



Of the many complexities involving the church and homosexuality, one of the most difficult is how the former should speak of the latter. Even for those Christians who agree that homosexuality is contrary to the will of God, there is little agreement on how we ought to speak about homosexuality being contrary to the will of God.

Much of this disagreement is owing to the fact that there are many different constituencies we have in mind when broaching the subject. There are various groups that may be listening when we speak about homosexuality, and the group we think we are addressing usually dictates how we speak.

- If speaking to cultural elites who despise us and our beliefs, we want to be bold and courageous.
- If speaking to strugglers who fight against same sex attraction, we want to be patient and sympathetic.
- If speaking to sufferers who have been mistreated by the church, we want to be apologetic and humble.
- If speaking to shaky Christians who seem ready to compromise the faith for society's approval, we want to be persuasive and persistent.
- If speaking to liberal Christians who have deviated from the truth once delivered for the saints, we want to be serious and hortatory.
- If speaking to gays and lesbians who live as the Scriptures would not have them live, we want to be winsome and straightforward.
- If speaking to belligerent Christians who hate or fear homosexuals, we want to be upset and disappointed.

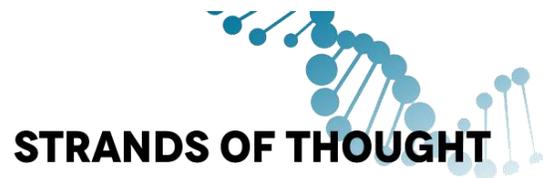
So how ought we to speak about homosexuality? Should we be defiant and defensive or gentle and entreating? Yes and yes. It depends on who is listening. All seven scenarios above are real and not uncommon. And while some Christians may be called to speak to one group in particular, we must keep in mind that in this technological day and age anyone from any group may be listening in. This means that we will often be misunderstood. It also means we should make some broad basic commitments to each other and to our friends and foes in speaking about homosexuality.

Here are ten commitments I hope Christians and churches will consider making in their heads and hearts, before God and before a watching world.

1. We will preach through the Bible consecutively and expositionally that we might teach the whole counsel of God (even the unpopular parts) and to avoid riding hobby horses (even popular ones).
2. We will tell the truth about all sins, including homosexuality, but especially the sins most prevalent in our communities.
3. We will guard the truth of God's word, protect God's people from error, and confront the world when it tries to press us into its mold.
4. We will call all people to faith in Christ as the only way to the Father and the only way to have eternal life.
5. We will tell all people about the good news of the gospel, that Jesus died in our place and rose again so that we might be set free from the curse of the law and be saved from the wrath of God.
6. We will treat all Christians as new creations in Christ, reminding each other that our true identity is not based on sexuality or self-expression but on our union with Christ.
7. We will extend God's forgiveness to all those who come in brokenhearted repentance, everyone from homosexual sinners to heterosexual sinners, from the proud to the greedy, from the people pleaser to the self-righteous.
8. We will ask for forgiveness when we are rude, thoughtless, or joke inappropriately about homosexuals.
9. We will strive to be a community that welcomes all those who hate their sin and struggle against it, even when that struggle involves failures and setbacks.
10. We will seek to love all in our midst, regardless of their particular vices or virtues, by preaching the Bible, recognizing evidences of God's grace, pointing out behaviors that dishonor the Lord, taking church membership seriously, exercising church discipline, announcing the free offer of the gospel, striving for holiness together, and exulting in Christ above all things.

Supreme Court Declares Same-Sex “Marriage” a Constitutional Right

Greg Strand – June 26, 2015



The Supreme Court, by a ruling of 5-4, declared same-sex “marriage” a constitutional right, making it the law of the land.

A Supreme Court will not determine, define or overturn God’s ordained design for marriage as being between a man and a woman (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:24-25; Matt. 19:3-9). Although this decision will not change our view of marriage, it will have significant implications about how we affirm and live this truth during this day in which the biblical view is denied by many.

I am grieved, though not surprised. We do not fear. We must be wise as serpents and innocent as doves (Matt. 10:16). We will stand upon and speak for God’s truth, and we will do so with convictional kindness.

Here is the response from Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) of the SBC, with which I concur.

I am a conscientious dissenter from this ruling handed down by the Court today, believing, along with millions of others, that marriage is the sacred union of one man and one woman and that it is improper for the Court to redefine an institution it did not invent in the first place.

I believe this action of finding some illusory Fourteenth Amendment right to same-sex marriage will have wide-ranging and perilous consequences for the stability of families and for freedom of religion. In the wake of this decision, we must ensure that the American principles of pluralism and religious liberty are maintained, as the religious convictions of millions of Americans necessarily cause us to hold a different, more ancient, view of marriage than the one the Court has imposed. Additionally, today’s decision reminds us of the importance of electing a president who knows how to appoint jurists rather than would-be legislators to the bench.

Despite this ruling, the church of Jesus Christ will stand fast. We will not capitulate on this issue because we cannot. To minimize or ignore a Christian sexual ethic is to abandon the message Jesus handed down to us, and we have no authority to do this. At the same time, now is not the time for outrage or panic. Marriage is resilient. God created it to be so. Marriage in the minds of the public may change, but marriage as a reality created by God won’t change at all. The church must now articulate and embody a Christian vision of marriage and work to rebuild a culture of marriage.

Here is the update from *Christianity Today*: **[Supreme Court: States Can’t Ban Same-Sex Marriage](#)**

Here is a statement from Al Mohler: **[Mohler Responses to Supreme Court’s Same-Sex Marriage Decision](#)**

Here is a statement from NAE: **[Supreme Court Redefines Marriage and God Defined Marriage](#)**

Here is a statement made by a diverse coalition of evangelical leaders assembled by the ERLC:

[Here We Stand: An Evangelical Declaration on Marriage](#)

Here is a *Christianity Today* Editorial written by Mark Galli:

[Six Things To Do after the Supreme Court Decision on Gay Marriage](#)

Here is a letter to our EFCA family from President Kompelien: **[EFCA Response to Supreme Court Ruling](#)**

Here is a statement by Ray Ortlund about Marriage & Gospel: **[What is Marriage, According to the Bible?](#)**

Here is a summary of the decision by Joe Carter:

[Explainer: What You Should Know About the Supreme Court’s Same-Sex Marriage Ruling](#)

Here is a statement from John Piper: **[So-Called Same-Sex Marriage: Lamenting the New Calamity](#)**

Here is a statement by Erik Stanley, Alliance Defending Freedom, for churches to consider:

[What Your Church Needs to Know – And Do – About the Court’s Marriage Ruling](#)

see also

http://go.efca.org/sites/default/files/resources/docs/2013/05/a_church_statement_on_human_sexuality_3.pdf