

Pastor's statement on Same Sex Marriage Legalization

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On Friday, June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a 5-4 decision in a case favoring the establishment of a constitutional right to so-called, same-sex marriage. As Christians who believe the Bible is our supreme authority, we reject such a nonsensical redefinition of marriage and believe that this decision is both wrong morally and as a matter of public policy. But our primary concern in this matter is the animus that this decision renders toward the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Genesis 2 tells us that marriage is created by God and involves a man and a woman. What could not be known in Genesis 2 is clearly unveiled and articulated in Ephesians 5—that marriage is an earthly picture of a heavenly reality that involves a Bride made beautiful by her Bridegroom's love and a Bridegroom's sacrifice for that Bride in spite of her sin and blemishes. The Bible begins with a marriage and ends with a marriage. Marriage between a man and a woman could be accurately identified as the central string that holds the entire Bible together.

While we disagree with this decision, let no one suggest that we are angry at sinners, particularly those involved in homosexual behavior. All sexual sin is sin—adultery, fornication, unbiblical divorce, and yes, homosexual practice. The gospel is the only hope for every sinner and we will not move off that message. Our job is to lift high the saving grace of our Bridegroom and say with Him, "Go and sin no more."

Some are afraid that pastors will be forced to officiate same-sex weddings. I find that very unlikely, and even impossible. What is much more likely is that Christian colleges will be forced to compromise their values or lose their tax-exempt status or the ability to receive federal tuition assistance or that Christian adoption agencies may be forced to place children in same-sex families, a practice that is currently against the law in Mississippi, or that evangelical military chaplains may be forced to officiate same-sex weddings against their conscience. It's a brand new world for some, but probably not for us.

We remain committed to the same things as always: Love God and Love your neighbor as yourself. So, the fact that your neighbor is a sinner is not news. The fact that some of your neighbors are involved in homosexual practice is not news. And the fact that Jesus is the only hope for you and your neighbors is still good news. The Word of God is unchanging and did not flinch last Friday. Neither have we.

These words from Martin Luther 485 years ago are still true today.

**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.**

**That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.**