

**Matthew 19:3-12**  
**“The Nashville Statement: Article 1”**

**3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"**

**4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'**

**5 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?**

**6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."**

**7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?"**

**8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.**

**9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."**

**10 His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."**

**11 But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given:**

**12 "For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it."**

These days when one says as Christians proclaimed for roughly 2000 years that marriage is only intended to be between one man and one woman for life it is common to hear from opponents of that view that *“Jesus would never have had such a narrow and bigoted view of marriage.”* The assertion is that Jesus has a very modern and progressive view of sex and marriage, which viewpoint

is usually expressed by people who aren't aware of what Jesus actually said about marriage. What did he actually say? We read what he taught about it in the verses from Matthew above.

When Christ is teaching the Pharisees about the binding nature of marriage and condemning their loose view of divorce in Matthew 19 (the Pharisees allowed for a man to divorce his wife for almost any reason, in some cases for something as minor as being a bad cook) he goes back to the way God established marriage at creation:

**Matt. 19:4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'**  
**5 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?**  
**6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."**

Jesus indicated that marriage was intended from the beginning to be a binding union between a male and a female for life. In his definition far from repudiating the teaching of the Old Testament regarding marriage, Jesus actually goes back to it and says, *“The basis for marriage and human sexuality was determined by God at creation”* and he says this is the truth, Jesus himself also indicated that there is such thing as sexual immorality, that it is wrong, and that it nullifies the covenant and forms the basis for divorce:

*"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."*

He doesn't need to establish what constitutes sexual immorality, because its already established, any sexual activity outside the covenant of marriage. He also calls the action of the woman "taken in adultery" from John 8 "sin" - for

which he forgives her, but tells her not to do it any longer: "*go and sin no more.*" (John 8:11).

It's worth noting that even homosexual activists, such as Dan Savage the founder of the "it gets better" movement, admit that proponents of "gay marriage" do not mean by marriage a monogamous relationship in which one only has one sexual partner for life, in fact in a video entitled "Why Monogamy is ridiculous" Savage calls Monogamy not only ridiculous but unnatural.

However in the bible, and as we've seen, monogamy is CENTRAL to the idea of marriage. All sexual activity outside of a male/female marriage relationship is ADULTERY and sinful. There is no such thing, scripturally speaking as a non-monogamous marriage.

Further, that male/female one flesh union is intended by God to be a powerful illustration of the relationship between Christ (bridegroom) and the Church (bride) (Eph. 5:21-33):

***22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.***

***23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.***

***24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.***

***25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,***

***26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,***

***27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.***

***28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.***

*29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.*

*30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.*

*31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*

*32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

*33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

That illustration doesn't work when it's a bride and a bride, or a groom and a groom.

Now with this biblical background in mind let's look at what the Nashville Statement says about marriage.

### **Article 1**

**WE AFFIRM that God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife, and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and his bride the church.**

**WE DENY that God has designed marriage to be a homosexual, polygamous, or polyamorous relationship. We also deny that marriage is a mere human contract rather than a covenant made before God.**

Now here they make a few additional points, It is intended to be:

(Procreative) Godly offspring:

Mal. 2:15 But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

Sexual union:

1 Cor 7:2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

And it is intended to be COVENANTAL, and not merely a civil contract as so many have framed it. And yet it is also NECESSARILY a contract, but NOT one whose terms can be changed by the state:

**“Let me explain why:**

**1. Marriage was ordained of God, and is therefore a divine institution. This is so—**

**(1) Because God created man male and female, and so constituted them, physically and morally, that they are mutually adapted to each other and are mutually helpful to each other under the law of marriage, and not otherwise; and**

**(2) Because the law of marriage, the conditions of its contract, continuance and dissolution, are laid down in the Word of God.**

**Hence it follows that marriage is a religious as well as a civil contract. No State has any right to change the law of marriage, or the conditions upon which it may be lawfully constituted or dissolved, as these have been ordained by God. Neither has any man or woman a right to contract any relation different in any respect, as to its character or duration, from that which God has ordained as marriage. Hence marriage is a human contract under the limits and sanctions of a divine constitution, and the parties contracting pledge their vows of truth and constancy to God as well as to each other and to society.**

**But it is also a civil contract, because every State is bound to protect the foundations upon which social order reposes, and every marriage involves many obvious civil obligations and leads to many civil consequences touching property, the custody of children, etc. The State must therefore define the nature and civil effects of marriage, and prescribe conditions upon which and modes in which it shall be publicly acknowledged and ratified or dissolved. It is of the highest importance that the laws of the State do not contravene the laws of God upon this subject, but be made in all respects to conform to them. In all cases of such conflict Christians and Christian ministers must obey God rather than men. In many contemporary nations, sin is chiefly committed in the matter of allowing the marriage bond to be dissolved for many causes not recognized as valid in the Word of God. The law of the land is to be obeyed for conscience' sake whenever it does not contravene the higher law of God. When it plainly does so, then Christian men and church sessions are to act themselves and to treat others just as if the ungodly human enactment had no existence, and then take the consequences.” Charles Hodge.**

Obviously the ideas that marriage which is instituted by God could be

homosexual, polygamous, or polyamorous are refuted by what scripture teaches us.

**Polygamy** - the practice or custom of having more than one wife or husband at the same time.

**Polyamory** - the philosophy or state of being in love or romantically involved with more than one person at the same time.

(sometimes called an “open marriage”)

**“Is the Church Ready to Respond to ‘Christian’ Polyamory?” – Gospel Coalition**

*Chuck and his wife made their announcement on Facebook. They were opening up their marriage to other relationships.*

*I had only known Chuck through a few mutual acquaintances, but he and his wife seemed like a normal, monogamous couple. The comments section erupted in praise and cheers for their “courage and bravery” to commit to others outside the marriage covenant. While a few people attempted to question the wisdom of pursuing additional partners, they were drowned out by a chorus of defenders quick to shut down such “bigoted” and “judgmental” concerns.*

*Chuck’s Facebook post was shocking, but it serves as a warning to Christians living in the wake of the sexual revolution: almost nothing is out-of-bounds*

Already liberal denominations and pastors are demanding that this be mainstreamed as well.

But brothers and sisters it’s not just Liberal denoms that are caving:

*I had a great morning worshiping and enjoying fellowship with saints this morning. We had some visitors and getting to meet them was also a pleasure.*

*However, when I asked one of the visitors how they heard about us, they actually let me know that they had come despite being warned not to, and told we have a terrible reputation among the PCA churches where they come from. I asked, "How so?" expecting to hear that they been told we are too theologically conservative or something along those lines. I was appalled to hear however that they had been told we are Homophobic and don't ALLOW certain kinds of people, including those struggling with sexual sins to worship with us.*

*My jaw hit the floor, as nothing could be further from the truth. We want people struggling with those sins and every kind of sin to come and worship with us. And given that our church is made up of people who've been redeemed from every kind of sin you can imagine, including homosexuality, I have no idea how anyone could think that.*

*Then it occurred to me that I've signed the Nashville Statement, spoken out against the gay Christian movement and object to ordaining men who define themselves as same sex attracted (just as I would object to ordaining men who define themselves as primarily child attracted or incestuously attracted or adulterously attracted.) This position, which used to be the norm for Conservative Presbyterians, is now apparently considered a sign of homophobia and bigotry among presbyters in a supposedly conservative denomination. I was shocked, saddened, angered, and horrified all at the same time. I expect to be called a bigot by people in the world, but to have fellow Presbyters in my own denomination warning people that I'm a bigot and to stay away from my church is not something I expected.*

We have to stand CONTRA MUNDUM against the world if necessary on this one.



*Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them,*

*28 saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"*

*29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.*