



Church Connection

August 2015

Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Liberty

*But sanctify the Lord
God in your hearts: and
be ready always to give
an answer to every man
that asketh you a reason
of the hope that is in you
with meekness and fear...*

I Peter 3:15

*In the world ye shall
have tribulation: but
be of good cheer; I have
overcome the world.*

John 16:33b

Mark Your Calendar

WFC Presents:

*Bringing Back the
Black Robed Regiment
(historical re-
enactment)*

Wed., Sept. 23, Green
Bay

Thur., Sept. 24, Country
Springs Inn, Pewaukee

Watch our website for
details and registration!

Forewarned Should Be Forearmed

By the time you read this a full month will have passed since the US Supreme Court decided by judicial fiat that same-sex marriage is a constitutional right in our country. The sky has not fallen, and for most of us life continues more or less normally. Dire warnings about the consequences of this ruling may seem overblown, but rest assured—they aren't. One day the impact will be real, and it will be significant.

We have already seen what some of the fallout from such a decision looks like. In 2004 Massachusetts was the first state to foist same-sex marriage on the people by judicial decree. Shortly afterward, the state forced Boston Catholic Charities, an adoption agency, to either stop placing children for adoption altogether or start placing children with same-sex couples. Catholic Charities closed their doors. Why? Because same-sex marriage was legal in that state, they were allowed no options. It was conform or close.

In both states where marriage had been redefined prior to the US Supreme Court's wrong decision, and in those where it had not yet been redefined, various individuals involved in wedding-related services have been sued for discrimination because they refused to perform certain services for same-sex couples—such as baking a wedding cake, or taking pictures at a ceremony, or doing flowers for a wedding. In some cases, individuals have been steeply fined. Others have been ordered to change their policies. Some have been run out of business by activists' threats.

Back in Massachusetts parents of children in a public school have basically been told that since same-sex marriage is legal in that state, it will be treated like a heterosexual relationship, and there will be no parental notifications when the subject is being addressed and no opt-out provision no matter the grade-level involved.

continued on back



Praise

- Governor Walker signed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection bill on Monday, July 20, making abortions after 20 weeks illegal
- The transition into our new office space has gone smoothly

Responding to Same-Sex Marriage

- Pray for spiritual revival in our country
- Make sure your church documents and policies are clear (for links to resources, visit: wifamilycouncil.org/resources/churches)
- Teach and preach on this issue in your church
- Promote and honor marriage in your church--publicly recognize and celebrate anniversaries
- Boldly, graciously and unashamedly stand for the biblical truth about marriage

The fallout from this recent decision will come. We just don't know how or when it will show up for any particular church, school or para-church ministry. That is why every church and Christian organization needs to review its foundational documents and operating policies. As long as we have a modicum of the rule of law, well-stated policies and faith and position statements will provide the best legal protection available. Wisconsin Family Council is recommending Alliance Defending Freedom's resource entitled, "Protecting Your Ministry" and Liberty Institute's "Religious Liberty Audits," both of which are available online.

These resources explain why certain protections are necessary, even critical, for churches and other ministries and supply sample language for inclusion in statements of faith, church membership standards, statements on marriage, letters to parents, hiring policies, and much more. For more information on either of these resources we encourage you to call our office at 888-378-7395. To be forewarned should be to be forearmed in these uncertain days.

In His mercy and patience, God has not wiped our country off the face of the earth in one fell swoop. The people in Noah's day were given decades to repent. We don't know how much time God will grant us. But we can be assured of a number of things. God has called us to stand for the truth and to do so boldly and graciously. Just as importantly, we need to live the truth that we stand for and model to the world all of the blessing and joy that marriage and family is when it is done His way. And finally, we need to remember that God doesn't hold us accountable for results, but for faithfulness. Let us recommit ourselves to being effective and bold stewards of the truth and of our privileges as citizens of this country. May we do this for the glory of our gracious God and the good of our neighbors.

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that since 1986 has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening and preserving marriage, family, life and liberty in our state.

PO Box 14440 | Madison WI 53708 | 888-378-7395 (toll free)

info@wifamilycouncil.org | wifamilycouncil.org