes the shortcomings of the person he is helping. This term is used frequently in the OT to refer to help from God.

The word *kenegdo* seems to have something to do with a verb meaning "to become clear or obvious." Related nouns refer to someone who is accomplished. So "a helper who is equal" means a helper god that is as excellent, or as special. This shows that this helper is definitely worthy of standing before humans as its counterpart, friend, complement. And it also means that Allah gave an equal partner with humans because women were made from parts of the human body. So that from this process of creating women we can see that man and woman are one. Woman was created from man and when man saw the woman God had formed from her body parts, he was very

happy. Thus LGBT marriages are rejected on the basis of this truth too.

Third, the two men will leave their father and mother, and the two of them will become one flesh. Being husband and wife, where God created two different types of people not only to unite in one family physically, but also emotionally, spiritually, intellectually, financially and whatever. Even so, they remain in the state of being two different individuals. Thus, the relationship between the two must be based on the awareness that they are equal and need each other, respect and love each other. They must be aware that God has given humans different forms, abilities and functions, but with one calling, namely to glorify Him. While same-sex marriage, they are only physically one, only for the satisfaction of *hawanafsunya*.

Fourth, they are blessed by God to produce children, reproduce, become a great nation. Genesis 1:28 makes it clear that one of the main goals of sexuality is procreation. Sexual behavior is given by Allah to humans to be enjoyed and / or used within its limits. The limitation is that men have sex only with women, not men with men or women with women or humans with animals. Sexual relations between men and men or women and women and humans and

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<sup>20</sup> David Atkinson, *Pemahaman dan Penerapan Alkitab Masa Kini*, "Kejadian 1-11" (t.k.:t.p., t.t.),

82-83.

animals constitute a violation of the mandate of sexual behavior, namely having children and reproducing.

Principles like these are not found in other religions and in the discovery of human culture and religion. This principle is a revelation of God, so that is where the foundation is laid to determine whether or not all mankind will live or be happy forever.<sup>21</sup>

So marriage is an idea from God, that is why every believer should use the Bible to explain the meaning of marriage and family (Gen. 2:18). So God saw Adam's loneliness as a "bad thing", so in this case God had the initiative to provide a companion for Adam. Adam did not find "a suitable helper for him" (Gen. 2: 19-20), here it can be seen that Allah created Adam (man) as a creature who needed a partner, namely an Eve (woman).

God Himself brought the woman to Adam. This means that Allah "brought" women to Adam to show activity on the part of Allah. This is consistent with Genesis 2:21 when Adam was asleep (passive) and God (active) provided a partner for Adam. Then Adam said, "Here he is, bone of my bones and

flesh of my flesh. He will be called a woman, because she was taken from a man" (Gen. 2:23). Adam's statement about the existence of women shows how much Adam longed for a partner in life. So in the Bible, marriage is the first institution established by God. And God Himself designed the marriage, God also united Adam and Eve as one family. Marriages between men and women are not same-sex marriages.

After humanity fell into sin, marriage was no longer what God originally intended it to be. In the incident of chapter 3 and the whole Bible, especially the books of the Old Testament, it shows conditions of marriage that are no longer united, such as polygamy and divorce.<sup>22</sup> Then in the New Testament, marriage can not be separated from the beginning of God to unite the marriage of the couple Adam and Eve, where in Matthew 19: 5-6 and Mark 10: 6-9, Jesus restates the principle of marriage found in Genesis 1 : 27; 2:24.

The combination of these two verses was used by Jesus to prove that the union between a man and a woman in marriage is based on the actions and works of God as Creator. Here Jesus renews and restores the

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<sup>21</sup> Stephen Tong, *Takhta Kristus dalam Keluarga* (Surabaya: Momentum, 2011), 1.

<sup>22</sup> Wenham Gordon J., *Word Biblical Commentary Volume I* (Texas: Word Books Publisher, 1987), t.h.

meaning of marriage as planned by God from the beginning. So at the beginning of creation before mankind fell into sin, marriage was a design from God that He established in Genesis 2:18, so marriage did not exist because of sin. Likewise, Paul also views marriage as not a bad condition and one should not think that those who are married are sinners. Paul states "let every man have his own wife and every woman have her own husband."

The conclusion is that God Himself made a human marriage, that is, a marriage between a man and a woman. It is not only Christians who do this, but all humans are created by God.

Therefore, it is quite clear that the Bible rejects same-sex marriage because there is no basis for doing it, even if they use human rights or the basis of love, the Bible says that is still not allowed by God or disgust for God. If this happens it is said to be a sexual deviation. Same-sex marriage is not God's plan, and it must be taken seriously by God's church and followers of Christ (Christians). To ignore this is to go against God's will from the very beginning of creation. This is in contrast to LGBT and human rights activists, who state that the freedom to have sexual relations is an individual right that can be done by anyone as long as it does not harm others. A consensual same-sex relationship is not a

violation, even a person's basic life choice.

From this was born statements that are often heard, for example: "God made us gay," or "Gay is a result of genetic disorders, we cannot change it." This has encouraged many people to accept and tolerate same-sex relationships.

For that, Religion is a guideline and moral foundation for society. Every religion has the same goal in shaping society's morals towards a religious society. When viewed from the perspective of Christianity or Bible teachings, Christianity firmly rejects LGBT acts, as found in the Bible of Leviticus 20:13, which reads: "When a man has intercourse with another man, they commit heinous and despicable acts, and both must be put to death. They died because of their own fault. " Then in Romans 1: 26-27:

26 For that reason God gave them to shameful lusts, because their wives replaced the natural with the unnatural.

27 In the same way husbands leave the natural copulation with their wives and burn in their desires one against another, so that they commit sexual immorality, male with male, and because of that they receive in themselves a reward that is appropriate for heresy. they.

Thus, these verses are very clear that Christianity based on the Bible absolutely prohibits forbidden relations between the

same sex because it is against Bible principles. Therefore, the authors conclude that: Same-sex marriage (LGBT) is against the law of marriage, Same-sex marriage (LGBT) is a normal sexual deviation, Same-sex marriage (LGBT) is a "disease", even LGBT is against religion.

Same-sex marriage (LGBT) is a violation of the human rights itself that God has established for humans. Same-sex marriage (LGBT) abuses love as the basis of their relationship.

Same-sex marriage (LGBT) inhibits or eliminates human reproduction on earth.

So human sexuality is one of God's greatest gifts for humans and human development. The most beautiful expression is that marriage between one man and one woman is the deepest manifestation of what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God. Sex and sexual behavior are defined by Allah as heterosexual behavior.

Healthy sexual behavior is institutionalized and its regulation takes place after marriage. However, every dimension of life in that world was broken. Sexuality was corrupted by the fall of man. This can be seen in the deviation of sexual behavior, polygamy, homosexuality, lesbian, gay and transgender.

But every manifestation of destruction in human sexuality can be fully

redeemed by our God because of Christ's saving work, through the Holy Spirit. Yet this and every manifestation of destruction in human sexuality can be fully redeemed by our great God for the work of saving Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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