

What is a Christian to do?

Ponder: Now what do we do?

Scripture: “Do not fret because of evil-doers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity” (Psalm 37:1, NKJV).

As I write this, several hours have passed since the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) announced its 5-4 majority decision declaring that homosexual marriage is a right guaranteed by the Constitution. While hardly surprising, the decision is distressing to people who accept the Bible as the inspired word of God, and who, therefore, uphold marriage as God designed it (one man, one woman, for life). What, then, are Christians to do?

First, do not panic! Marriage is still what God said it is. Grand and august as the SCOTUS is, there is yet a higher court. While states may be required to issue “marriage” licenses to same-sex couples, God certainly is not required to accept what any human court decides (nor are His people).

Second, remember to respect and pray for all of the “powers that be” (i.e. civil government officials, see Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Timothy 2:1-3). In this country, we are blessed with the right to disagree with our governing officials, and to express that disagreement. Constitutionally, we have the right to be ugly and vindictive about it; but Biblically, we have no such right. Be biblical; be respectful; be calm.

Third, follow the old adage, “hate the sin, love the sinner.” That’s what God does, and that’s what we must do. Our opposition to all sin must follow this course (not just sexual immorality in general, not just homosexual behavior, and not just same-sex “marriage” in particular). The world routinely (and falsely) accuses Christians of being haters; by our love for all sinners, let us demonstrate that this accusation is bogus.

Finally, be prepared to suffer. Already businesses are being persecuted if they do not agree to participate in same-sex “weddings.” Though we have assurances that religious groups and ministers will not be forced to officiate at such events, these promises are dubious at best. Church-related institutions (e.g. Christian Universities, etc.) may well be the first to be forced to hire and extend benefits to same-sex couples. Refusal to do so could result in severe economic repercussions, or even arrest. Are we prepared to suffer the consequences of obeying God rather than men? (Acts 5:29)

Much more could be said, but let this suffice for now. May God help this great nation to repent and return to sound moral footing!

Song: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Prayer: Righteous God, our Heavenly Father, we grieve over our own sins as well as those of the world around us. May we be like those in Jerusalem so long ago who sighed and cried over the sins of that great city. Help us, we pray, to be faithful no matter what, but never to be self-righteous. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Joe Slater (Justin, TX)

jaslater1954@gmail.com