

## Same-Sex Marriage: Secular and Religious Views

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### ABSTRACT

*Through investigative and explorative research, it was uncovered that same-sex marriage could be the surest way to check overpopulation and to annihilate mankind from the world. If people everywhere do not marry naturally (male and female union), by fifty years time, the whole world population will drastically dwindle, diminish and hence leading to abrupt usurpation and annihilation of human beings in the next one hundred and twenty (120) years.*

*It was found that one surpassing benefit which is primus inter pares in marriage is continuous procreation and fruitfulness and for that reason as same-sex marriage could not ensure continuous procreation; it would be expedient to kick it out from human society.*

*It was suggested by many respondents that it would be highly beneficial to pray for all those in authority so that they would not be influenced negatively to make such decisions that are disgraceful, shameful and destructive to the present generation and posterity as a whole.*

*Both secular and religious respondents did not endorse same-sex marriage but rather described it as loathsome, inhuman, degrading and destructive practice.*

*It is highly incumbent upon all African countries to adopt a-long time or never-ending/timeless marriage law that prevents any African citizen to engage in same-sex marriage, without that, future leaders who may pursue personal aggrandisement or face some financial constraints, would be compelled to introduce same-sex marriage in African continent.*

**Keywords:** Christian, Islamic, Jewish views, Same-sex marriage, Self-aggrandisement.

### INTRODUCTION

Homosexuality or gay marriage could be traced as far back from, "Greco-Roman society."(White, 2015)

TEP (2015) and Word Press 2013 argue that not every union termed as marriage can be authentically considered as such and disabuse the proposition that the union between two men or two women can be accepted as it is in contravention to divine ordained marriage covenant between a man and a woman. It is a firm belief and assumption that if people everywhere do not marry naturally (male and female union), by fifty years time, the whole world population will drastically dwindle, diminish and will definitely lead to abrupt usurpation and annihilation of human beings in the next one hundred and twenty (120) years.

Africa happens to be the second largest continent in the world and it is incumbent upon African leaders to take precautionary measures

to prevent the legalization of same-sex marriage on the whole African continent.

This paper sought to discuss secular, Jewish, Islamic, and Christian views on same-sex or gay marriage and the possible godly precautionary measures that need to be taken in Africa.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to investigate secular and religious views on gay or same-sex marriage.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

To achieve the main objective, the following specific objectives were pursued:

- The disparity between gay marriage and genuine marriage.
- The benefits of marriage.
- The significance of gay marriage.
- The secular views on same-sex marriage.

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- The Jewish views on same-sex marriage.
- The Islamic views on same-sex marriage.
- The Christian views on gay marriage.

### PROBLEM STATEMENT

It is clear from the available evidence that there have been mounting pressures on African leaders to consider legalizing same-sex marriage in Africa.

The recent interviews granted by African presidents to some international journalists emphasise this assertion. For instance, Christianne Amanpour put the question to Kenya's Uhuru Kenyatta, followed by Richard Quest with Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa and then Aljazeera's Jane Dutton with Ghana's President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo and another CNN journalist, Zain Verjee with Uganda's Yoweri Museveni (Myjoyonline.com, 2018)

Also, in April 2018, British Prime Minister, Theresa May speaking to Commonwealth Heads in London, urged an overhaul of the "outdated" colonial-era legislation that treats more than 100 million lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people across member countries as criminals.

Gay marriage has been rearing its ugly head into the fabric of our society. As of April 30, 2018, 26 countries in the World have officially legalized gay marriage. In other words, 26 nations have adopted laws to allow same-sex marriage or union.

This report excludes countries where people practice same-sex marriage clandestinely. Georgia State University and Pew Research (2017) findings on gay marriage (2017) are as follows:

### 26 Countries where Same-Sex Marriage is Legal

Name of Country	Effective Year
Argentina	2010
Belgium	2003
Brazil	2013
Canada	2005
Denmark	2012
England/Wales	2013
Finland	2015
France	2013
Iceland	2010
Ireland	2010
Luxembourg	2014
The Netherlands	2000
Norway	2009
Portugal	2010
Scotland	2014

South Africa	2006
Spain	2005
Sweden	2009
United States	2015
Uruguay	2013
Australia	2017
Greenland	2015
Malta	2017
Germany	2017
Colombia	2016

Pew Research (2017) findings on same-sex marriage (2017)

According to Exxun (2002/2014) and Prasada et al (2014) the continents in the world can be classified as Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe and Australia and can therefore be represented chronologically or in the order of size as follows:

Name of Continent	Order of Size
Asia	44.5 million sq km
Africa	30.3 million km
North America	24.5 million sq km
South America	17.8 million sq km
Antarctica	14 million sq km
Europe	10.2 million sq km
Australia	9 million sq km

One could deduce from the countries where same-sex marriage is legal and continents together with the order of size that same-sex marriage is almost on every continent except Asia. Africa happens to be the second largest continent in terms of size in the world and if same-sex marriage is already legal in South Africa since 2006, then African leaders need to adopt drastic measures immediately to discontinue the legalization of same-sex marriage in other African countries.

### Consequence of Practicing Gay Marriage in Some Countries



These three men, hanged in Iran in 2014, might have been convicted and executed for same-sex activity. (Source: courtesy of Iran Human Rights.)

According to Washington post (2015), there are 10 countries where people engage in gay

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marriage or homosexuality may receive capital punishment.

The countries are as follows: Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Mauritanian, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, United Arab Emirates and Sudan.

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What is marriage?
- Is same-sex marriage the same as marriage?
- What are the benefits of marriage?
- Does same-sex marriage have any significance?
- What are the secular views on same-sex marriage?
- What are the biblical, jewish and quranic views on marriage?
- Who is qualified to get married?
- Does same-sex marriage promote abuse of human rights?
- How can Christians or Jews fulfill the cultural mandate without original marriage?
- How can same-sex marriage be phased out?

### METHODOLOGY

The study purely adopted semi-structured interviews to gather data. Semi-structured interviews were used as it provides opportunity to gain comprehensive information and knowledge from the research participants on secular and religious views on same-sex marriage (Edwards et al., 2013 and Henn *et al.*, 2006).

Through investigative and explorative research, I was able to assess both secular and religious views on same-sex marriage. All the religious views were obtained by engaging in intensive reading of the holy books (i.e. The Torah by the Jews, The Quran by the Muslims and The Bible by the Christians). The secular views were gathered through interviews, via social media platforms like, WhatsApp Group discussions and LinkedIn Group discussions. In each of the encounter to solicit information, the researcher indicated clearly, for instance: ***"Kindly give your jewish/Islamic/Christian or Secular views on same-sex marriage" ("What do you think about same-sex marriage as a Christian/Muslim?") Without considering your belief or religion (from secular point of view), kindly state your view on same-sex marriage (NB: Not more than one sentence).***

### SECULAR VIEWS

Former President Gordon B. Hinckley remarked that kicking against legalization of same-sex marriage is not about the question of bigotry but rather for the sake of posterity and assurance of sound and civilized trans-generational existence of humankind. (The Mormon Proposition, 2009),

Three powerful and instructive sayings of President Robert Mugabe on same-sex marriage are as follows:

- “Let Europe keep their homosexual nonsense there and live with it. We will never have it here,”
- “I have just concluded, since President Obama endorses the same-sex marriage, advocates homosexual people and enjoys an attractive countenance – thus if it becomes necessary, I shall travel to Washington, DC, get down on my knee and ask his hand,” (Next Rex 2015)
- “Even Satan wasn’t gay. He approached naked Eve instead of naked Adam.”

### Results of 60 Respondents Expressing Secular Views on Same-Sex Marriage

Respondents against Same-Sex Marriage	Percentage
60	100 %

The overwhelming rejection of same-sex marriage among the 60 Ghanaian respondents suggests that the majority of the people in Africa abhors and detest the practice in toto in African society.

Our duty here is to analyse briefly what the holy scriptures particularly the Holy Bible and the Qur'an have to say about same-sex or gay marriage.

According to Sey, 2003, “The Qur'an, there is no doubt, serves the Muslims in much the same way as the Bible serves the Christians”

Sey (2003) emphasises that the Qur'an is to Muslims and the Bible is to Christians.

The following quotations from the Bible and the Qur'an respectively, have some bearing on Sey's assertion:

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

“A book which we have revealed to you that you may bring forth men, by their Lord's permission, from darkness unto light” (Qur'an 14:1)

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### Islamic Views on Same-Sex Marriage

Some verses in the Qur'an which vehemently speak against homosexuality/ lesbianism and gay marriage are as follows:

- "We also sent Lut: He said to his people: "Do ye commit lewdness such as no people in creation (ever) committed before you? For ye practice your lusts on men in preference to women: ye are indeed a people transgressing beyond bounds. (Qur'an 7:80-81)
- "What! Of all creatures do ye come unto the males, and leave the wives your Lord created for you? Nay, but ye are forward folk." (Qur'an 26:165)

Mark Brustman (2015) emphasises quranic verses together with Arabic translations that detest same-sex or gay union as follows:

7:81 "Indeed you approach males in lust in place of women..."  
Arabic: إنكُمْ لتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ شَهْوَةً مِنْ دُونِ النِّسَاءِ

26:165-166 "What! Do you approach the males of the worlds and forsake those whom your Lord has created for you for your mates?"  
Arabic: أَتَأْتُونَ الذُّكْرَانَ مِنَ الْعَلَمِينِ وَتَنْزَرُونَ مَا خَلَقَ لَكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ مِنْ آرْوَاحِكُمْ

27:55 "Will you indeed approach males in lust in place of women?"  
Arabic: أَتَنْعَمُ لتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ شَهْوَةً مِنْ دُونِ النِّسَاءِ

29:28-29 "Most surely you are guilty of an indecency which none of the nations has ever done before you; What! do you come unto the males and cut the passageways [i.e. vas deferens and/or urethra] and commit evil in your clubs?"  
Arabic: إنكُمْ لتَأْتُونَ الْفَاجِحَةَ مَا سَبَقُكُمْ بِهَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ مِنَ الْعَلَمِينِ ا أَتَنْعَمُ لتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ وَتَنْقِطُونَ السَّبِيلَ وَتَأْتُونَ فِي ثَابِتِكُمُ الْمُنْكَرَ"

One can deduce from the above Qur'anic quotations that Allah abhors and detests gay marriage, homosexuality or gay sex union in toto.

The Hadith, which is the collection of the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), also stresses the abhorrence of same-sex union as follows:

"When a man mounts another man, the throne of God shakes."

"Kill the one that is doing it and also kill the one that it is being done to."

From the aforementioned Hadith, the people who engage in homosexuality and lesbianism bring pandemonium in heaven. One can say that those who bring problems and confusion in the Kingdom of God cannot get off or escape God's wrath.

That is to say, according to the Hadith, gay partners are not fit to live and must be killed without delay.

For the sake of clarity and emphasis, the author of this paper, decided to distinguish between Jewish and Christian views on same-sex marriage but the source of both views are biblical (from the Holy Bible).

### Jewish Views on Same-Sex Marriage

The Judaism's view on homosexuality and gay cannot be over emphasised. There are fifteen (15) offenses in Israel that are considered as capital crimes, and homosexuality is one of them. The two main verses that highlight the abomination of gay union are, Leviticus (18:23 and 20:13) According to Leviticus 20:13,

"If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them."

The penalty for engaging in homosexuality or gay marriage is capital punishment, according to Jewish law as it is clearly elaborated in the book of Leviticus. Gay marriage is highly considered in Judaism as abominable (Deuteronomy 14:3)

If all the leaders who are canvassing for gay marriage are gays themselves, then by inference all gays can mimic them religiously or else all gays are being deceived and must run away from gay relationship.

### Christian Views on Same-Sex Marriage

Romans 1: 27, 1 Corinthians 5:10-11, 6:9 and 1Timothy 1:10 speak vehemently against homosexuality and gay marriage in Christianity. The only union or sexual relation that Christianity endorses is genuine marriage (a life-long companionship between a mature man and a woman). In fact, all those who engage in and endorse gay marriage are not Christians from Christian point of view as Jesus Christ; the Founder of Christianity together with the Foundational Apostles abhorred gay marriage in toto. The author can summarize Christian marriage and represent it with acronyms as follows:

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M- Meekness. “The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way” (Psalm25:9). The meek husband/wife will experience success in marriage. If you are pompous, arrogant and unforgiving success in marriage will be far away from you.

Matthew 11:28-29: “... learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart”

A – Affection (genuine love) genuine love that comes from God is **CHRIST**-classic, caring, holy, righteous, impeccable, inspiring, edifying, sincere, and timeless while *lust or erotic love* which comes from the devil is *destructive, eccentric, venereal, insolent, insensitive, limited, and leads to death and hell*.

R – Respect (Respect your spouse and consider him/her as your king or queen) Eph.5:21-24, 1Pt.3:7

R – Romance: No starvation in marriage (satisfy your spouse sexually and fully) 1Cor.7:1-3

I – Influence (Don’t allow anyone to influence your marital home)

A – Articulation: articulate your worries and concerns freely with your spouse.

G – Giving generously to promote the Kingdom business, people of God, and the poor and needy and paying tithes.

E – Education: educate yourself fully as well as taking education seriously.

*“Study to show yourself approved unto God”* (2 Tim.2:15)

In short, a Christian marriage is not an idealistic union in which either or both parties are perfect but a realistic and complimentary relationship. You must know that each person has his/her own strengths and weaknesses. Learn to lay emphasis on your spouse’s strengths.

### Who is Qualified to get Married?

Only a man/ with mature faculties can marry, and not a boy or a girl should marry.

### BIBLICAL PROOFS

- *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”* (Genesis 2:24)
- *“And said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”* (Matthew 19:5-6)

- *“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”* (Eph. 5:31)

- (Do we have it as : *“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his husband (wife) , and they two shall be one flesh”* (Eph. 5:31)

Boys and girls must not marry. Man and man or woman and woman must not marry from Christian or biblical point of view. Men and women must marry. There are so many boys and girls who are married. That is why they cannot cope with the issue of differences.

### RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Both secular and religious respondents did not endorse gay marriage but rather described it as loathsome, inhuman, degrading and destructive practice.

It was found that there is a true marriage or false/fake marriage. Sexual union between man and man, woman and woman, man and animal (bestiality) can be termed as false and demonic union while that of man and woman is true godly union.

It was revealed that if Africa, particularly all developing countries in Africa do not stop depending on developed countries for financial assistance, where gay marriage is legal, then legalisation of gay marriage in Africa would be inevitable in the near future. It was found that one surpassing benefit which is primus inter pares in marriage is continuous procreation and fruitfulness and for that reason as gay marriage could not ensure continuous procreation; it would be expedient to kick it out from human society. Gay marriage could therefore be termed as gradual self-assassination of mankind. Any society that encourages and endorses gay marriage can best be described as “human killers” or “murderers.”

### IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All believers and well meaning citizens who are against gay marriage must endeavour to intercede seriously for our secular and religious leaders to prevent them from adopting certain laws like legalisation of gay marriage that could be detrimental and destructive to human race as well as to the posterity.

It would be necessary for all African countries to stop receiving foreign aids from all those developed countries practicing gay marriage so

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as not to allow them to impose their wishes and desires particularly gay marriage on African countries as a beggar has no choice. If people everywhere do not marry naturally (male and female union), by fifty years time, the whole world population will drastically dwindle, diminish and hence leading to abrupt usurpation and annihilation of human beings in the next one hundred and twenty (120) years. Same-sex marriage which is synonymous to sinful union could fast track total destruction of human race.

It is highly incumbent upon all African countries to adopt a-long time or never-ending/timeless marriage law that prevents any African citizen to engage in gay marriage, without that, future leaders who may pursue personal aggrandisement or face some financial constraints, would be wooed to introduce gay marriage in African continent. In short, the law to ban gay marriage forever and ever must be enshrined in African constitutions to prevent any eventuality.

Same-sex marriage is synonymous with marrying a barren woman or an impotent man.

To phase out same-sex marriage from the society, non same-sex marriage people must embark on vigorous evangelism and discipleship by showing gay partners godly care, love and affection instead of looking down on them and criticising.

## CONCLUSION

The religious and secular views expressed on gay marriage have been analysed objectively and dispassionately. We have realised that gay marriage is vehemently abhorred and abominable in Judaism, in Islam and in Christianity. Same-sex/gay marriage or homosexuality is considered as blasphemous in Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

Any society that practices same-sex marriage is aimed at destroying or annihilating human beings from the surface of this earth, as same-sex marriage does not ensure procreation and fruitfulness. God commanded in Genesis 1: 27, “Be fruitful and multiply.”

By inference, one can say without any hesitation of fear that, all gay couples together with their promoters are acting contrary to the order of the Almighty God.

Anyone who tries to maintain status quo after marriage is still a boy/girl and is selfish and self-seeking. Selfishness or self-aggrandisement is the major cause of marital failures coupled with same-sex/gay marriage in the world. Same-sex

marriage which is synonymous with sinful union could fast track total destruction of human race. Same-sex marriage could therefore be termed as gradual self-assassination of mankind. Any society that encourages and endorses same-sex marriage can best be described as “human killers” or “murderers/ anti-human.” The real anti-human right is undoubtedly, same-sex marriage.

The research revealed that even same-sex/gay marriage is not practiced in Animal Kingdom and it would be derogatory for any civilized society particularly, Africa, the cradle of the world civilization to practice same-sex marriage (homosexuality/lesbianism).

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