



# COLOSSIANS

*Rooted for Growth*



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**The Supremacy of Christ & the Necessity of Maturity**

Today's cultural landscape,  
both secular and sacred,  
looks surprisingly similar to first century Colossae.

There is a syncretistic dynamic in a new  
“alternative orthodoxy” dividing the church,  
which contains tentacles of a new age philosophy that  
degrades the need and necessity for a personal redeemer.

These movements claim that the “old orthodoxies” are  
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## Syncretistic Dangers in the Church

### **The Gospel**

(orthodox biblical truth)

was / is being  
corrupted by a  
variety of  
elements,  
including ...

***Jewish Legalism***  
***Subjective Experientialism***  
***Artificial Supernaturalism***  
***Intellectual Elitism***  
***Greek Mysticism***  
***Roman Polytheism***



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## Chapter 3:18-19



**Context: 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

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19 Husbands, love your wives,  
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**Gals, if you are considering marriage, you might want to rethink it because you are going to be asked to become subservient to a man who may or may not have your best in mind. He may end up being a selfish person who will not value you or what you think.**

**And there likely will be this religious manipulative aspect to it that shames you into smothering who you are and what you are capable of.**



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**Whatever this 'submission' thing is,  
it is with your husband not to all men.**

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Whatever this 'submission' thing is,  
it is with your husband not to all men.

**Submit in Greek: hupotasso**  
**to voluntarily entrust yourself to a mutually**  
**beneficial relationship with someone who**  
**is committed to protecting your honor and**  
**your well-being as the head of your home.**

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v. 20 Children **obey** your parents

v. 22 Bondservants, **obey** in everything  
those who are your earthly masters,

**Greek: hupakouo**

To heed or conform to a command  
or an authority.

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to voluntarily entrust yourself to a mutually  
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is committed to protecting your honor and  
your well-being as the head of your home.

**You are not obligated to subject yourself to  
any moral or ethical standard that is against  
the clear teaching of Christ.**

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**Guys, if you are considering marriage,  
just know that you are going to be asked to  
do something that seems totally  
unattainable ... to please this person who  
you just barely understand anyway in a  
fashion that will fill up their emotional,  
physical, and spiritual needs. You can't  
afford to get frustrated or react out of anger  
(which is men's default mode when life is hard)  
or else you will be an abject failure.**



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Whatever this 'love' thing is,  
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**Love in Greek: agape**  
**to prefer your wife over all others, including**  
**yourself, with a discriminating choice of her**  
**that you commit to unconditionally.**

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to prefer your wife over all others, including  
yourself, with a discriminating choice of her  
that you commit to unconditionally.

**You understand that frustration, bitterness,  
and contempt erode the vitality of what is  
needed for intimacy with your wife.**

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**Ephesians 5:18a, 21-33**

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### **Ephesians 5:18a, 21-33**

- <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ...
- <sup>21</sup> **submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**
- <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
- <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church,  
His body, and is Himself its Savior.
- <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ,  
so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

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### Ephesians 5:18a, 21-33

- <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,  
<sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,  
<sup>27</sup> so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.  
<sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.  
He who loves his wife loves himself.

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### **Ephesians 5:18a, 21-33**

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

30 because we are members of His body.

31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife,  
and the two shall become one flesh.”

32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself,  
and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

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**What is marriage anyway?**

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**What is marriage anyway?**

**Is it 'egalitarian' or 'complementary'?**

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## Genesis 1:26-28

<sup>26</sup> Then God said,

*“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.*

*And let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

18 Wives, submit to your husbands,  
as is fitting in the Lord.

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and do not be harsh with them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them,  
*“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it,  
and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea  
and over the birds of the heavens  
and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

18 Wives, submit to your husbands,  
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## **Genesis 2:18-25**

18 Then the Lord God said,

“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

with

## Chapter 3:18-19

**Hebrew: 'ezer**

**Meaning: one who helps; a helper;  
“a life-saver”**

The term establishes that the woman is an indispensable partner who supplies what the man lacks.

It rejects the notion of inferiority and promotes a mutual dependence, an interdependence, within God-given roles.

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**Hebrew: neged**

**Meaning: before, opposite, front, presence, against, straight ahead, sight**

1. an opposite part
2. a counterpart, or mate
3. usually over, against, or before

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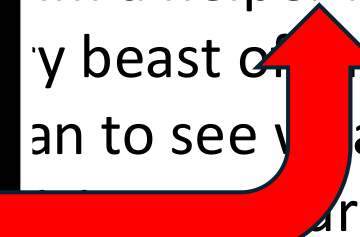
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**Complementarian View of Marriage**

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Meaning: one who helps; a helper;

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**Galatians 3:28**

There is neither Jew nor Greek,  
there is neither slave or free,  
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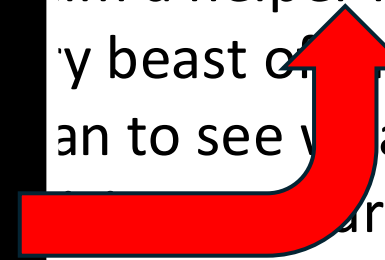
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**Complementarian View of Marriage**

Hebrew: 'ezer

Meaning

## Egalitarian View of Personhood

### Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek,  
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there is no male and female,  
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The term  
indisputable

It represents  
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Peter Kreeft, Professor of Philosophy  
Boston College and The King's College

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<sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every  
beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

<sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man,  
and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

<sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and  
brought her to the man.

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<sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man.”

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife,  
and they shall become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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**Biblical description of marriage...**

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### **Biblical description of marriage...**

In the Bible, marriage is a sacred, lifelong covenant ordained by God between one man and one woman, designed to mirror the love between Christ and the church. It involves leaving parents, cleaving to each other, and becoming "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24), encompassing a public union, physical intimacy, and deep spiritual unity.

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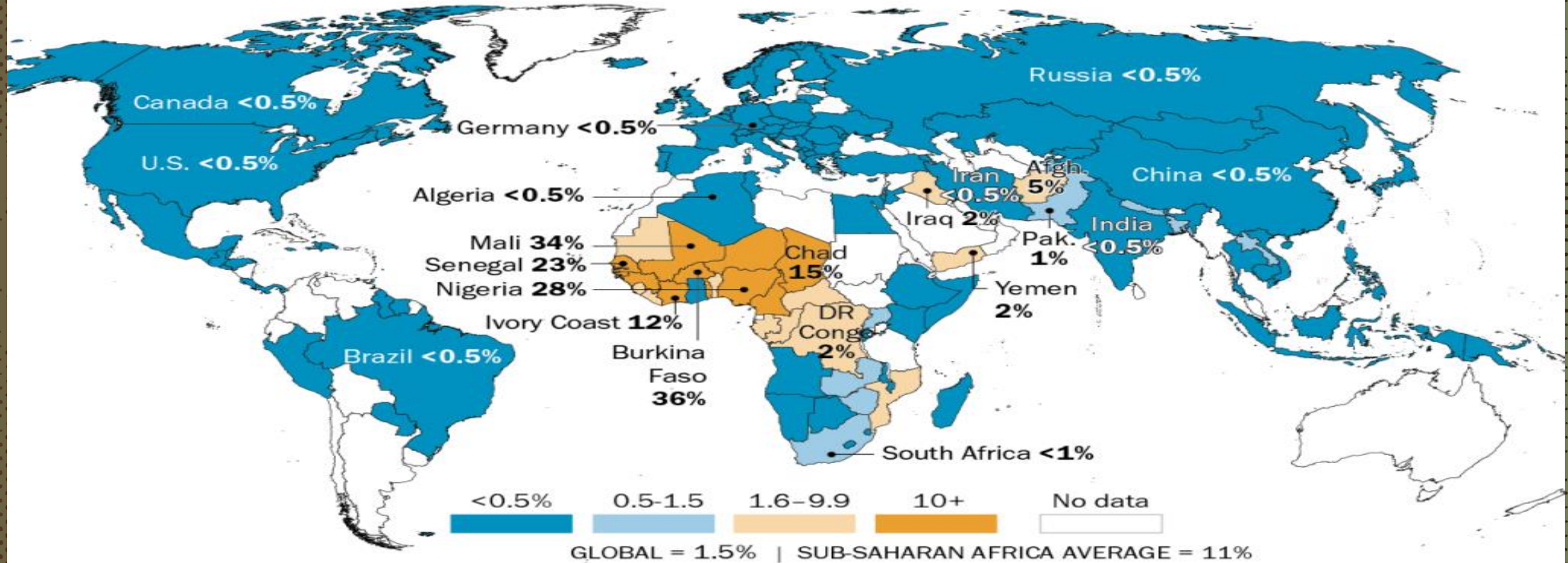
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### **Biblical description of marriage...**

**We live in a culture that has,  
and continues to, redefine marriage by  
displacing God and His design in favor of our own preferences.  
This actually undermines God's plan for us  
and our ability to thrive.**

# Living in polygamious households is very uncommon in most cultures.

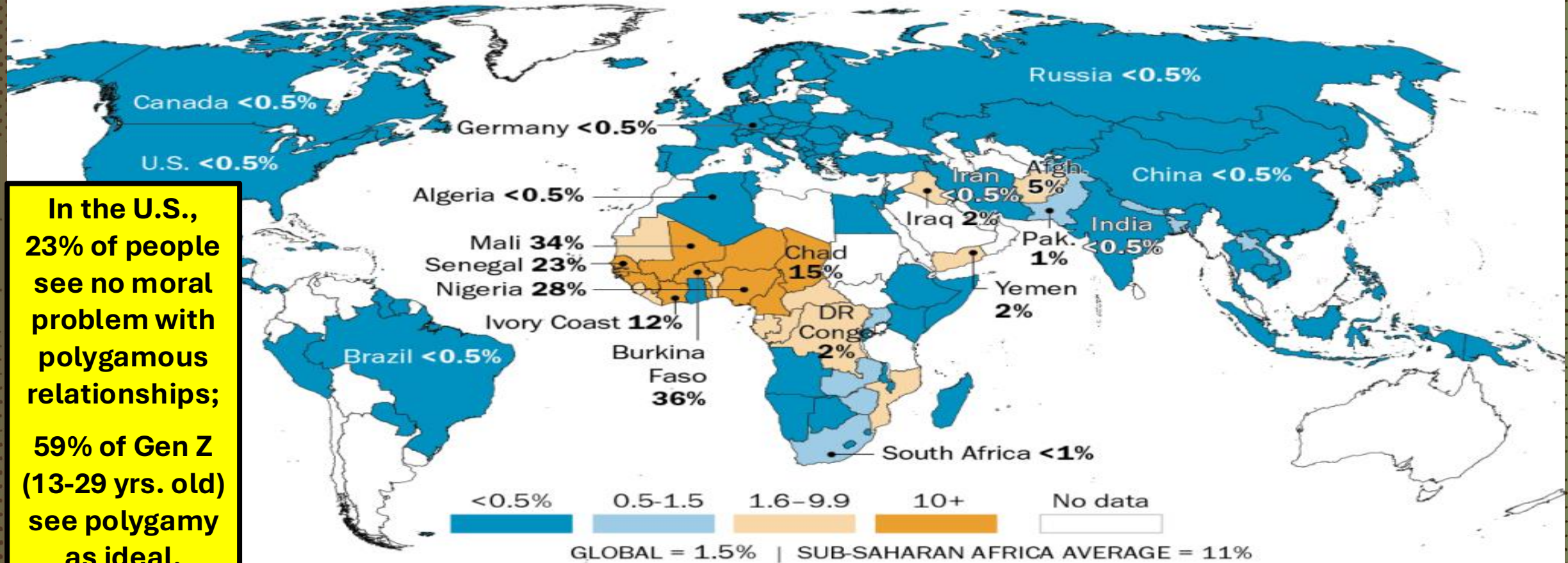
*% of individuals in polygamious households*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010-2018 census and survey data. See Methodology for details.  
"Religion and Living Arrangements Around the World"

# Living in polygamious households is very uncommon in most cultures.

*% of individuals in polygamious households*



**In the U.S.,  
23% of people  
see no moral  
problem with  
polygamious  
relationships;  
59% of Gen Z  
(13-29 yrs. old)  
see polygamy  
as ideal.**

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010-2018 census and survey data. See Methodology for details.  
"Religion and Living Arrangements Around the World"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Africa 1

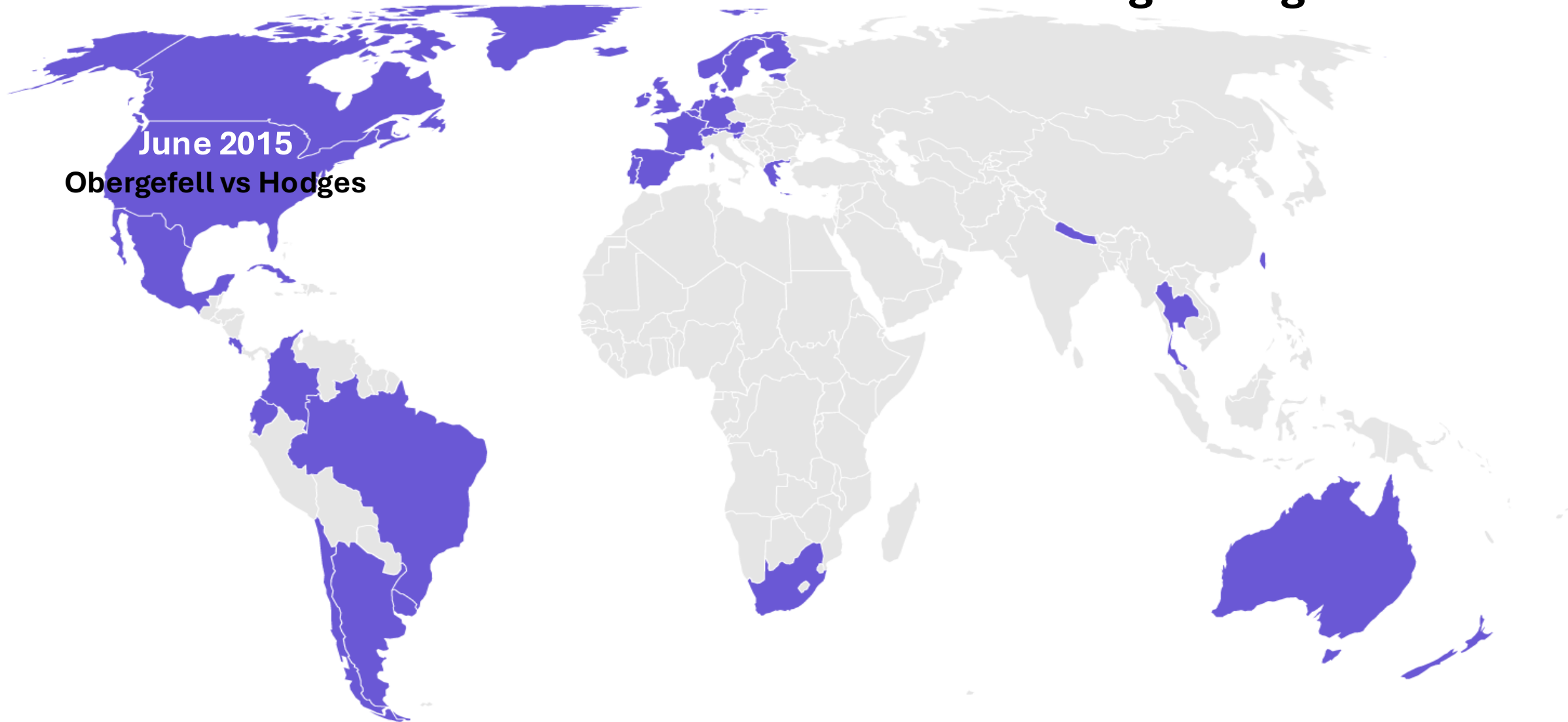
America's 11

Asia 3

Europe 22

Oceania 2

## The 39 countries where same-sex marriage is legal.



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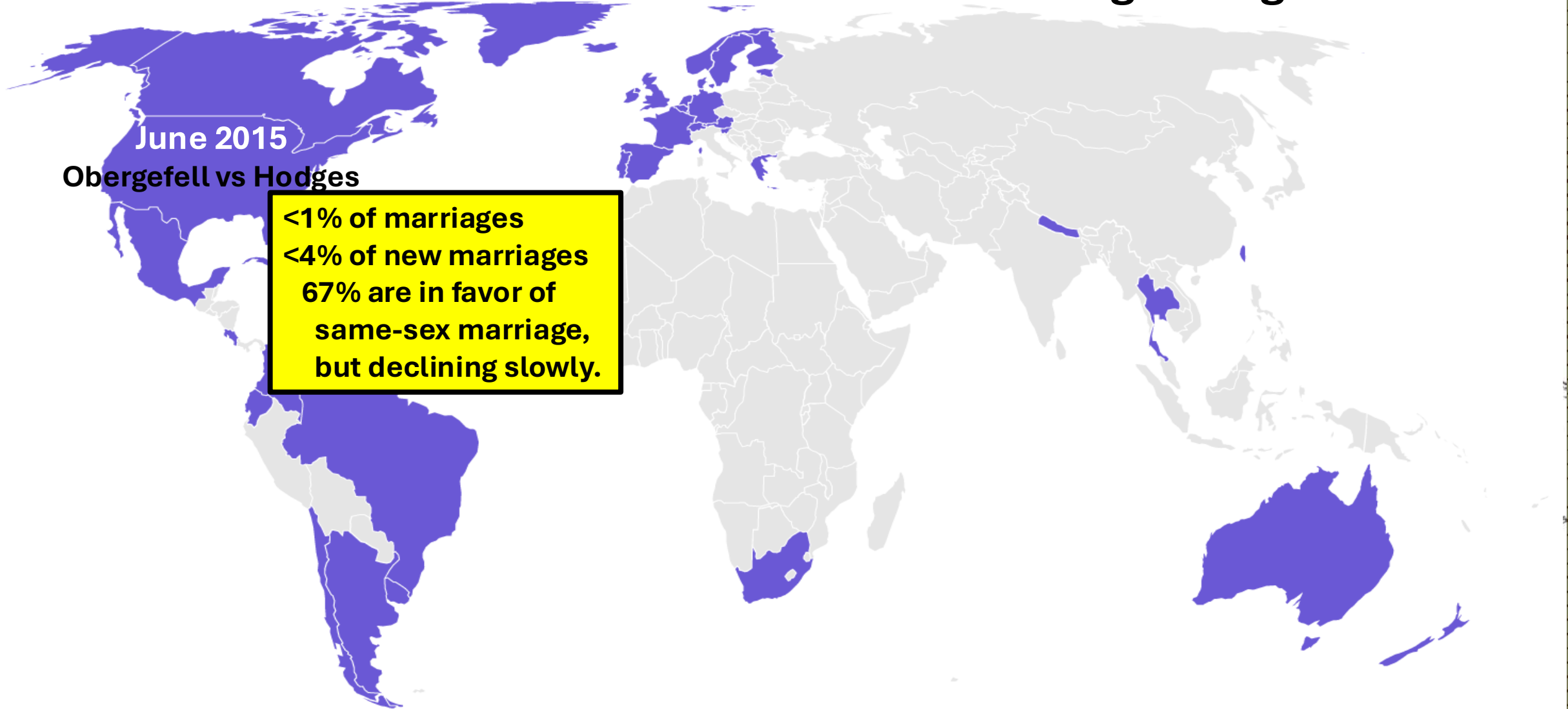
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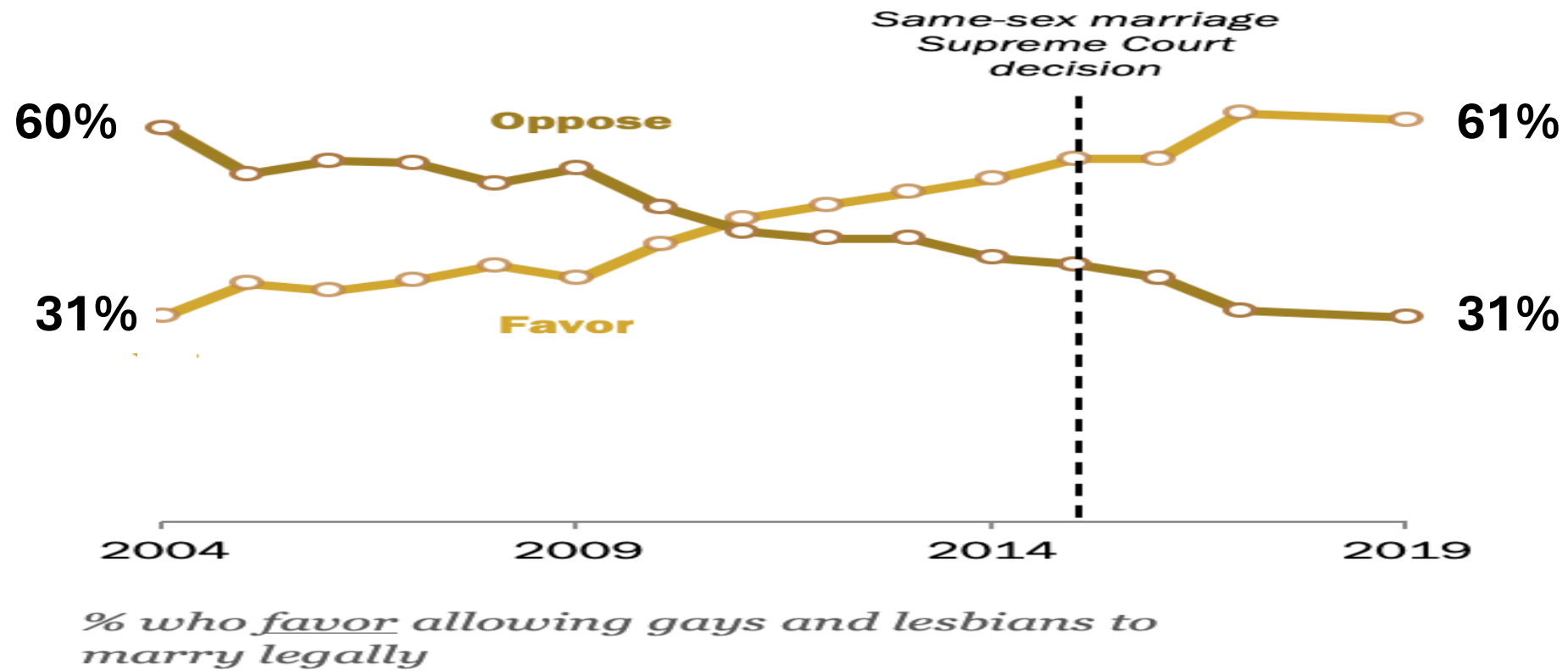
June 2015

Obergefell vs Hodges

<1% of marriages  
<4% of new marriages  
67% are in favor of  
same-sex marriage,  
but declining slowly.



# The public remains supportive of same-sex marriage in the United States; *% who are in favor of legal same-sex marriage.*



## Traditional Marriage

- Divorce rates are down overall...average length is 8 yrs.
- First marriage divorce rate is between 40%-50%.
- Second marriage divorce rate is between 60%-70%.
- Third marriage divorce rate is 80%-90%.
- First decade of marriage divorce rate is up.
- ‘Gray divorce’ rate is significantly up.
- Cohabitation prior to marriage is 39% more likely to divorce.
- “Religious affiliation” 14% less likely to divorce.

yrs.

- "Gray divorce" refers to the rising trend of couples over 50—often married for decades—divorcing, driven by longer life expectancies, desire for personal fulfillment, and reduced social stigma.
- Women initiate most of the "gray divorces", seeking independence after children leave or to escape stagnant relationships. These divorces often involve complex financial restructuring and significant emotional, social, and long-term financial impacts.
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## Traditional Marriage

- Divorce rates are down overall...average length is 8 yrs.
- First marriage divorce rate is between 40%-50%.
- Second marriage divorce rate is between 60%-70%.
- Third marriage divorce rate is 80%-90%.
- First decade of marriage divorce rate is up.
- ‘Gray divorce’ rate is significantly up.
- Cohabitation prior to marriage is 39% more likely to divorce.
- “Religious affiliation” 14% less likely to divorce.

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19 Husbands, love your wives,  
and do not be harsh with them.

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

30 because we are members of His body.

31 ***“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife,  
and the two shall become one flesh.”***

32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

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