

Britain Today 1967

- Traditionally, relationships were between one man and one woman
- In 1967, homosexuality was **decriminalised** in UK
- British attitudes to same-sex relationships have changed over time

The **Civil Partnership Act of 2004** enabled same-sex partners to have essentially the same legal rights and responsibilities as married couples. This was followed by the **Marriage Act in 2013**, which legalised same-sex marriage in England and Wales. So now couples who wish to be legally joined have two routes they can take: Civil Partnership or Marriage



MARRIAGE IS ABOUT LOVE NOT GENDER

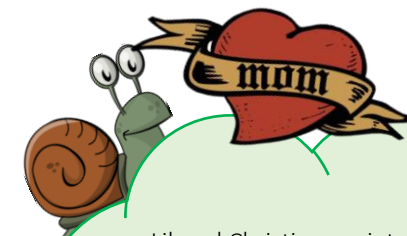
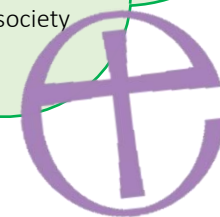
Roman Catholics

- The Roman Catholic Church is against same-sex marriage as it believes that sexual relationships should only exist between a man and a woman in marriage
- Pope Francis wrote in 2010, *“a marriage made up of a man and a woman is not the same as the union of two people of the same sex... A father is not the same as a mother.”*
- Roman Catholics believe that God provided the example of Adam and Eve – the first man and woman – as a couple, as an example of what partnership looks like
 - The purpose of sex is for reproduction. Same-sex couples cannot reproduce. Therefore RC are against same-sex marriage because it cannot fulfill the commandment to: *“be fruitful and multiply”*



Christianity

- Traditionally, same-sex marriage was seen as wrong
- Many Christians oppose same-sex marriage on Biblical grounds:
 - *“If a man has sexual relations with a man as he does a woman, both of them has done what is detestable. They are to be put to death.”* (Leviticus 20:13 – Old Testament)
 - *“The law is made for lawbreakers and rebels...for those practicing homosexuality”* (Timothy 1: 8-10)
- However, other Christians believe that the above quotes reflect the cultural and social values of the time they were written in and that they don’t apply in today’s society



Liberal

Liberal Christians point out that there are a lot of things that are condemned in the Bible that are seen as perfectly acceptable today, e.g. eating snails, consulting psychics or mediums, wearing provocative clothing, having tattoos or wearing polyester – or any other fabric blends!

Also, society and culture have changed. The Bible has to be interpreted to suit today’s society. Most Christians would agree that the main message of the Bible is about love, reconciliation and relationship with God. Sexuality, therefore, doesn’t matter. Besides, if God created everyone in the image of God, and God doesn’t make mistakes, then perhaps he intended for there to be same-sex relationships.



Same-Sex Marriage



Other Denominations

- Some Anglicans believe that same-sex marriages should not happen in a church, for similar reasons as what Roman Catholic Christians believe
- Others believe that same-sex couples can receive a blessing in a church but cannot have a marriage in a church
- Quakers conduct same-sex services but the couple will also need a civil ceremony in order to be legally married
- The United Reform Church has recently decided to allow same-sex marriages to take place



Humanists

- Humans should find personal happiness in this lifetime
- It is nature that determines our sexuality. We shouldn’t discriminate because of sexual preference
- The **Human Rights Act** says that all humans are entitled to a family and to free will. These two right combined suggest that there can be no issue with same-sex marriage
- Same-sex marriages are a positive expression of finding personal happiness and a quality of life that only a stable, loving relationship can provide

