



Stand for Marriage Sunday: Religious Freedom at Risk

April 2015 | www.FRC.org

Marriage was the first institution created by God in the book of Genesis. One man and one woman in a marriage covenant relationship for life is the divine pattern expressed throughout the Bible. Quoting from Genesis 1 and 2, Jesus declared:

Have you not read that at the beginning, the Creator made them male and female, and said: 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh?' So they are no longer two but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no man separate (Matthew 19:4-6).



A good marriage enables people to be happier, live longer, and build more economic security. Marriage is also the form of relationship that is uniquely suited for childrearing, which is why it is a matter of vital public concern and not just a “private matter.” In fact, marriage is a public, social contract for which the law requires witnesses. Why? It has profound implications for the common good, for the health of society.

Marriage impacts children. Wherever possible, children should be reared in the context of the bond between the two parents whose marital union gave them life. Research shows that when both genders are represented in the parenting role, children have the best opportunity for health, wellbeing, development, and success in life. As Dr. James Dobson notes, “More than ten thousand studies have concluded that kids do best when they are raised by mothers and fathers.” Every civilization has been built upon the institution of marriage. It is the foundation. The happiness and success of individuals, the welfare and security of children, and the soundness of society, are all largely dependent upon the stability of marriage according to the divine pattern.

On April 28, the US Supreme Court will hear oral arguments for and against redefining marriage in America. Though marriage between a man and a woman has existed since the beginning, the time-honored institution is under fire. For nearly 20 years, the debate has raged. Before federal judges began to overturn marriage laws, 30 states had protected natural marriage. Now the High Court is poised to decide for us all. It is time for our voices to be heard in this debate.



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Pro-Family Action Steps

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Natural Marriage is under fire. LGBT Activists believe victory is at hand. They hope to quickly quash any opposition to their agenda, which is no longer simply legal recognition in the law but to silence people of faith from dissent and even force us to celebrate what God has clearly called sin. They want the Supreme Court to believe that Christians will stand silently by and allow marriage to be redefined.

If there was ever a time for the Church of the Lord Jesus to pray fervently and speak up firmly for marriage, the family and our freedom, that time is now. What can we do specifically?



Action Step 1: Pray for the Court and for our Country regarding marriage. Spend time today during worship in prayer for the Supreme Court Justices and the Attorneys arguing the case for marriage during Oral Arguments on Tuesday, April 28. Commit to pray until the ruling is issued in late June.

Action Step 2: Proclaim your beliefs about natural marriage. We provide some sample Facebook posts and Tweets for social media and letters to the editor for your local newspaper. Visit www.WatchmenPastors.org/StandforMarriage for more.

Action Step 3: Plan on hosting a #FreetoBelieve gathering at your home. Invite family and friends and show the documentary: *One Generation Away*, an awarding-winning film that spells out in clear detail the issue of religious liberty in America today, largely against the backdrop of the marriage debate before us right now. Visit www.onegenerationawaymovie.com for more details.

Family Research Council

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