

# Opinion: What you need to know about gay marriage

Although I wish I could take credit for this, I can't:

Millions of people, most of whom are neither gay nor looking to get same-sex married, are loudly asking on the Internet how exactly this case impacts their life.

For them we have provided a handy guide:

## **If you are a homosexual and are already married:**

The federal government now recognizes your marriage as a thing, and you are eligible for tax, health, and pension benefits under federal law like any other married couple, pending further political shenanigans. You can file taxes jointly, all that stuff.

## **If you are a homosexual and want to get married:**

This does nothing to affect you *unless* you live in California. States are still free to decide whether or not same-sex marriage is legal; if you live in Mississippi, this does not help you. But, the voter initiative to ban gay marriage in California is now dead, pending further legal challenges or other shenanigans.

## **If you are a heterosexual and do not want to enter into a homosexual marriage:**

You will not be required to marry a gay person. This is a common misunderstanding. This decision actually does not affect you in any way.

## **If you are currently in a heterosexual marriage:**

This decision does not affect you in any way.

**If you are a heterosexual who is not currently married:**

This decision does not affect you in any way.

**If you are a heterosexual who hopes to eventually marry:**

This decision does not affect you in any way.

**If you are a member of a church that performs wedding ceremonies but that does not believe in gay marriage:**

This decision does not affect you in any way.

**If you are a religious official who performs wedding ceremonies but who thinks gay marriage is wrong:**

This decision does not affect you in any way.

**If you are an individual who believes gay marriage or homosexuality in general is wrong for religious reasons, and wish to continue expressing those beliefs:**

This decision does not affect you in any way.

**If you are an individual who believes gay marriage or homosexuality in general is wrong for non-religious reasons, and wish to continue expressing those beliefs:**

This decision does not affect you in any way.

**If you are a heterosexual who fears this decision adversely affects your marriage or the concept of marriage in general:**

This decision does not affect you in any way.

**If you are a heterosexual who fears this decision negatively affects you in some way:**

This decision does not affect you in any way.

**If you are a heterosexual who suffers anger or anxiety at the thought of gay couples getting married as an abstract concept,**

**and believes the only cure is to legally prevent gay marriage:**

This decision will cause you some degree of anger or anxiety. Otherwise, this decision does not affect you in any way.

Hope this helps!

*– Submitted by John Spinola, South Lake Tahoe*