



I've Been Thinking about . . .

Why Same-Sex Marriage Would Take Us Where We Don't Want to Go

by Pastor Chris

It's time for the Church in Minnesota to protect marriage as its Inventor has designed it: a lifelong union between one man and one woman (Gen 1:27; 2:24; Matt 19:4-6). Among the many reasons for doing so is this: same-sex marriage would take us where we don't want to go.

Same-sex marriage would take us where we don't want to go because it travels away from God.

Shortly after becoming a Christian, Dennis Belkofer entered a relationship driven by desires and emotions that he neither understood nor wanted—a secret homosexual affair. A year later, unable to reconcile the relationship with Scripture, Dennis broke it off.

He then met a young Christian girl who was struggling with lesbianism. After knowing each other for four months, they got married. She left him after seven months.

Tired of trying not to be gay, Dennis threw himself into the gay lifestyle in Chicago. He entered into another homosexual relationship.

About seven years later, Dennis's sister Rachel lay dying of brain cancer. A week before her death, Rachel said to him, "Denny, the Lord told me you're gay. You'll never find true peace and love until you come back to Jesus."

As he was returning to Chicago from Rachel's funeral in Ohio, Dennis began to miss Jesus as one misses a friend. He soon ended his homosexual relationship and asked his partner to move out. He completely removed himself from the gay social scene. Dennis cried out to the Lord for forgiveness and came home to the one he never should have left in the first place—the Lord Jesus.

To his great joy, Jesus was waiting for him with open arms.

One Sunday, Dennis's pastor began a series on biblical prosperity: the peace and contentment that comes from allowing God to heal our wounds and move us forward in him. During lunch that afternoon, Dennis told several Christian friends for the first time about his homosexual past and his desire to move forward spiritually. They all pledged their love and support. He also told his pastor, and Dennis enjoys the support and accountability that his pastor and other church leaders provide.

Dennis says that he has learned, in a new way, just how far God's grace can extend.¹

In his love, God offers us his grace to heal our brokenness and to rescue us from our sin. We all need the God of healing, for we all are broken by the Fall. Same-sex orientation is one form of brokenness; homosexuals are broken heterosexuals. We all need the God of grace, for we all fall short of God's righteousness both in sins common to us all and in sins specific to each person. One sin, specific to some people, is homosexual behavior (Lev 18:22; 20:13; Rom 1:18-32; 1 Tim 1:8-11).²

Whether our sins are those of stealing, drunkenness, greed, or homosexual behavior, God's Son, Jesus Christ, seeks to deliver us from our sins and to draw us to God (1 Cor 6:9-11). Our only hope is repentance and rescue through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thus, the God of love and grace longs to bring homosexual people into the same freedom from the gay lifestyle that Dennis has found in Christ.

Jesus proclaimed this gospel: "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news" (Mk 1:15). A lifestyle of homosexual behavior alienates its practitioners from the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9-11).

Same-sex marriage would sanction a lifestyle that keeps people alienated from the kingdom of God. The legitimization of homosexual practice inherent in same-sex marriage would rob people in homosexual lifestyles of their only hope—repentance and rescue through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thus, same-sex marriage would put homosexual people, and our culture, on a road that stretches farther and farther away from God.

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“We are Honored People!”

Associate Pastor of Ministry Advancement & Adult Ministries
Howard Lundeen

The following statement is from the book *“Becoming a Contagious Christian”* by Bill Hybels & Mark Mittelberg:

“There is nothing as exciting in life as befriending, loving, and leading wayward people toward faith in Christ.”

I definitely believe this is true. God has placed us as a church, and each one of us as individuals, in a unique setting where we can experience the blessing and honor of helping people come to know the joy of new life in Jesus Christ. There is no greater news than the message of the gospel of Christ! We are truly honored people to have the privilege of knowing Him as our Lord and Savior and, as followers of Jesus, to be able to introduce people to him. The opportunity to know Christ and the life transforming reality of a personal relationship with Him is a blessing beyond description! Please take a moment to think about how desperate you would be if you did not have the assurance of salvation and sins forgiven; if you did not have God’s Word and the many promises he has given us in it; if you didn’t know and experience the freedom and power of being able to communicate with God in prayer; if you had to hopelessly trust in yourself or fellow man and didn’t have the boundless hope of faith in our supernatural, all powerful, loving God. At one time we were lost and dead in our transgressions and sins, BUT God in his mercy and grace has given to all of us, who believe in Jesus Christ, life eternal and adoption as children into his kingdom of light. Praise God for the honor that is ours to know and proclaim the life transforming news of the gospel of Christ!

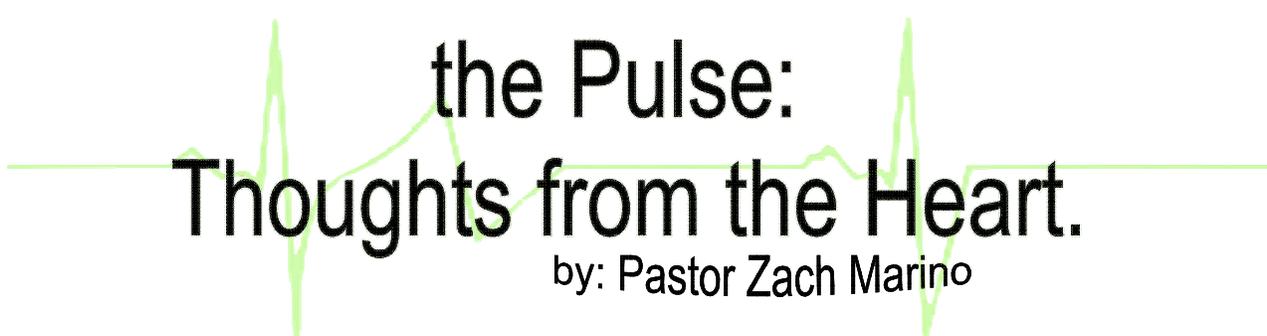
With this in mind, I simply want to encourage all of us to take part in the following “all church” outreach event:

**KICKS: Kids In Christ’s Kingdom
Ministry at Vista Villa
Sunday, July 8, 2012**

Also, with our new facility we will have opportunity to expand our children, youth and adult ministries this fall. Please be in prayer seeking God’s leading as to how you personally and we as a local body of believers can most effectively befriend, love, and lead lost, hurting people toward faith in Jesus Christ.

Seeking to know Him & make Him known,
Pastor Howard

***Save Sunday, August 19th on your calendar for
our Community Open House Celebration.***



the Pulse: Thoughts from the Heart.

by: Pastor Zach Marino

I trust that the previous Cornerstone articles have been encouraging and challenging as God speaks through His Word! This month I want to share a little snippet of my journey through the book of Hosea.

“On that day, says the LORD, you will call me, ‘My husband,’ and no longer will you call me, ‘My LORD.’ I will take away the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they will not be mentioned by name anymore” (Hosea 2:16-17).

It’s awesome here to see the change in relationship that happens when God initiates and transforms His people’s hearts. The people of Israel here have been so unfaithful, chasing other gods and thinking they can have God as their backup (v7). Yet, God will not play backup—he will always be first, even if it means letting his people go through hard times to get their attention. His desire is to be their “husband;” sharing that close intimacy. He will himself remove these gods to provide a way for the people to experience this close intimacy they once had (v15).

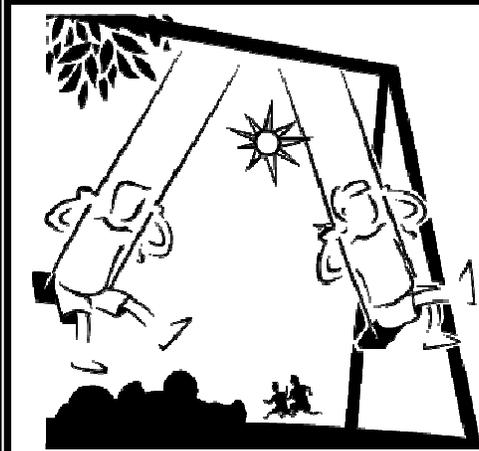
What idols are causing a gap in my intimacy with the LORD, or “My Father?” I would say the idol of pride, especially in my marriage. Yes, as a newlywed, I have learned the valuable lesson of crushing the idol of pride very quickly. It sneaks up way too often in the form of “Mr. Fixer.” I always knew that guys were known for this but it wasn’t going to be me. I knew better than that. However, it’s something within each guy, a built in hard-wiring if you will, that calls each guy to respond in the “fix-it” mentality. When I allow the “fix-it” mentality to dictate my words and actions, two things happen: (1) I am worshiping the idol of pride, causing a gap in my intimacy with God and, (2) I end up hurting my wife and our marriage relationship. The “hard-wiring” every guy has is part of our sin nature “motherboard” or central operating system. Even though it’s a natural response, that doesn’t mean it’s right or helpful. You see it’s God’s role to change hearts, not mine. My role is to allow the Gospel to change me first and then be there in grace and patience for my wife when she is in need of a comforting arm and soothing gentle words of love and security. That cannot happen though when I’m listening to the messages my natural system is sending me.

When the Gospel has a chance to change me, it reprograms that central system and starts sending Christ-centered messages, messages of love and grace, rather than impatience and flares of anger.

Don’t let God be your back-up plan when you fail at “fixing” the situation. Rather than inviting God in to clean up the mess you made, invite him in to clean up the mess inside of you, everyday. Let him remove the idols that are trashing your intimacy with Him and possibly even those close to you. You see, the man Jesus Christ who lived 2000 years ago, didn’t just die a terrible death on the cross, He overcame death itself by resurrecting in all glory and power! That resurrection paved the way for each human being to have an intimate relationship with God, just as the Israelite people had. Intimacy

ALL MOMS WELCOME!!

Please join us for *MAKS in the Park* this summer!



June - August
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
10:00 am
University Park, Waseca
Bring a picnic lunch

Questions: Call Stacy Dufault 461-6236

Invite a friend!!

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with God flows from your confession of sin, acknowledgement and belief that Jesus paid for your sins on the cross and rose from the dead, making the way to God. Romans 10:9 says that "If you confess with your mouth that, "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Friends, isn't it time to let go of trying to fix your life and allow God to renew it? If you have tried everything else that the world has to offer, why not give up trying and allow God to remove the trash and bring in the life? It's a simple prayer you can pray right now, to enter into intimacy with God. Just pray out loud or in your hearts this prayer. This prayer is not magical, it's just a way to express the **belief** you are placing in Jesus.

"God, I am tired of trying to fix my life with the world's solutions. I want you to be the one leading my life from here on out. I confess my sins before you now and believe that when Jesus died, my sins were paid for in full and when he rose from the grave, I am given new life in Christ. I believe that Jesus is the only way to intimacy with you and I commit to following after you each and every day. In Jesus name, Amen."

This is important! If you prayed that prayer, please email me because it's vital you share so you can be encouraged on your new journey in the Christian life. If you can access a Bible (biblegateway.com) please start to read through the Gospel of John. It's a great book about Jesus and his life on earth and what it means to follow Him.

The Reality is—> A relationship with Jesus Christ is the only way to experience true intimacy with God, there's no other backups.

Copied from zachmarino.wordpress.com

We have the opportunity as a church family to minister to a needy family in the community with 3 young children.



We are looking for gently used clothing



**Girls sizes 6 and 7/8,
and Boys size 2T.**

Socks & underwear are always helpful, as well as size 4 diapers.

(If sharing fall/winter clothing, please consider a size larger.)

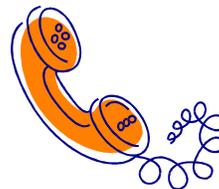
Items can be placed in the green tote in the church foyer.



Opportunity

KICKS - Kids in Christ's Kingdom - Sunday, JULY 8, 2012

Following the morning worship service at CCC, join us for lunch at Vista Villa and stay for the afternoon. Please sign up at the Info Booth so we can plan for the amount of hamburgers/hotdogs to prepare.



Ron & Dorothy Anderly have offered to open their home for anyone in our church family needing a place to stay during medical appointments, testing or hospital stays in Rochester. Their home phone number is 507-288-4040.



Next Man Up Notes

We have begun a seven-month series looking at the seven deadly sins. Our June discussion focused on the opposition player Pride. The upcoming forum schedule, for the second Saturday of each month from 7:30-9:00am, is tentatively set as:

July 14	Greed
August 11	Sloth
September 8	Lust

October 13	Gluttony
November 10	Envy
December 8 or 15	Anger
<i>December date will be determined by Celebrate the Gift schedule.</i>	

As always, the notes from the forums are available online at jmnexmanup.weebly.com.

Keith VonEnde



WOMEN'S MINISTRY Upcoming Events



SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

The Attributes of God

Monday mornings 10-11:30am
July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

For information call Mary Milton 507-362-8468

FALL BIBLE STUDIES:

Beloved Disciple – By Beth Moore **Jude - Precepts Bible Study**

Watch for details to come....

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Monday, August 6th
7 - 9:00 p.m.

At the home of Gina Schaus –
2404 6th Street NE, Waseca



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Same-sex marriage would take us where we don't want to go because it vandalizes God's portrait of the gospel.

Ephesians 5:22-33 reveals that the relationship between husband and wife paints the relationship between Christ (portrayed by the man) and his Bride the church (portrayed by the woman). Thus, God has designed marriage as between one man and one woman in order to portray the gospel. The married heterosexual couple proclaims the gospel.

A marriage between two men portrays two Christs and no church. A marriage between two women portrays two churches and no Christ. Either one vandalizes the portrait of the gospel that God has painted into his design for marriage. The proclamation of the gospel is thereby perverted. Furthermore, Scripture lists homosexual practice among sins contrary to the gospel (1 Tim 1:8-11). Opposition to God's one-man-one-woman design for marriage is opposition to the gospel.

Since Ephesians 5 binds our relationship with Jesus to God's one-woman-one-man design for marriage, then the farther we stray from God's definition of marriage, the farther we wander from Jesus. We lose sight of who he is and who we are: the Bridegroom and his Bride. We lose sight of our ultimate purpose: to marry the Lamb (Rev 19:6-9).³

Same-sex marriage would take us where we don't want to go because it robs God.

God established marriage and designed it to be between one man and one woman (Gen 1:26-27; 2:23-24; Matt 19:4-6; Eph 5:22-33). Thus, marriage belongs to God, and its design belongs to him.

To remove the one-man-one-woman design from marriage is to seize for ourselves what belongs to God and then reinvent it contrary to the Owner's design. It is a fearful thing to steal from the omnipotent Judge of all the earth.

Same-sex marriage would take us where we don't want to go because it leads to death.

God has revealed his truth in creation (Rom 1:18-32). Our Creator's truth regarding human sexuality is partly revealed in his design of the human body, which is anatomically suited for heterosexual activity, not for homosexual activity.

Consequently, as medical data demonstrate, male homosexual activity results in numerous diseases, so much so that the gay lifestyle reduces life expectancy by 25 to 30 years. Fewer than 2% of homosexual men survive to age 65.⁴

How sad it is that same-sex marriage sanctions such a deadly lifestyle.

Same-sex marriage would take us where we don't want to go because it spurns the wisdom of the ages.

God reveals himself as he directs history (Job 12:23; Acts 17:26-28). Throughout history, marriage has been between opposite sexes. Anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss notes, "The family—based on a union, more or less durable, but socially approved, of two individuals of opposite sexes who establish a household and bear and raise children—appears to be a practically universal phenomenon in every type of society."⁵

To remove the opposite sexes from marriage is to imply that our "wisdom" is more enlightened than the wisdom of all humankind in all societies through all millennia of all history—an arrogance that C. S. Lewis decried as "chronological snobbery."

Same-sex marriage crashes a barricade that the wisdom of the ages has erected. What happens when you crash a barricade?

Same-sex marriage would take us where we don't want to go because it further erodes commitment in marriage.

The infection of no-fault divorce and the ensuing pandemic of divorce have eroded the commitment inherent in God's design for marriage (Matt 19:6). The results have been tragically deleterious for our society in general and for women and children in particular.⁶

Same-sex marriage would further erode commitment in marriage for two reasons.

First, same-sex marriages are divorce prone. While same-sex marriage is relatively recent in the United States, it has a longer history in Scandinavia. "In Norway, male same-sex marriages are 50 percent more likely to end in divorce than heterosexual marriages, and female same-sex marriages are an astonishing 167 percent more likely to be dissolved."⁷

Second, the gay lifestyle is marked by sexual relations with numerous partners, even in marriage. Gay marriages are

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open—wide open. Homosexual activist Andrew Sullivan has admitted that most homosexuals' understanding of the sexual commitment in marriage is considerably broader than what nearly all heterosexual couples would tolerate.⁸

A 2003 study found that in the Netherlands, which legalized gay unions in the 1990s, “the average homosexual relationship lasts only 1.5 years, and that gay men have an average of eight sexual partners per year outside of their primary relationship.”⁹

In higher divorce rates and wide open marriage, same-sex marriages are virtually devoid of commitment. How might the lack of commitment in same-sex marriages influence commitment in all marriages?

Evidence suggests that gay marriage will redefine marriage as a non-monogamous institution. Sociologist Gretchen Stiers's 1998 survey of gay and lesbian couples indicates that many gays and lesbians who want to see marriage abolished (and multiple sexual unions legitimized) nonetheless intend to marry in an effort to eliminate monogamy from marriage. Furthermore, “Author and gay marriage advocate Richard Mohr has long expressed the hope and expectation that legal gay marriage will succeed in defining monogamy out of marriage.”¹⁰

The commitment of faithful monogamy is at the core of marriage (Gen 2:24; Ex 20:14). If gay marriage, inherently open, succeeds in defining monogamy out of marriage, then marriage will be deconstructed entirely and will cease to exist.

Same-sex marriage would take us where we don't want to go because it would deconstruct marriage entirely.

Once marriage is redefined to eliminate its one-man-one-woman design, further redefinition of marriage becomes possible—and inevitable—for two reasons. First, gay marriage leads to group marriage. Second, the same arguments used to support same-sex marriage also support any redefinition of marriage.

With same-sex marriage, the camel's nose is in the tent. Polyamorous (group) marriage is next. Polyamory denotes any sexually-connected group, such as a group of one woman and two men, or a group of four bisexuals, or a group of five lesbians, or a group of six heterosexuals and bisexuals in any combination of genders, etc. The social rationale for marriage between only two people comes from the existence of only two genders: male and female. Once two genders are removed from the definition of marriage, the restriction of marriage to two people breaks down. State-sanctioned polyamory follows, not only in its classic form of polygamy, but also in any numerical combination of male and female, straight, gay, or bisexual.

A network of organizations is already seeking legal recognition for polyamory. State-sanctioned polyamory is now the cutting-edge issue among prominent family law theorists.

Several influential family law professors support gay marriage as a step toward state-sanctioned polyamory. They include David Chambers, professor of law emeritus at the University of Michigan, and Nancy Polikoff of American University's law school. Furthermore, University of Maryland law professor Martha Ertman cheerfully implies that the typical gay couple, by having multiple sexual partners, is slowly collapsing the taboo against polygamy and polyamory.

These law professors are among the most prominent and influential family law theorists in the country. Many other family law theorists follow them in supporting gay marriage as a step toward state-sanctioned polyamory. Their students will occupy governors' mansions, state houses, and judicial benches.

They are content to move slowly, yet deliberately. “Gradual transition from gay marriage to state-sanctioned polyamory, and the eventual abolition of marriage itself as a legal category, is now the most influential paradigm within academic family law. As Chambers put it, ‘All desirable changes in family law need not be made at once.’”¹¹

Furthermore, the same arguments used to support same-sex marriage can be marshaled to support further redefinition of marriage:

- “Two people who love each other should be able to get married.” I love my sister. Should I be able to marry my sister?
- “Marriage is a civil right that should not be denied to lesbians and gays.” If so, then marriage is a civil right that should not be denied to bisexuals. After all, bisexuals are the “B” in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender—LGBT—community. If marriage is a civil right granted to two categories of people in a community (“L” and “G”), then marriage as a civil right must also be granted to the other two categories of people in the same community (“B” and “T”). Since a bisexual person is sexually attracted to both males and females, the granting of the “civil right” of marriage to bisexuals will usher in polyamorous group marriage. Moreover, while proponents of gay marriage connect it to the civil rights movement,

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sixty percent of African-Americans oppose same-sex marriage, and thereby reject the linking of gay marriage to the civil rights movement. Black is not a behavior; homosexual practice is.

- “You should not discriminate in marriage.” To restrict marriage to adults is age discrimination. Minor Attracted People have already petitioned for the removal of pedophilia from the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM).¹² (Homosexual activists obtained the removal of homosexuality from the DSM in 1973. Social acceptance followed.) Here comes the child bride.

If you cannot conceive of some of these marriage combinations in our society, ask yourself if, in 1972, you could have conceived of gay marriage in America. As Francis Schaeffer said, what is unthinkable in one generation is thinkable in the next.

Same-sex marriage would take us to such broad and inclusive redefinitions of marriage that marriage could include everyone, and therefore be nothing. Stanley Kurtz, research fellow at the Hoover Institution, concludes, “The core issue here is not homosexuality; it is marriage. Marriage is a critical social institution. Stable families depend on it. Society depends on stable families. Up to now, with all the changes in marriage, the one thing we’ve been sure of is that marriage means monogamy. Gay marriage will break that connection. It will do this by itself, and by leading to polygamy and polyamory. What lies beyond gay marriage is no marriage at all.”¹³ Our society’s foundational institution would cease to exist.

Same-sex marriage would take us where we don’t want to go because it harms children.

The New Family Structures Study was generated by academic leaders at major universities and published on June 10, 2012 in the journal *Social Science Research*. The principal investigator was Mark Regnerus, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas Austin. The study surveyed adults ages 18-39 who, when children, were raised in various kinds of family arrangements. 15,058 respondents completed the survey.

Compared to young adults who spent their childhood without a lesbian mother, those who knew that their mothers had a lesbian relationship scored significantly worse on measures of educational attainment and household income. They reported more depression and more marijuana use. They felt less close to their biological mother, and they felt less safe and secure in their family of origin. They more often pled guilty to a minor criminal offense, and they were more likely to be on public assistance. Twenty-three percent of them reported forced sexual contact with a parent or adult caregiver, while only two percent of respondents from intact families with a mother and father reported such contact.

Compared to young adults who spent their childhood without a gay father, those who knew that their fathers had a gay relationship were more likely to have been arrested, more likely to have recently thought about suicide, and more likely to feel depressed. They were more likely to have contracted sexually transmitted diseases, and they more often reported forced sexual encounters.

In sum, the children (now young adults) of parents known to have had homosexual relationships reported increased rates of suffering. Their rates of suffering were higher than the rates for children who were raised in intact families with two biological parents, children whose parents divorced later in life, children who were raised with a step-parent in the home, children raised by a single parent, and children adopted by strangers.¹⁴

While the New Family Structures Study is only one study, whose findings and conclusions will need to be verified by further research, the scope and rigor of this study are impressive. Scientific evidence now suggests that children fare poorly when they are raised by a parent who has a homosexual relationship.

Same-sex marriage would take us where we don’t want to go because it erodes freedom of religion.

Elaine and Jon Huguenin own and operate Elane Photography in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Two lesbians asked Elaine to photograph their “commitment ceremony.” Elaine declined because she and her husband hold Christian beliefs that conflict with the message conveyed by the ceremony. The same-sex couple filed a complaint with the New Mexico Human Rights Commission. The commission issued an order finding that Elane Photography had engaged in “sexual orientation discrimination” prohibited under state law and ordered it to pay \$6,637.94 in attorney fees to the two women who had filed the complaint. The Huguenins’ freedom of religion under the First Amendment was violated.

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Already, religious groups that open their facilities to the public, but refuse to do so for same-sex weddings, have lost their state tax exemptions.

Catholic Charities in Boston and Washington, D.C. have been forced to close their adoption agencies because, in accord with their faith, they would not place children with same-sex adoptive parents.

Same-sex marriage forces Christian parents to subject their children to teaching, in the public schools, that marriage is genderless. In Massachusetts, where the state Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2004, second graders have been taught about gay marriage in class. The courts have ruled that parents have neither the right to prior notice nor the right to opt their children out of this instruction. A father was jailed for refusing to allow his second-grade son to participate.

In all these instances, the unvoiced assumption is that freedom of religion is granted by the state, and therefore can be regulated by the state.

Thomas Jefferson stated, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"¹⁵

What Now?

How should Christians respond?

Trust God. He is sovereign. Nothing happens that he does not either cause or allow. All the nations are like a drop in a bucket to him (Is 40:15). Christ will come again to consummate his kingdom (Rev 19:1-22:21). And in the meantime, God reserves 7,000 who have not bowed the knee to Baal.

Pray, pray, pray. When Christians work, Christians work. When Christians pray, God works.

Become informed. More information is available from:

- National Organization for Marriage, www.nationformarriage.org
- Minnesota Family Council, www.mfc.org
- My previous *Cornerstone* articles, "The Bible and Homosexual 'Marriage': A Response to *Newsweek*," and "The Church and Homosexuality." These are available in the church office.

Speak up.

- Champion God's design for marriage with both grace and truth, as representatives of the One who is full of grace and truth (Jn 1:14).

○ Let us speak God's truth unadulteratedly, unattenuatedly, and unabashedly. While taking care that we ourselves do not offend, we must recognize that the truth itself may offend, particularly when the name of Jesus is mentioned. We must neither omit the Christ of truth nor mutate the truth of Christ to mollify its offense.

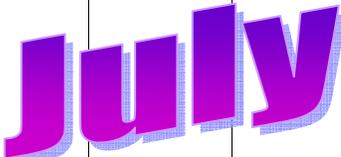
○ Let us show God's grace compassionately. We all need God's grace in Christ, whatever form of brokenness the Fall has produced in our lives. Extend the love of Jesus to people who are struggling with same-sex attraction. Treat gays and lesbians with dignity and respect as people created in the image of God (Gen 1:27). Let us never be judgmental, for the Father has entrusted all judgment to the Son, not to us (Jn 5:22). When we are labeled as bigots and homophobes, let us rejoice in the blessing we receive thereby (Mt 5:11-12), and let us never vilify the other side in return (1 Pt 2:21-23; 3:9). Christians should pioneer a return to civility in our national discourse.

- Point people to the Life Changer, Jesus Christ. While persuading someone is always a bonus, let us remember that our chief end is not to win a debate but to point people to Jesus. Alan Chambers is a former homosexual who, by the life-changing power of Christ, has left the gay lifestyle and has been joyfully married to his wife Leslie for thirteen years. Alan is the president of Exodus International, a Christian ministry that helps people struggling with homosexuality by compassionately disciplining them in self-denial, inward change, and holiness in every aspect of life—all in Christ. Alan reminds us, "What's our mission? It's not to fix people. It's to point them to Jesus. He's the one who changes people's hearts and lives. . . . The opposite of homosexuality isn't heterosexuality. It's holiness."¹⁶

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On November 6, vote “Yes” on the Minnesota Marriage Amendment, which reads, “Shall the Minnesota constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?” (Note that the amendment does not change current marriage statutes. The amendment prevents the redefinition of marriage by the legislature and the courts. The amendment also protects marriage from polygamy and other forms of polyamory.) Encourage and remind your family and friends to vote “Yes.” Do not leave the question blank, as a blank will be counted as a “No” vote. Remember, God designed marriage to be between one man and one woman as a portrait of the gospel (Eph 5:22-33). Thus, the defense of marriage goes well beyond politics. This is a matter neither of the donkey nor of the elephant, but of the Lamb.

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1. Dennis Belkofer, “My Dirty Little Former Secret,” *Christianity Today*, April 2006, 46-48.
 2. We see heterosexuality in creation before the Fall (Gen 1:27-28a; 2:18-25). But we do not see homosexuality until after the Fall (Gen 19:4-5). In creation, God designed humans to be heterosexual. Thus, same-sex orientation is one form of human brokenness brought by the Fall. In short, homosexuals are broken heterosexuals. Homosexual orientation was recognized in the ancient world (as evidenced, for example, in the *Dialogues of Plato*), yet Scripture never calls same-sex *orientation* sinful. It is homosexual *lust* and *practice* that Scripture calls sinful. Same-sex attraction presents a temptation, which in itself is not sinful. Homosexual passion and behavior indulge the temptation, and *are* sinful. Sexual practice outside of monogamous marriage between one man and one woman is foreign to God’s creative design for sexual expression and is therefore sin, whether that sin be homosexual practice or extramarital heterosexual practice.
 3. Nate Oylo, “Sex is Prophetic,” *Outpost News*, vol. 34, No. 4, April 2009.
 4. “How Healthy Is Homosexuality?” *Kairos Journal*, www.kairosjournal.org. Accessed on January 17, 2012. Online access is limited to pastors, but I will make the article available to anyone who asks for it.
 5. Claude Levi-Strauss, *The View from Afar* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992), 40-41.
 6. Advocates of same-sex marriage counter arguments for traditional marriage by pointing to high divorce rates among heterosexual couples. This red herring is a logical non sequitur. The dissolution of traditional marriage is not traditional marriage. Traditional marriage lasts for a lifetime, and brings stability to the culture. High divorce rates are not a rationale for same-sex marriage, but rather an incentive to return to the lifetime commitment inherent in a true traditional marriage. In other words, the unraveling of traditional marriage is not an argument to further unravel traditional marriage, but to return to traditional marriage. Traditional marriage produces stable families, which produce a stable society.
 7. Charles C. W. Cooke, “The Gay Divorcees,” *National Review Online*, May 15, 2012, www.nationalreview.com. Accessed on June 7, 2012.
 8. Wayne Grudem, “Upholding God’s Design for Marriage,” Minnesota Pastors for Marriage Conference, May 9, 2012.
 9. Maria Xiridou et al, “The Contribution of Steady and Casual Partnerships to the Incidence of HIV Infection among Homosexual Men in Amsterdam,” *AIDS*, vol. 17, 2003, 1029-1038.
 10. Stanley Kurtz, “Beyond Gay Marriage,” *The Weekly Standard*, August 11, 2003, www.weeklystandard.com. Accessed on June 8, 2012.
 11. *Ibid.* This article is the source for much of the information in the preceding paragraphs.
 12. “Deviancy Defenders,” *World*, December 17, 2011, 68.
 13. Stanley Kurtz, *op cit*.
 14. Keith Ablow, “Study Finds Host of Challenges for Kids of Gay Parents,” www.foxnews.com. Accessed on June 12, 2012. The same article notes that a careful analysis demonstrates the inadequacy of the research studies that led the American Psychological Association (in 2005) to assert that the children of homosexual parents are not disadvantaged compared to the children of heterosexual parents. The analysis of these studies demonstrates that the available data, which were drawn from small convenience samples, are insufficient to support a strong generalizable claim. Thus, the claim that the children of homosexual parents are not disadvantaged, compared to the children of heterosexual parents, is not grounded in science.
 15. Jefferson Memorial, Panel Three, Washington, D.C.
 16. Jamie Dean, “Alan Chambers: Change We Can Believe In,” *World*, December 17, 2011, 36-43.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>9:30am</u> Worship <u>11:00am</u> Congr. Care Comm. <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	2 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>1:00pm</u> Open House Comm. Mtg.	3 <u>10:00am</u> MAKS - at University Park <u>11:30am</u> Small Group Leadership <u>6:30pm</u> Children's <u>7:00pm</u> Property	4  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Office closed</div>	5 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team	6 <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group <u>6-8:00pm</u> Farewell for Mel	7
<i>Youth at Challenge - National Youth Conference in New Orleans - through July 8th</i>						
8 <u>9:30am</u> Worship <u>Noon</u> - KICKS at Vista Villa <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	9 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Sustain <u>6:30pm</u> Outreach	10	11	12 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team	13 <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	14 <u>6:00am</u> Journey Men <u>7:30am</u> Next Man Up
15 <u>9:30am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	16 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Sustain <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Ministries	17 <u>10:00am</u> MAKS - at University Park <u>6:30pm</u> Elder Board Meeting	18	19 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team	20 <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	21
22 <u>9:30am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	23 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Sustain	24 <u>7:00pm</u> Adult Discipleship	25	26 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team	27 <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	28
29 <u>9:30am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	30 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Sustain Bonfire & Games at Krauses'	31				



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 * **Watch for details next month -** *
 * **Missions Garage Sale scheduled for** *
 * **Saturday, August 4th** *
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Christ Community Church Mission Statement

As a local body of believers, we will seek to glorify God in worship, in evangelizing the unsaved and in teaching Christians to obey everything Christ commanded. To that end, prayer will be our foremost task, Scripture will be our authority, God's Holy Spirit will be our source of power and love will be our motivation.

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