

United States Supreme Court ruling on gay marriage, June, 2015.

Review by ekb, of the Russell Moore article, on this decision – August – 2015

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At the end of June, 2015, the United States' Supreme Court ruled, that every State will legalise the marriage of gay couples who wish to be "married."

Russell Moore, who is the President of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, has written an article on this decision, which brings to Bible believing followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, some very helpful thoughts.

This article was published in the Washington Post on June 28th, 2015, and in the New Zealand Herald on the 30th of June 2015.

Below are the links to the Washington Post and New Zealand Herald, to read the full article.

In this review of the article, I will mention, (*in italics*), some of the helpful points made by Russell Moore.

"The Church should neither cave nor panic about the decision on gay marriage."

Jesus Christ is Lord of Lords and King of Kings and is seated at the right hand of the Father in the Throne of Heaven.

All things are under His feet and He is Head over all. Revelation 19:16, Ephesians 1:20-21.

The purposes of Almighty God, for the return of the universe to the full government of God, are on time, and the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Judge of the living and the dead is not far away. Numbers 14:21, Acts 17:30, 31.

"This is a sober moment, and I am a conscientious dissenter from this ruling."

In handing down this decision, the United States Supreme Court,

"has disregarded thousands of years of definition of the most foundational unit of society, and the cultural changes will be broad and deep."

In the Word of God, the Bible, marriage is defined as the life-long, covenant union of a man and his wife, before God, which leads to the establishing of a family of godly children. Malachi 2:13-16, Matthew 19:4, 5, 6.

For thousands of years this has been the purpose of God for humanity, and the foundation of all societies worldwide. Gen 1:28.

"The Gospel does not need "family values" to flourish."

The Supreme Court decision is a strong move away from Biblical teaching on the structure of society, but in the New Testament record, the Church of Jesus Christ grew strongly under adversity. The world of the New Testament was not favourable towards the Christian viewpoint. When Christian believers have to fight for their survival through dependence on the Lord and His Word, by faith they find the grace of God that is sufficient for every situation they face. 1John 5:4, 5, Exodus 14:13, 14, 1Corinthians 15:57, 2Corinthians 12:9,10. And the Gospel message goes out with power.

"The Church, will need, in the years ahead, to articulate what we believe about marriage."

Jesus, and His disciples, in their teaching, strongly supported the marriage of one man and one woman, highly valued family life of parents and children serving one another in love, and taught that true marriage is a picture of the union between Christ and the Church. For the New Testament believer, a godly marriage and family, is the closest anyone can get to heaven on this earth.

Matthew 19:1-9, John 2:1-11, Ephesians 4:32, Ephesians 5:21-6:4, Ephesians 3:14-21, 1Peter 3:1-12.

"Too many of our marriages have been ravaged by divorce."

The Lord God of Israel says that he hates divorce. Malachi 2:16, Matthew 19:1-9.

The Gospel we preach and teach needs to include the truth of marriage, as being a picture of our union with Christ, which is for the believer, an eternal unbroken relationship with God, of love, light, life and salvation. Ephesians 5:24-33.

"We must repent of our failings and picture to the world what marriage is meant to be."

As the Church of Jesus Christ, Christian marriage is the workshop where we choose to deny self and serve one another in love. Ephesians 4:32.

This is the most powerful sermon anyone will ever see, or hear, on this earth, where a godly father and mother live together as one, caring for children and leading them in the way and values of the Lord Jesus. Galatians 5:13, Ephesians 4:15, Ephesians 5:21-6:4.

"Permanent, stable marriages with families with both a mother and a father may well make us seem freakish in 21st-century culture."

Because Biblical godly marriage is a visible, practical expression of the relationship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Church, which is an eternal relationship of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, the Christian family shines as a beacon in the darkness of this world. Philippians 2:14-16, Matthew 5:13-16.

“We believe that the Gospel can forgive sinners like us and make us sons and daughters.”

For those that believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, Redeemer and King, God our Heavenly Father is a Father to the fatherless and He sets the solitary in families. Psalm 68:5, 6.

He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in Heaven and earth is named. Ephesians 3:14, 15.

As the children of God, through repentance from sin, and faith in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, we come under the shadow of His wings of salvation. Psalm 91. And His love casts out fear. 1John 4:18.

“The Church must prepare for the refugees from the sexual revolution.”

Almighty God is the Creator, Sustainer, Judge and Inheritor of all things. There is no searching of His understanding. Colossians 1:17, Genesis 18:25, Isaiah 40:28.

Almighty God made men, men, and women, women, for the purpose of bringing forth godly children. Genesis 1:28, Malachi 2:14-16.

For a father and a mother, the most fulfilling thing in life is a happy, peaceful, loving family, serving the purposes of the Lord our Creator.

As many people reject Almighty God’s way of life for humanity and go their own way, there will come a time when their choice will bear consequences that do not satisfy the inward longings God has placed within them.

At this point those who are walking in the will and purposes of God will shine with the Light and love of the Gospel, and lead many back to the way, the truth and the life, that Jesus came to make available to all.

At the well in Samaria Jesus met and helped a woman who was desperate to find God’s answer for her life. John 4:10, 14.

“There are two sorts of Churches that will not be able to reach the sexual revolution’s refugees.”

Firstly, to be able to help these people, a Church must teach, preach and demonstrate the truth of the Word of God and refrain from watering down the truth of God’s Word. Philippians 2:15, 16, 1Corinthians 6:9, 10..

The Bible, God’s Word, is inspired by Him, 2Timothy 3:15, 16, 17, 1Peter 1:23-25, 2Peter 1:20, 21.

Jesus called the Scriptures, “the Word of God” and He set His personal seal upon it by five simple words: “the Scripture cannot be broken.” (John 10:34, 35)

Secondly, a Church must “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15) to all people, and refrain from condemnatory judgments.

“We must stand with conviction and with kindness, with truth and grace.”

We must stand firmly in the truth of the Word of God, no matter what opposition we face. And our attitude must be Christ-like, full of mercy, grace and truth towards all.

“Some Christians will be tempted to anger.”

The future will not be an easy way and some may become discouraged. Psalm 1:1-3, is a key to finding the strength and blessing of God in all circumstances.

“The witness to marriage will be, like the prolife movement, a long term strategy that is multi-pronged.”

The Holy Spirit is our Teacher and our Guide and He will direct us step by step as we interact with society.

He speaks to us as we keep in the Word of God, and as Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice.” John 10:27.

Follow the still small voice of the Holy Spirit. 1Kings 19:12.

“Let’s seek the kingdom. Let’s stand with the Gospel. Let’s fear our God. But let’s not fear our mission field.”

The Lord says, “Have not I commanded you? Be strong and of a good courage; fear not nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9.

<http://www.russellmoore.com/2015/06/26/why-the-church-should-neither-cave-nor-panic-about-the-decision-on-gay-marriage/>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2015/06/26/why-the-church-should-neither-cave-nor-panic-about-the-decision-on-gay-marriage/>

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