



June 29–30, 2013

2 Chronicles 7:11-14

“A Biblical Response to Same-Sex Marriage”

Pastor Gary Hamrick

It’s hard to have a complete understanding of what pastors in America felt the Sunday after the 1857 Supreme Court decision in the Dred Scott ¹ case, but Christians probably wanted their pastors to stand up and give a biblical response to a wrong decision. The same could be said of the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, which declared that an unborn baby had no rights. Fast-forward 40 years and we find ourselves at another crossroads in American history regarding the decision by the Supreme Court in two cases that validated same-sex marriage.

Pastor Gary said there would be some people who would ask, “Who are you to say they got it wrong?” He said his reply would be to ask the question, “What is your moral reference point?” This is the question each of us must answer in order to understand the impact of last week’s decision. Everyone has a moral reference point, because each of us believes that some things are wrong and some things are right. For example, if a crazed gunman walked into a crowded school and indiscriminately killed innocent children, no one would argue the merits of his actions. Everyone would be outraged, because there’s no question that what the gunman did was 100% wrong.

There are two reasons why we know this is wrong: law and conscience. We have laws that define this kind of conduct as criminal (wrong). But it’s more than that, because conscience is intuitive. God has placed a moral conscience in the heart of every human being, and since we’re created in his image, we have the capacity to know right from wrong. So, if the Supreme Court is your moral reference point, then they got this one right. However, if the Supreme God is your moral reference point, then the Court got this one wrong.

¹ <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=29>

In this message, Pastor Gary laid out three objectives for Christians and what our response to homosexuality should be: learn what God's view is on the subject of homosexuality; love those who are in that lifestyle or are struggling with homosexuality; live your life with God's Word as the standard for belief and behavior.

Supreme Court Decisions - June 26, 2013

1. These decisions created a seismic shift in our culture, and the landscape of our nation, morally and socially, will be forever changed.
2. The Defense of Marriage Act ² (DOMA), which was passed by Congress in 1996 and signed into law by President Bill Clinton, was struck down.
 - a. DOMA defined, on a Federal Government level, that marriage is between a man and a woman.
 - b. The result of this decision is that same-sex couples that married in one of the 13 states or the District of Columbia, ³ are now eligible to receive more than 1,100 Federal benefits as legally married couples.
3. Proposition 8, ⁴ an amendment to the California state Constitution that was passed by the people of California, defined marriage as being between a man and a woman, was declared unconstitutional.
4. Many legal experts, including Justice Scalia in one of his written opinions, say these two rulings are landmark decisions that will likely pave the way for same-sex marriage to be legalized in all 50 states regardless of the fact that a state may have an amendment like California's.
 - a. In 2006, Virginia amended their state constitution and defined marriage as being between a man and a woman. ⁵
5. It seems like we've come to a point in time when no law is valid, even when people amend their own state constitution, and all it takes to toss a law onto the junk pile is have someone challenge it and get five lawyers in black robes who don't like it!
6. We are moving closer, and we may have already arrived at a time, which Thomas Jefferson feared, when "judicial tyranny" rules the land.
 - a. Jefferson realized the enormity of the power the Judicial branch of government had, which he saw could make them too independent, having the ability to rule over the Legislative and Executive branches.

² <http://www.frc.org/onepagere/basic-facts-about-the-defense-of-marriage-act>

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_marriage_in_the_United_States

⁴ <http://www.courts.ca.gov/13401.htm>

⁵ <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?061+sum+SB526>

- i. This is called an oligarchy or “government by the few.”⁶
- ii. “But the opinion which gives to the judges the right to decide what laws are constitutional, and what not, not only for themselves in their own sphere of action, but for the legislative and executive also, in their spheres, would make the judiciary a despotic branch.” – Thomas Jefferson in a letter to Mrs. John Adams, September 11, 1804.⁷

Law And Conscience Come From God

7. Biblically

- a. **Romans 2:14-15** – “... when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness...”

8. Historically

- a. The Founding Fathers, in the Declaration of Independence,⁸ called it the “Laws of Nature and Nature’s God.”
- b. The signers declared that the source of natural law comes from God.
- c. They didn’t establish a Theocracy; they established a nation whose foundation rested upon the universal, fundamental and eternal laws of God, which is our moral reference point.
 - i. “[We] are endowed by [our] Creator with certain unalienable Rights...”

⁶ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/oligarchy>

⁷ *The Jeffersonian Cyclopaedia, A comprehensive collection of the views of Thomas Jefferson classified and arranged in alphabetical order under nine thousand titles relating to government, politics, law, education, political economy, finance, science, art, literature, religious freedom, morals, etc., Section 7761, Sedition Law, Executive vs. Judiciary, page 796.*
http://books.google.com/books?id=ZTloAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA796&lpg=PA796&dq=BUT+THE+OPINION+which+gives+to+the+judges+the+right+to+decide+in+what+laws+are+constitutional,+and+what+not,+not+only+for+themselves+in+their+own+sphere+of+action,+but+for+the+legislature+and+executive+also,+in+their+spheres,+would+make+the+judiciary+a+despotic+branch&source=bl&ots=vandkYa8NZ&sig=iQ7TuQ_KKAbT2xKDEiyOxW3DSLE&hl=en&sa=X&ei=q5LdUdCUOYHA4AOmviGQBA&ved=0CDgQ6AEwAzgK#v=onepage&q=BUT%20THE%20OPINION%20which%20gives%20to%20the%20judges%20the%20right%20to%20decide%20what%20laws%20are%20constitutional%2C%20and%20what%20not%2C%20not%20only%20for%20themselves%20in%20their%20own%20sphere%20of%20action%2C%20but%20for%20the%20legislature%20and%20executive%20also%2C%20in%20their%20spheres%2C%20would%20make%20the%20judiciary%20a%20despotic%20branch&f=false

⁸ http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html

Learn What Is God's View On Homosexuality

9. **Genesis 18-19** gives the account of Abraham's nephew, Lot, and his family, who lived in Sodom.
10. **Genesis 13:13** - *"Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord."*
11. God sent angels to rescue Lot and his family before the city was destroyed.
12. The angels God sent came in human form to inspect Sodom and its sin.
13. They wanted to stay the night in the town square, but Lot knew that wouldn't be a safe place, because there were too many men who would prey on them, so he strongly insisted they come to stay at his home.
14. **Genesis 19:4-5** - *"Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom - both young and old - surrounded the house. They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."*
15. All the men of the town wanted to gang rape the two male visitors, who happened to be angels.
16. Notice that *"both young and old"* surrounded the house.
17. The older men of Sodom exposed young boys to their sinful, shameful behavior, and it's possible they actually included them.
18. **Isaiah 3:9** indicates Sodom was known for parading their sin.
19. **Jude 7** - *"... Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire."*
20. God calls homosexuality...
 - a. Grievous sin - **Genesis 18**
 - b. Wicked - **Genesis 19**
 - c. Detestable - **Leviticus 18** and **Ezekiel 16** (KJV "abomination")
 - d. Immoral - **Jude 7**
 - e. Unnatural, indecent, and perverted
 - i. **Romans 1:26b-27** - *"Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned*

natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.”

21. The Bible is not about good guys and bad guys, and how good guys go to heaven and bad guys go to hell; it's about bad guys and Jesus!
22. Jesus loved every one of us so much that he died on a cross for all the wicked, sinful things we've ever done so we can be forgiven and free, and go to heaven when we die!

Love Those Struggling With Homosexuality

23. **John 13:34-35** - *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*
24. One of the sad realities is that there are many in the homosexual community who think Christians hate them, which is probably a combination of the fact that many Christians have been hateful, and that many homosexuals misperceive the hate just because Christians see their lifestyle as sinful.
25. The truth is that Christians must go out of their way to show love when it comes to family members and friends.
26. We need to tell them that we love them, and show them love with hugs and warmth, while at the same time always being on the lookout for opportunities to tell the truth in love - that Jesus died for all sin, for all people, and they need Jesus like everyone else.
27. It's obvious that some people are good at the love, but not the truth, while others are experts at the truth without the love.
28. Pastor Gary stated that:
 - a. Love without truth is negligence.
 - b. Truth without love is arrogance.
 - c. Truth with love is guidance.

Live Your Life With God's Word As The Standard For Belief And Behavior

29. The latest decisions by the Supreme Court will likely forever challenge the way Christians live out their faith, so every Believer needs to know how they will respond when the laws of the land and the culture don't line up with the Word of God.
30. [Isaiah 60:12](#) - *"For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined."*
31. [Isaiah 5:20, 24c-25a](#) - *"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter... for they have rejected the law of the Lord Almighty and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore the Lord's anger burns against his people; his hand is raised and he strikes them down."*
32. "The propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregard the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."
- George Washington, Inaugural Address, 1789.
33. The only hope for America is [2 Chronicles 7:14](#)!
 - a. *"... if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [2 Chronicles 7:11-14](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. What was your reaction to the Supreme Court's decisions regarding same-sex marriage (DOMA and Proposition 8)?
4. Do you think some people have and will choose to move out of states that permit same-sex marriage?
5. Spend time discussing Thomas Jefferson's concerns about the dangers of "judicial tyranny."
6. Read and discuss [Romans 2:14-15](#).

7. Provide an overview of [Genesis 18-19](#) prior to spending time talking about God's view on homosexuality.
 - a. What should a Christian's reaction be to businesses who support Gay Pride Parades (i.e. The Home Depot)? ([Isaiah 3:9](#))
 - b. Review the Scriptures outlined in #20 above to see how God views the sin of homosexuality.

8. Read and discuss [John 13:34-35](#).
 - a. What are some of the ways Christians can treat people struggling with homosexuality in a Christ-like manner?

9. How would you respond if you were the parents in the personal story Pastor Gary shared?
 - a. Christian parents had a college-age son who was a practicing homosexual.
 - b. The parents made every concession toward the son because they thought that would be the loving response.
 - c. The son wanted to bring his lover home for Thanksgiving and requested that they be able to share his bedroom.
 - d. The son also wanted to bring his lover on family vacations.

10. How will you respond to the following examples Pastor Gary shared?
 - a. Will you acquiesce to the culture around you, and slowly fade into the background, or will you stand your ground, lovingly, but firmly, and refuse to participate even when people mock and despise you?
 - i. Your children see two men or two women kissing on a TV program.
 - ii. Your son or daughter wants to go next door to play with their friend who has two "Daddies."
 - iii. Your son's Boy Scout troop admits homosexual scouts.

11. Read and discuss [Isaiah 60:12](#).

12. Read and discuss [Isaiah 5:20, 24c-25a](#).

13. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: purpose in their heart to know what God's view of homosexuality is from the Bible, love people who are struggling with homosexuality, and live their life with God's Word as their standard for belief and behavior; (have someone ready to read [2 Chronicles 7:14](#)) pray the Scripture.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).