



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty



Church Connection

July 2018

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

*Why do the heathen rage,
and the people imagine a
vain thing? The kings of
the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel
together, against the LORD,
and against his anointed,
saying, Let us break their
bands asunder, and cast
away their cords from
us. He that sitteth in the
heavens shall laugh: the
LORD shall have them in
derision...Be wise now
therefore, O ye kings: be
instructed, ye judges of the
earth. Serve the LORD with
fear...*

Psalm 2:1-4, 10-11a

The stamp pictured with
this article was issued by
the US Post Office in 1957.

It commemorates The
Flushing Remonstrance,
which is considered to
be a precursor to our
constitutional right
of Religious Liberty.

Religious Liberty is
included in the first of 10
amendments to the US
Constitution, known as
The Bill of Rights.

Court Says No Hostility Towards Religion

On Monday, June 4, the United States Supreme Court released its opinion in one of the major cases of this term, the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* case originating in Colorado and involving owner Jack Phillips who declined to design a cake celebrating a same-sex wedding. The high court ruled 7-2 in favor of Jack and his Masterpiece Cakeshop, overturning the State of Colorado's decision, which had punished Jack for declining to participate in an event that violated his religious beliefs.

For the *Masterpiece* case, our organization joined with other like-minded organizations around the country in filing a friend-of-the-court brief, supporting Jack Phillips and his right to exercise his religious freedom.

Jack Phillips served all customers including his LGBT neighbors. He was before the U.S. Supreme Court simply because he did not want to create a custom cake celebrating a same-sex wedding.

The US Supreme Court found that the Colorado Human Rights Commission treated Jack with incredible hostility.

As Justice Kennedy wrote in the majority opinion: "[The] Commission's treatment of Phillips' case...showed elements of a clear and impermissible hostility toward the sincere religious beliefs motivating his objection. As the record shows, some of the commissioners at the Commission's formal, public hearings endorsed the view that religious beliefs cannot legitimately be carried into the public sphere or commercial domain, disparaged Phillips' faith as despicable and characterized it as merely rhetorical, and compared his invocation of his sincerely held religious beliefs to defenses of slavery and the Holocaust."

Thankfully, the U.S. Supreme Court found this hostility unconstitutional and reiterated the premise that the government must remain neutral regarding religion. While the decision was made on narrow grounds, it sets the tone for future cases



(continued on back)

Consider This...

James Madison (1751-1836) served two terms as the fourth president of the United States. He played a key role in the adoption of The Bill of Rights. Author Colleen Sheehan observes that “in promoting the doctrine of religious freedom, [Madison’s] intent was not to privilege the secular over the religious or in any way to diminish the realm of the latter, but rather to protect men’s religious convictions against the intrusion of the state. The obligation of every human being to God, Madison argued, is higher than his duty to country.” (*The Founder’s Almanac*, 2002, p. 119)

Please Pray...

- For the salvation of our elected officials and that they will govern wisely and justly.
- For our judges and courts to judge righteously.
- For the safety of our military personnel and law enforcement officers.
- For families in your church to be strong and faithful.
- For revival in our churches and across our land.

on this issue.

Much has already been written about this decision, from both conservative and liberal perspectives. Liberals know they suffered at least a set-back. Some conservatives have given it a full-throated victory proclamation. Others caution that because the court dealt only with the open hostility and avoided tackling the freedom of speech issue, this may not be a victory at all.

At Wisconsin Family Council one question we ask is how would people have responded if the court had ruled against Jack Phillips in any way? We are quite confident liberals would be soundly declaring victory and conservatives would have suffered a loss. So we go with those calling this a good first step and rejoice that at least we didn’t have a major set-back.

The decision will no doubt be part of efforts to protect religious freedom in our country for generations to come. At the very least the decision sends a clear message that it is unconstitutional to show hostility towards people of faith in the marketplace because of their religious convictions.

As Jack Phillips said in his statement, the *‘decision makes clear that tolerance is a two-way street. If we want to have freedom for ourselves, we have to extend it to others with whom we disagree,’* especially on important issues such as the meaning of marriage.

This decision is encouraging, but it is just a beginning. Much work remains. At a minimum, no one should be bullied or banished from the marketplace for peacefully living out their beliefs about marriage. Just as the lesbian graphic designer shouldn’t be forced to create a flier for a religious group’s event opposing same-sex marriage, so Jack Phillips shouldn’t be forced to create custom cakes celebrating same-sex marriage.

Wisconsin Family Council remains the only statewide organization that has time and again stood boldly in the halls of government and in the public arena in defense of God’s plan for marriage and the protection of religious freedom. We have no plans to do anything other than keep on keeping on, whether we win in court or lose.

The cause of religious freedom is noble and right, and to do nothing is unthinkable. This issue is not going away anytime soon, but for now we are grateful to the Lord for this outcome in favor of religious liberty.

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. 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, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.

“Church Connection” is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.

PO Box 14440 | Madison WI 53708 | 888-378-7395 (toll free) | info@wifamilycouncil.org | wifamilycouncil.org