

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



June 28, 2015

Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

The Gay Marriage Decision: Why It Matters, and Why It Doesn't

The decision is in! The Supreme Court has ruled that homosexual couples have a "constitutional right" to same-sex marriage, legalizing such "marriages" in all 50 states. It is amazing that five arrogant mortals believe they have the authority to override the decision of the Supreme Judge of the Universe. It is amazing the arrogance it takes to believe that every culture in human history has had the definition of marriage wrong—until they came along to correct it for us. May the Lord have mercy on us!

The following article was written in April, as arguments were being made before the court. We now know the decision, but the article still holds true. *Johnny*

Today (Tuesday, April 28th, 2015) the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments as to whether or not state bans on gay marriage are constitutional, and whether those states can refuse to recognize gay marriages.

We could talk about the fact that if we were technically accurate in our vocabulary, we'd recognize that gay people have always had the ability to be married (just not as they want to), since marriage is by definition a binding relationship between a man and a woman, and no one is denying those rights. They're not allowed to make words mean whatever they would like.

Or we could get into a discussion of the cases to be made, such as the merits of the 10th amendment's reservation of rights for the states vs. the 14th amendments equal protection clause, or how there has never been proof that homosexuality is genetic and therefore their claim of rights as a social class is flawed.

Or we could talk about the fact that citizens aren't overwhelmingly voting in gay marriage as of yet, as the majority of states that have legalized gay marriage have done so through court decisions rather than by popular vote or by what legislators have decided.

Each of those arguments have merit, and each can be used in certain contexts. But all of those distract from the main point, specifically that the court is going to make their decision regardless of those points, and we as Christians need to be prepared to react. In considering the possible decisions that could be handed down, in some ways what the nine justices decide is quite important. In other ways, it's not important at all. How can a decision be both important and unimportant? Here's how:

Why the decision is important

We've already seen case after case in which private businesses are being pressured legally, whether they are cake makers, florists, pizza cooks, or anyone else even tangentially related to the wedding business. And, as we've seen in Houston and other cities, governing authorities who are hostile to Christianity and supportive of homosexuality can make things very difficult on churches. If states are no longer allowed to ban gay marriage, that gives churches even less of an ability to fight against homosexuals as they inevitably try to demand services from those churches. Pro-homosexual advocates have tried to reassure us at every step along the way that gay rights are not at odds with religious liberty, and yet

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"Or do you not know the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Cor. 6:9-11



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the more of a foothold they gain, the more we have seen restrictions placed on religious liberty.

Additionally, once this decision is made, there is likely no going back on it should it be in favor of gay marriage. The doors will be open to gay marriage on the national level, and that will likely all but end the debate that has been going on for years. Many are predicting that such a decision will be made, as two of the justices have already officiated gay weddings, and the court already made a pro-gay decision in 2012.

And, a final reason why it's important is that while the court's vote does not speak for all of the people, it does say something about the corner our nation has turned in the last few decades that we are on this precipice. It would be just another giant domino to fall following legalized abortion, no-fault divorce, and a number of other immoral institutions our country has embraced at the federal level.

Why the decision isn't important

Even though the legal ramifications could be critically important, there's another sense in which the decision isn't all that important. The legality and constitutionality of the laws on the books are all they can decide. **Marriage will remain marriage, as only God can define the institution He created, and no government decision or law will ever change that.** They also can't dictate what Americans believe or how Christians will react, and those two points are the most important parts of this entire cultural war of ideas.

In a sense, it would almost be a bad thing for the court to stand for traditional marriage (though I'm certainly not rooting against it), because then many Christians will consider the battle won. We'll say prayers of thanks, we'll post things like "Still one nation under God" on social media, and we'll go on convinced that everything is alright. To do so would completely ignore statistics telling us that since 2009 the percentage of Americans who support gay marriage has risen from 37% to 52%, according to Pew Research. The report goes on to say that 67% of Millennials favor the legalization of gay marriage, so not only are the numbers growing, the simple passing of time is all that will be necessary for the upcoming decision to be rendered obsolete. A victory would do nothing more than buy us a little bit of time. **We're losing the battle of hearts, minds, and souls, and that's what really matters,**

regardless of what the Supreme Court decides.

As it pertains to this case, and to so many issues of church and state, we look to laws to uphold our beliefs **rather than to God to strengthen us for whatever happens.** We've become complacent and spoiled in the "Christian nation" where we've never had to fight for anything in matters of faith. **The truth is, Christians need to stop looking to government to fight our battles for us.** The New Testament church thrived despite being born under an immoral, God-hating government that openly fought against Christianity, yet Paul and the other writers spent very little time talking about the government. Why? Because **what Rome did didn't change their mission.** It's our job to save souls, not win court cases. If the court hands down a decision in favor of banning gay marriage but no homosexuals are reached with the good news of Christ and none who hold relativist views of morality are convinced of a Divine standard, **what really has been won?** A little less legal hassle for us? Shame on us if that's all it takes to satisfy us.

If the decision is given that states can ban gay marriage, and a number of them do, we can thank God for seeing fit in His providence to give us more room to operate and then keep on fighting for hearts and minds in a lost world. If, on the other hand a decision is made in favor of gay marriage, we can pray that God would strengthen us in whatever situations arise (Philippians 4) and keep on fighting for hearts and minds in a lost world. **Our hope isn't in the government,** and we should thank the Lord for that. **Our hope is in our God** who has never lost a battle, and as we go on fighting for Him, may we rest in the fact that **He is in control of the nations and He will be glorified** (Psalm 46:10).

Jack Wilkie (focuspressblog.com) (emphasis added J.M^c.)

Build

Jerry Vines – *"Many people in America today are building crowds, but are not willing to pay the price to build a church."*

Let's contemplate for a moment builders and demolition experts. We have both kinds in every congregation, it should be said. Paul put it this way: "According to the grace of God given to me, **like a skilled master builder,** I laid a foundation and somebody else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it" (1 Corinthians 3:10).

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

June 28 1 Kgs. 20-21

June 29 1 Kgs. 22; 2 Chr. 18

June 30 2 Chr. 19-23

July 1 Obad. 1; Psalm 82-83

July 2 2 Kgs. 1-4

July 3 2 Kgs. 5-8

July 4 2 Kgs. 9-11

July 5 2 Kgs. 12-13; 2 Chr. 24

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



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Building takes skill. It requires no qualifications to destroy.

While helping to build a new church building in Borger, TX, a bunch of men came with sledgehammers and demolished parts of the old building that needed to be removed before building began. I was among the crew. It required no special skill to demolish; but when the actual skilled labor began, I was not a part of that crew. I don't have the ability to build.

Sometimes we look at a church critic in awe. *How expert he must be!* How knowledgeable! But it always takes more skill and patience to build!

A woman came to a stop at the stoplight, where her car engine died. After several attempts to get it started again, she had flooded it. The light turned green, and a man in the car behind her added to her anxiety by leaning on his horn. Finally the woman got out of the car and walked over to the man. A little surprised, he rolled his window down.

"Tell you what," she said, "You go over there and start my car, and I will sit in yours and honk the horn."

Or to put it differently, it takes more skill to fix a car than it does to blow the horn!

It takes care and patience to build a church. It takes time to teach God's word. It takes effort to build character in our teenagers and the young Christians. It takes time to build leaders who are strong and faithful.

And, make no mistake, it is also our responsibility!

Paul emphasizes, again and again, that as Christians we are responsible for building the church up. "Now concerning food offered to idols: We know that all of us possess knowledge. This knowledge puffs up, but love **builds up**" (1 Corinthians 8:1).

So, what's that in your hand, a trowel, or a stick of dynamite?

Stan Mitchell (forthright.org)

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

July Birthdays: Ashley Kahlich (June 29), Jason Warman (6), Laura Huckaby (6), Chase Churchwell (11), Cindy Fuller (12), John Barnum (26), Jack Hill (27).

July Anniversaries: Allen & Karen Bland (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	June 14, 2015	June 21, 2015
Bible Class	40	47
AM Worship	52	59
PM Worship	35	46
Wednesday PM	33	46
Contribution	\$1,914	\$2,183

Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)

Next Week: 6/28/15		Next Week: 7/5/15		June 2015	
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Ken Maninger	
Greeters	Maninger Family		Fuller Family		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller		Joe Dennis		
Communion	Hank Wheeler*, Allen Bland Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis		James Thomas*, Tom Wilcox Gene Bannister, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith		Billy Chism		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell		Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		Song Leader: Ken Maninger	
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister		Allen Griffith		
Scripture Reading	Mike Bannister		Don Smith		
Communion	Hank Wheeler		James Thomas		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox		Randy Huckaby		
Wednesday Devotionals:	July 1 Prayer	July 8 Joe Dennis	July 15 Allen Griffith	July 22 Tom Wilcox	

Make Announcements:
James Fuller

Prepare Communion:
Gene & Barbara Bannister

Clean Building:
John Barnum Family

Keep Grounds:
Tom Wilcox

July 2015

Make Announcements:
Don Smith

Prepare Communion:
Ken & Jo Maninger

Clean Building:
Johnny & Cindy McCaghren

Keep Grounds:
James Fuller

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of June 28, 2015

Sunday Class Acts 8:29ff
Wednesday Class Ezekiel 11:18ff

The Potter & The Clay

The Bible is filled with visual sermons / object lessons – one example is found in Jeremiah 18:1-6.

I. The objects.

- The potter's house is one object in our discussion.
- The potter is the most important element in our discussion.
- The clay is another component in the process.
- The wheel is a forgotten aspect of the process.

II. The observations.

- God is the potter. He is in complete control. (Heb. 1:3; Acts 17:28; John 1:4; Col. 1:17; Rev. 4:11)
 - Because man has a mind, strength and power – he sometimes forgets the control the potter has over him. (Luke 12:20)
- The clay can represent numerous things in the hand of the potter.
 - Nations (Jer. 18:6; Rom. 13:1; Jn. 19:10,11)
 - Churches (Rev. 1:13,20; 2:5)
 - Individuals (Luke 12:20; Acts 12:21-23)
- For the clay to be useful – the impurities must be removed.
 - There are different types of impurities that must be taking out of our lives – lust, selfishness, greed, envy, anger, etc. (Col. 3:5,8)
 - The potter sometimes uses different methods of pressure to force the impurities from the clay. (Heb. 12:6,11)
- The potter decides on the type of pot he will make.
 - In the 1st century, there were nine spiritual gifts distributed to Christians by the laying on of the apostles hands. It was the Spirit who decided who would get which gift (1 Cor. 12:11,18).
- To be molded – the clay must be pliable.
 - Some clay seems to have a mind of its own.
 - We must choose to submit to His will in the molding process. (Mt. 26:39; Heb. 5:8,9; James 4:7)
- Molding clay involves a slow, steady, and progressive process. (Ps. 62:5; Isa. 40:31)
- As the molding process takes place, the potter watches the clay closely with a caring eye. (1 Peter 3:12a)
- A completed piece of pottery brings glory to the potter. (Ps. 100:3; 1 Cor. 1:29-31)

Isa 64:8 But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

John Chapter 7 – Unbelief & Division

²Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand – 6 months after the Passover.

³brothers... "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing" – sarcasm of unbelievers.

⁴For not even his brothers believed in him.

⁶My time has not yet come - Jesus is subject to a preordained plan of God.

⁷The world...hates me - World = those who do not know God - cf. 1:10.

⁸I am not going up to this feast - Greek ouk "not yet."

¹⁰then he also went up, not publicly but in private.

¹¹The Jews were looking for him..., "Where is he?" To kill him? To make him king? For food? Why do I seek Jesus?

¹²there was much muttering about him... "He is a good man,"... "No, he is leading the people astray." Who is this Jesus? Every reader must answer.

¹⁴About the middle of the feast Jesus...began teaching.

¹⁵How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?

¹⁶My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.

¹⁷If anyone's will is to do God's will - Individual responsibility.

¹⁹Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law.

²⁰The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Another opinion of who Jesus is

²²you circumcise a man on the Sabbath...²³are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well?

²⁴Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

²⁶Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?

²⁷we know where this man comes from...no one will know where he comes from – A Jewish legend. This epic is alluded to in IV Ezra 13:52.

²⁸He who sent me is true, and him you do not know.

²⁹"I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me." Not popular

³¹When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"

³¹I am going to him who sent me – 1st instance of this recurring phrase.

³⁷the last day of the feast... "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink."

³⁸Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive,...the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

⁴¹Is the Christ to come from Galilee?...⁴²the Christ...comes from Bethlehem

⁴³So there was a division among the people over him.

⁴⁶The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!"

⁴⁷Have you also been deceived? ⁴⁸Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? ⁴⁹But this crowd that does not know the law...

⁵²Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee – their whole case is based on a false notion that Jesus is from Nazareth, not Bethlehem!