

The social media and Christian media outlets are lit up with reactions to last week's Supreme Court "Scotus" ruling that mandated the legalization of homosexual marriage in all 50 states. I have not seen many, what I would call, biblically balanced responses to their decision. I'm sure there are some out there. I haven't had time to do much searching for them.

The big question hanging over the heads of Christians and church leaders is, "What do we do now" Let me suggest a couple of things to remember:

- 1) God's Word, the Bible, is the final authority for faith and conduct for every Christian. Laws of secular government may align with God's instructions and commands but where they do not the Christian is held to the standards and teachings of God's Word above all human laws.
- 2) As such, marriage is a covenant relationship defined by God in His Word, the Bible, for every Christian. How secular governments define marriage may dictate economic-social arrangements for non-believers, but believers are held to a higher standard taught in God's Word.
- 3) God's definition of the marriage covenant is not subject to review or revision by any mandate of an earthly court. We obey God God rather than man. This was true for prayer in schools where we still pray abortion where we uphold the life and value of Unborn babies and is also true for same sex marriages. We will continue to hold to God's plan for the marriage covenant between one man, one woman and the Lord God.
- 4) Our mission remains unchanged: fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt. 28-18-20) and obeying the Great Commandment (Matt. 22-36-39) This includes those who disagree with us, approve of things we do not and even are hostile to our biblical stance on Truth. We are called to share the good news that has come to us in Jesus the Messiah and to do so in love for them and for the Lord God.
- 5) We must speak the truth in love! It is not our job to pass judgement on people. Only God is righteous enough to judge with a true righteous judgment. Just as Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to call the world to the heavenly Father, so must our purpose be in our community. Our LGBT friends and family members can know that we disagree with them but also love them. We will not win them with arguments, finger pointing or angry self-righteous declarations. Jesus made it clear that the world would know us by our love for each other and for the world. Let "truth in love" (Eph. 4-15) be our identification among those who embrace this sinful lifestyle or encourage others to do so.

In short, these are days of great opportunities for the church. Unlike many, I do not see this as "the end of the road" for the church in America. While we know that God's timetable is moving steadily toward the end of times, there have been worse times in human history. While it may mark the end of the USA as we know and bring God's judgment that will bring an end to our position as a leader in the world, there is much work for the kingdom to be accomplished yet. God is still sovereign and is still upon the throne ruling over the nations of the earth.

If this has brought about anything for us living in America, it is this. There is a clearer and clearer demarcation between true believers and false believers, between light and darkness and between nominal Christians who are so in name only ("cultural Christians") and genuine obedient followers of Christ who passionately seek him and serve him. May the world around us know us by our true colors—our white robes of holiness and righteousness washed in the crimson blood of the Lamb.

Pastor Ron

Many thanks to those who prepare "goodies" for our Sunday refreshments, bring cans of coffee, serve and clean up and stay around and enjoy great fellowship.

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