

The Meaning of Marriage

Florence Blvd church of Christ

Matt Vega, J.D.

VOLUME 269
NUMBER 70

50 cents
7¢ more beyond
30 miles from Boston

The Boston Globe

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2006

MARCH MELLOW

TODAY: Sunny and mild.
High 57-62, Low 38-43.
TOMORROW: Cloudy, a shower.
High 55-60, Low 38-43.

RISE TIME: 6:55 a.m. SET: 6:32 p.m.
SUNRISE: 6:04 a.m. SUNSET: 5:46 p.m.
FULL REPORT: PAGE C12

Church's rift with Beacon Hill grows

By Michael Paulson
GLOBE STAFF

The decision yesterday by the state's largest religious denomination to end its century-old adoption program illustrates a dramatic and intensifying clash between church and state, as Beacon Hill and the Vatican move in opposite directions on a wide variety of social policies, including not only homosexuality, but also abortion, bioethics, and emergency contraception.

The collision between the state's nondiscrimination policies and the church's opposition to adoption by same-sex couples is likely to have implications in the American political arena, where the rights of gays and lesbians have emerged as a major wedge issue, and in the Catholic Church, where dissatisfaction with church teachings has caused a major rift between laypeople and bishops.

And the inability of the state and the church to find a way out is the latest, but likely not the last, example of the

FAITH-BASED, Page A5

2005 DSS ADOPTIONS

Catholic Charities handled most of the 91 adoptions of foster children that the state Department of Social Services referred to private agencies.



SOURCE: Mass. Department of Social Services

Crucial role

The group's decision will eliminate its crucial niche in the social safety net: helping to find homes for the most troubled foster children. A4.

Governor responds

Governor Mitt Romney said he plans to file a bill to exempt religious organizations from anti-discrimination laws. A4.

Catholic Charities stuns state, ends adoptions

Gay issue stirred move by agency

By Patricia Wen
GLOBE STAFF

In a stunning turn of events, Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley and leaders of Catholic Charities of Boston announced yesterday that the agency will end its adoption work, deciding to abandon its founding mission, rather than comply with state law requiring

that gays be allowed to adopt children.

The Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, president of Catholic Charities of Boston, and Jeffrey Kaneb, chairman of the board, said that after much reflection and analysis, they could not reconcile church teaching that placement of children in gay homes is "immoral" with Massachusetts law prohibiting discrimination against gays.

"This is a difficult and sad day for Catholic Charities," Hehir said. "We have been doing adoptions for more than 100 years."

Catholic Charities of Boston began in 1903 as an adoption agency primarily serving Catholic children left by parents who died or abandoned them.

Officials in government, social services, and gay-rights groups expressed disappointment about the decision. Catholic Charities is widely respected among adoption providers and has handled more adoptions of foster children than any other private agency in the state.

Harry Spence, the state's commis-
CATHOLIC CHARITIES, Page A4

FILED
OCT - 4 2013
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

**BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In Re the Matter of:

The Honorable Gary Tabor,
Thurston County Superior Court Judge

CJC No. 7251-F-158

**STIPULATION, AGREEMENT
AND ORDER OF ADMONISHMENT**

The Commission on Judicial Conduct and Gary R. Tabor, Judge of the Thurston County Superior Court, stipulate and agree as provided herein. This stipulation is submitted pursuant to Article IV, Section 31 of the Washington Constitution and Rule 23 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure and shall not become effective until approved by the Washington Commission on Judicial Conduct.

I. STIPULATED FACTS

1. Judge Gary Tabor (Respondent) is now, and was at all times referred to in this document, a judge of the Thurston County Superior Court. Respondent has served in that capacity since 1997.





Kennedy



Sotomayer



Kagan



Thomas



Alito



Breyer



Ginsburg



Scalia



Roberts

5-4

Decided
June 26,
2015

Obergefell v. Hodges

A Landmark Decision

Holding the U.S. Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage in all 50 states.



Same-Sex Marriage In All 50 States

Obergefell v. Hodges

- Invalidated same-sex marriage bans in Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee as violating the Equal Protection Clause and the Due Process Clause, requiring every state to license and recognize same-sex marriage.
- Noting historical “continuity and change” in marriage, redefined marriage to include for opposite- and same-sex couples.
- Recognized “the right to personal choice regarding marriage” - at least for couples





Mark Zuckerberg 

 Follow

Message



Timeline

About

Friends

Photos

More ▾


Follow Mark to get his public posts in your News Feed.

 Follow



32,839,447 Followers

 **Founder and CEO at Facebook**
February 4, 2004 to present

 **Studied Computer Science at Harvard University**
Attended from 2002 to 2004



Mark Zuckerberg changed his profile picture.

June 26 at 10:07am · Edited · 

Created with facebook.com/celebratepride



Received a 95% rating from the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index (2013).



Ran an ad with other brands asking voters to uphold Washington state's gay marriage law (October 2012).



“Advertising is based on one thing, happiness. And you know what happiness is? Happiness is the smell of a new car. It’s freedom from fear. It’s a billboard on the side of the road that screams reassurance that whatever you are doing is okay. You are okay.”

-- Don Draper (Mad Men)





Law Shapes Culture, Culture Shapes Beliefs

1. Americans' support for same-sex marriage has risen from 37% in 2009 to 57% in May 2015.
2. The biggest shift in support has occurred among older Americans (Born 1928-1945) from 21% in 2001 to 39% in 2015.
3. 60% of Americans say a gay or lesbian person's sexual orientation cannot be changed.

**The majority's moral power makes individuals internally
ashamed to contradict it...**



**...which in effect silences them, and this silencing
culminates in a cessation of thinking.**

Rom. 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

What is God's Will?



**DOES IT MATTER WHO IS IN LOVE?
OR JUST THAT THEY ARE IN LOVE?**

#1 Does the Bible Permit?

- No, homosexual relationships are NEVER praised.
- Homosexuality is ALWAYS described as dysfunctional:
 - Before the law (Gen. 19:4-8)
 - In the law (Lev. 18:22; 20:13)
 - In the New Testament (Rom. 1:26-28; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)

Romans 1:26-27

“For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error”

#2 Was Jesus Silent?

1. Yes...
2. But He didn't expressly talk about a lot of things (drugs, bestiality, etc.)
3. If He doesn't condemn it is an action okay?
4. **No, that would ignore three things...**

Ignores the Totality of Scripture

- “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book” (John 20:30)
- “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Matt. 5:17)
- “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come” (John 16:12-13)

Ignores What Jesus Did Affirm About Marriage

In Mt. 19, Jesus identifies 3 things about marriage that leave no room for same-sex marriage:

- God created them male and female (v. 4)
- The two shall become one flesh (v. 5)
- What God has joined together, let not man separate (v. 6)

Ignores God-given Commonsense

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who:

1. Suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18)

The Majority Opinion in Obergefell...

“Until the mid-20th century same-sex intimacy long **had been** condemned as immoral” (p.7 emphasis added)

Suppresses the truth

- Ignores what the Bible has to say on the matter
- Ignores the ordinary meaning of words
- Ignores biology (sexual complementarity)
- Ignores social science

“Marriage Is not about giving adults what they want. It is about giving children what they need. Children need and deserve to be raised by both a mother and father who are married to each other.”

The Regenrus Study

Bibliographic Description

Study No.: 34392

Title: New Family Structures Study

Investigator(s): Mark Regnerus, University of Texas at Austin

Citation: Regnerus, Mark. New Family Structures Study. ICPSR34392-v1. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2012-11-28. <http://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR34392.v1>

Scope of Study

Summary: The New Family Structure Study (NFSS) is a comparative, social-science data-collection project, which focused on American young adults (ages 18-39) who were raised in different types of family arrangements with varying household experiences. The sample included respondents that had lived in biologically-intact households, lived with cohabiting parents, adoptive, step, or single parents, with parents who had same-sex relationships, or with parents who remarried after divorce. Respondents were asked about a range of topics, including social behaviors: such as educational attainment and performance, work history, risk-taking, and religiosity; health behaviors: such as substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, and emotional states (depression, anger, and stress), and relationships: including the quality and stability of romantic relationships, marital history, fertility, sexual orientation, and family connectedness. Additional questions asked whether respondents voted in the 2008 presidential election, how much time they spent on various activities; watching TV, gaming, and on social networking sites, and how many Facebook "friends" they had. Demographic information includes age, education level, race, gender, income, marital status, employment

- “The data show rather clearly that children raised by gay or lesbian parents on average are at a significant disadvantage when compared to children raised by the intact family of their married, biological mother and father”

Some of the Statistical Findings

- Children of homosexual parents fare significantly worse in 57 different categories.
- 11x more likely to say “yes” when asked if they were ever touched sexually by a parent or other adult (IBF 2%, LM 23%)
- 4X more likely to say “yes” when asked whether forced to have sexual relations against their will.
- Show the greatest propensity for crime and drug use.
- Stable same-sex parented households are virtually non-existent.

**This triangle of truisms,
of father, mother and child,
cannot be destroyed;
it can only destroy those
civilizations which
disregard it.**



G.K. Chesterton

Ignores God-given Commonsense

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who:

1. Suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18)
2. **Exchange the truth of God for a lie,** and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator (Rom 1:25)

Majority “Opinion” ...

- “Only in more recent years have psychiatrists and others recognized that sexual orientation is both a **normal** expression of human sexuality and **immutable**” (p.8)
- “Far from seeking to devalue marriage, the petitioners seek it for themselves because of their respect—and need—for its privileges and responsibilities. And their **immutable nature** dictates that same-sex marriage is their only real path to this profound commitment.”



immutable

i(m)-'myü-tə-bəl

Definition:

“unchanging over
time or unable to
be changed”



1 Cor. 6:9-11

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, **nor men who practice homosexuality**, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you.** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God”

Ignores God-given Commonsense

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who:

1. Suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18)
2. Exchange the truth of God for a lie, and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator (Rom 1:25)
3. Not only do [things worthy of death] but also give hearty approval to those who practice them (Rom. 1:32)

Majority Opinion Tries to Moralize Not Just Legalize Same-Sex Marriage

- “Marriage is **sacred**...and offers unique **fulfillment**” (p.3)
- “Marriage is essential to our most profound **hopes** and **aspirations**” (p.3)
- “There are untold references to the **beauty** of marriage in religious...texts” (p.4)
- “[T]he petitioners seek [marriage] for themselves because of their respect—and need—for its **privileges** and **responsibilities**” (p.4)
- “Through its enduring bond, two persons can find...**expression, intimacy, and spirituality**...whatever their sexual orientation” (p.13)
- “They ask for equal **dignity** in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right” (p. 28)



What the Obergefell decision does not do



1. It does not prevent us from speaking the truth in love – Eph 4:15
2. It does not prevent us from hosting weddings for those God joins together – Mt. 19:6
3. It does not require us to participate in the sins of others (such as assisting same-sex marriages) – 1 Tim. 5:22
4. It does not prevent us from helping those struggling with same-sex attraction.

The Invitation

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, **nor men who practice homosexuality**, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you.** But you **were** washed, you **were** sanctified, you **were** justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:9-11)