



MAN AND WOMAN

Key Truths about Redefining Human Sexuality



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The Supreme Court

The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that a federal law that bans discrimination on the basis of “sex” also applies to “sexual orientation” and “transgender” status. Unjust discrimination against anyone is wrong. This decision may be an attempt to address that but instead they harm the common good. In effect, it legally redefines human sexual identities to no longer mean man and woman – who are made for each other and form the foundation of the family – and requires people to honor one another’s asserted gender identities and sexual conduct.

Definitions Matter

It is not just to disregard the truth, goodness, and reality of who we *are* as created male or female. Nor does accepting this reality require adhering to rigid stereotypes or social roles. It is also unjust to elevate “sexual orientation” as if a sexual attraction is an inherent aspect of one’s “sex.”

Sexual Difference is a Gift

God created humanity male and female, made to live in relation *to* each other, and found His creation very good. This is therefore a *good* thing and we are all called to accept and embrace our God-given sexual identity. Sexual difference, male and female, is essential for marriage and children. Our bodies matter—we don’t just *have* a body but *are* an ensouled body.

Marriage and Children

A man and a woman, in marriage, are irreplaceable and not interchangeable. Marriage is a natural institution that predates government. Every human society has acknowledged that the sexual union of man and woman matters because it creates the next generation. Children have a right to be raised by a mother and a father whenever possible. This enables society to flourish.

Love and Community

Love, in the Christian sense, is not a feeling nor unconditional niceness, but rather willing the good of another person. The marital relationship involves a unique type of love. When we disconnect sexual

activity from the permanence of marriage or from openness to children, or when we deny our God-given sexual identity, we make our relationships more about *us* and *our* feelings than about giving ourselves or serving others. On a large scale, this can have an effect on the whole community as well.

Dignity of the Human Person

All persons have inviolable dignity and deserve love and respect. Effectively redefining human sexuality in law furthers no one’s rights, least of all those who struggle with their sexual identity.

Equality and Rights

Affirming the true definition of “sex” denies no one their basic rights as a human being. Rather, it affirms the equal dignity of women and men in society and under law.

Discrimination

Unjust discrimination is wrong. Treating different things differently is not unjust discrimination. For example, only man and woman can form a conjugal union that brings forth children. Protecting the foundation of the family is a matter of justice.

Same-Sex Attraction or Gender Incongruence

Experiences of same-sex attraction or gender incongruence are realities that call for compassion, sensitivity, and pastoral care. Support groups, such as Courage and Encourage, are an important part of the Church’s pastoral ministries.

Religious Freedom and Advocacy

Redefining human sexuality under the Civil Rights Act will likely change numerous other laws. It sets the Church’s teaching, witness, ministries, and service organizations – who serve everyone but must do so in accord with the truth – in opposition to the law. It will cause innumerable conflicts between the state and religious institutions and individuals. There are, in fact, already numerous examples of this in schools, hospitals, shelters, and small businesses. The faithful are encouraged to stay engaged with their policymakers on these matters to help advance just outcomes wherever possible.