

Who will pass on Godliness?

By Bill Johnson



The church pianist played the familiar hymns of the faith as the family, friends, and loved ones sat in solemnity. The pastor walked down the aisle, followed by the casket, then the family walked down the aisle to take their seats in preparation for the funeral service of a godly woman, a pastor's wife of 62 years, mother of five, grandmother of thirty-one, great grandmother of nineteen.

The tears rolled down my cheeks as I felt pain for that hurting family. The procession, the casket, the tender moments, the love is an experience that most of us have had. With the passing years, it becomes all too familiar.

In the case of this family, it was, as the husband stated, a day of celebrating the life of a godly woman passing from this broken life and world to the new life that she looked forward to, knowing so very clearly that this world is not our home. That her Lord was preparing a place for her. That her name was written down in glory!

The godly woman I am referring to is our former board member of twenty-three years, Jo Ann Haas. Her husband Vern also served with us as a board member for a number of years. Jan and I and our staff knew them as friends, colleagues and as board members.

Still, I was surprised but deeply blessed when I was asked to share some words at the beginning of the service regarding not only Jo Ann's commitment to the American Decency Association, but to especially give

encouragement to the thirty-one grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren to live bold, godly lives in Christ Jesus.

I was moved by the intensity of one of the sons-in-law telling me of the clear intentionality of Jo Ann to give such a charge to those following after her.

Jo Ann Haas was a woman who loved God and brought glory to His Name! From the vantage point of many, Jo Ann trusted in God and reflected God's grace and mercy to all around her, despite living with pain for a number of years. And how she loved the little ones and "the least of these."

God led me to share the following words (in part) that I believed Jo Ann would want spoken into the lives of her loved ones and each and every one.

Jo Ann and Vern were attentive to what was going on around them as they saw our airwaves increasingly filled with images and themes degrading children and families - that what we take into our hearts and minds does impact. Jo Ann and Vern saw our culture turning away from Biblical Truth and the great damage done to countless lives - and they would not sit idly by without doing something about it.

... Part of our Purpose Statement at ADA reads: "Being a light in a darkened world does not imply a selfish retreat from that world, but an activism within it proceeding from love for God and our neighbor."

It was this love for the holiness of God and for others - and for generations yet to come - that led Jo Ann to be a very bright light in our darkened world.

Jo Ann was engaged with ADA because she foresaw not only what could happen, but what would happen to children (even potentially her own loved ones) as Godlessness, degradation, and deceit were pressed upon an undiscerning, increasingly desensitized people.

Jo Ann was engaged with ADA because she foresaw that people young and old would fail to teach the difference (as the Bible says) between the holy and the profane.

Further, that no one can pass on what they don't have. That Godlessness is passed on through Godlessness.

This was Jo Ann's burden.

Who will pass on Godliness? Will our offspring? Will your grandkids? Will her great grandchildren? Will you? Will I?

Will we pick up the baton Jo Ann has left us? Who will call evil, evil? Who will call Christians to pursue holiness without which no man shall see the Lord?

May God pour out His grace on each of us. Who will pass on Godliness? May it be that not only will we, but our offspring that come after us no matter what others around us choose to do.



From the desk of Bill Johnson

A Bonhoeffer Moment

Recently, I was on a phone conference call with a number of other Christian leaders. **The discussion centered around the impending Supreme Court decision to be decided in April and made public in June.**

Many of you are concerned that that decision may go against God's law, natural law.

We are not oblivious to the reality that God's word makes it clear that when a government puts man's law in a position where it supersedes God's law, then the Christian is to obey God rather than man.

Dr. Rick Scarborough stated it this way on the phone conference:

We are approaching a Bonhoeffer moment in America.

Outrageous penalties are now being assessed against people of faith and conviction who haven't changed their position on marriage. Rather it's the courts that have changed the definitions, the rules and laws that now govern us. They are ruling against Nature's Law and Nature's God. Christians are being declared the lawbreakers when we are simply living by what we have always believed and by a set of laws that the culture historically has agreed to.

My desire as a pastor is to see another Great Awakening, and I pray that those caught up in any sin will find Jesus and God's grace, but that can only come when there is a biblical standard lifted up and acknowledged as truth. Right now the courts are changing the playing field and declaring that what the natural eye can see and natural law reveals is not truth. Therefore, this is a Bonhoeffer moment. What will we do and how will we respond?

Dr. James Dobson (President of Family Talk) stated:

As Christian leaders, we cannot sit and let our voices go silent when that's what the rest of the world, Congress, and many other Christian leaders and pastors are doing. We must stand together. ...

We will be attacked from every direction, and critics will do all they can to weaken and embarrass us, but so what? Are we going to sit on our reputations and go to our graves without having played a role? This is Roe v. Wade all over again. I am standing shoulder to shoulder with all who will stand up for God's Word concerning marriage. We don't know all of the steps that must be taken, but God will reveal His will. To the extent that I am able to influence anybody, I will do it with passion.

Matt Staver (President of Liberty Counsel) stated:

Let me address the seriousness and the basis for engaging with resistance to a Supreme Court decision that could go the wrong way. Once you elevate same-sex marriage to the level of protected status, whether on the federal or the state level, you begin to change and transform the face of society. In my view it will result in the beginning of the end of Western Civilization. ...

Same-sex marriage or laws including sexual orientation or gender identity as a non-discrimination category directly impact religious organizations and churches. If a man wants to use the women's restroom and a church official told him he could not, then that act would be like telling people of color they cannot use the "white only" restroom. You will also have the same issues with tax exemption over sexual preference as you have now over race.

Already a Methodist church association in New Jersey lost its property tax exemption status because it refused to allow use of their facilities for a same-sex union. Although the church then obtained a religious exemption instead, it ceased all weddings on its boardwalk pavilion. Bob Jones University lost its tax exemption status because it refused to allow mixed-race dating. They have since abandoned that false doctrinal belief, but they still lost their tax exemption

at the Supreme Court. It will not be long if same-sex marriage is adopted that other universities could lose tax exemptions if they maintain a policy based on natural marriage and biblical morality.

Anything that you can imagine on the basis of race discrimination will apply to this issue of sexual preference. There is a huge collision coming. Those examples will be intensified significantly.

Roe v. Wade was a time when the church should have said no, regardless of what seven Supreme Court justices said. The difference is Roe was a wrong decision that resulted in a loss of life, but people were not forced to participate in it. With this issue, people will be forced to participate and affirm it. It will affect licenses for counselors, attorney disciplines, and every licensing profession will be affected.

In the history of the Supreme Court, they have reversed themselves about 230 times, and other Supreme Court decisions have been overruled by new laws or Constitutional amendments. Two were especially bad decisions. There was the Dred Scott decision in 1857. The Supreme Court told Scott he was not entitled to full citizenship, because people believed that "blacks are inferior human beings." That was contrary to the Constitution, natural law and revealed law, but we still went along with it and we ended up in a civil war. Today no one would agree that was right. Why did we obey it then? ...

What will you and I do if the U.S. Supreme Court rules against Nature's law and Nature's God?

On a separate sheet in this newsletter is a statement that will be sent to the U.S. Supreme Court signed by religious and pro-family leaders, including ADA, and by people like you and me. Many others across the nation are giving friends and loved ones the opportunity to sign the pledge sheet. ([It will be available online](#)).

Read prayerfully the pledge as it may have serious implications. By signing it you would be signifying that you are standing firm for natural law and opposing the redefining of marriage to the highest court in the land, the U.S. Supreme Court.

Bringing Christ Home

ADA's Second Annual Spring Event - June 5-7 at "The Shack"



It is our great honor to bring to you American Decency's Second Annual Spring Event.

We recall the face to face communications expressed by several of last year's attendees who spoke with tears in their eyes saying "This was life-changing."

Come share the beautiful grounds, the gorgeous log-built buildings, and the blue water of Robinson Lake with your spouse, along with other like-minded believers, as we listen to and discuss God's glorious view for the family with respected ministry leaders.

We have entitled this year's event: Bringing Christ Home Family and the Supremacy of Christ

Whether you are quite well along in years of marriage or just out of the "starting blocks," I believe this weekend at the Shack will be used of God to bring Glory to His Mighty Name as He does what only He can do - vastly more than we can even ask or imagine - for He is God!

It's our sincere hope that you'll join us for this time of refreshing and renewal, a time for looking at the Biblical ideal of family where Christ reigns supreme. This will be a time for you and your spouse to set aside your hectic schedules, enjoy one another, evaluate your family goals, and hear from the Word of God about marriage, family, and Christ's call for you to complement one another.

You'll hear from godly men whose passion is to see your family built up in the Lord and your marriage bonds strengthened with Christ at the center of each individual and at the center of each marriage.

Friday evening

6:00 p.m. – Buffet dinner served
7:00 p.m. – Welcome and opening: Bill Johnson, President of American Decency
7:15 p.m. – Bruce Kuiper – "The Foundation, Formation, and Fall" – Genesis 1-3
8:30 p.m. – Banana split and fellowship
9:00 p.m. – Rev. Ken Smith – "A Biblical Counselor's Burden for American families"
9:55 p.m. – Prayer
10:30 p.m. – The Shack has quiet time set for all guests

Saturday

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. – Breakfast buffet
9:00 a.m. – Bruce Kuiper - "Gospel Shaped Men and Women Enjoying Eternity Today"
9:45 a.m. – Ken Smith – Evidences of God's Grace and Mercy
10:45 – 11:00 a.m. – Break
11:00 – 11:25 a.m. – Bill Johnson – "My journey in complementarianism"

Break

12:00 p.m. – Lunch served
12:30 – 3:15 p.m. – Free time to spend time by the lake and explore the beautiful grounds of the Shack
3:15 p.m. - Bruce Kuiper – Saving and sanctifying eternal souls through the simple strategy of Father-Led Family
4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. - Panel discussion with Ken Smith, Bruce Kuiper and Bill Johnson
5:30 – 7:00 p.m. – Buffet dinner served
7:15 – 8:15 p.m. – A time of singing and praise and a time of prayer
8:30 p.m. – Banana split and fellowship
10:30 p.m. – The Shack has a quiet time set for all guests

Sunday morning

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. – buffet breakfast
9:30 a.m. – Worship service at the beautiful outdoor chapel nestled next to Robinson Lake.
10:30 a.m. – closing and send off

Please join us June 5-7 for what promises to be a powerful weekend of timely information, fellowship, and spiritual challenge! There are 55 rooms available for our June retreat at the beautiful conference center, The Shack Country Inn, based near American Decency Association's headquarters in Fremont, Michigan.

Here are the logistics:

A WEEKEND CONFERENCE

Bringing Christ Home
Family and the Supremacy of Christ

**When: June 5-7
(Friday, Saturday, Sunday)**

To book your rooms for the weekend, call The Shack at 231-924-6683; let them know you're with American Decency.

Rates for a 2 person/2 Night Stay

Back view Rooms - \$240.00
Lake view Rooms - \$260.00
Hot Tub Rooms - \$300.00

Rates include:

Friday Dinner and Banana Splits
Saturday Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Banana Split
Sunday Breakfast

The price for meals if someone is not spending the night but attending the conference is:

Lunch - \$7.50 + Tax per person
Dinner - \$12.50 + Tax per person
Banana Splits - \$5.00

To register for the conference, call ADA at 231-924-4050

For further information regarding speakers, schedule, location, go to:
<http://www.americandecency.org/ShackEvent/home.php>

May God bring whom He will! Please join us in praying for the speakers and all who will be attending.

That God would be glorified!

Planet Fitness and the Judgment Free Zone

by Lisa Van Houten



Reading the daily headlines, it sometimes seems as if we've entered an alternate universe. A universe where up is down and wrong is right. A universe where a gym named Planet Fitness allows confused men dressed in women's clothing to shower and dress in designated women's locker rooms. Quoting the Robot from the old TV series *Lost in Space* – something “Does Not Compute!”

Yet this is exactly what happened at a Planet Fitness location in Midland, Michigan. When Planet Fitness gym member Yvette Cormier found to her surprise that she was sharing the women's locker room with a transgender man, she reported to the front desk that there was a man changing in the woman's locker room.

I'm sure Cormier expected the gym to share her reasonable concern about a man undressing in the woman's locker room. After all, last November a class-action lawsuit was filed against Planet Fitness after hidden cameras were discovered in the tanning bed facilities of two Illinois Planet Fitness locations. And in June 2014 a man was arrested after placing a camera in the women's locker room of a Planet Fitness in Massachusetts. However, it seems Planet Fitness is more concerned about protecting the feelings of a miniscule minority than protecting the safety and security of their female clientele.

According to Cormier, she was told by the Planet Fitness employee that “whatever gender you feel you are, that's the locker room you're allowed to go in.” The only remedy the gym offered if she was uncomfortable was to wait until he was finished changing before she used the locker room.

Cormier called the corporate office to further voice her complaint and suggested installing a unisex locker room. However her concern fell on deaf ears. And when she warned other female gym members of the policy to allow cross-dressing men in the women's locker room, Cormier was informed that she was in violation of the Planet Fitness “Judgment Free Zone” policy and her membership was revoked.

So what exactly is a “Judgment Free Zone?” As stated by Planet Fitness public relations director, McCall Gosselin: ***“Planet Fitness is committed to creating a non-intimidating, welcoming environment for our members. Our gender identity non-discrimination policy states that members and guests may use all gym facilities based on their sincere self-reported gender identity. ...”***

Non-intimidating? Yet how much more intimidating can it be for a woman to have to share a locker room with a man. Putting on lipstick and a dress does not change biology. However it can be a ticket for sexual predators to find easy access to women and girls.

As Family Research Council warns: ***“Unfortunately, this is the kind of topsyturvy scenario that will be playing out in public restrooms, showers, and locker rooms across the country if more cities don't turn back this push to elevate sexual orientation and gender identity above personal privacy and public safety. You don't have to be a Christian or a conservative to understand the practical effects of these laws. “Tolerance” sounds like a great idea until your little girl is in the restroom with a grown man. By introducing gender politics into an environment like a gym, Planet Fitness is creating a culture ripe for abuse.”***

For a “Judgment Free Zone,” Planet Fitness is remarkably judgmental of those who hold viewpoints with which they disagree. Last year 68-year-old Mike Amoroso was kicked out of a Florida Planet Fitness on two separate occasions for wearing a pro-life T-shirt. As LifeNews.com reported, when a fellow gym member was offended

by the message of his shirt and complained to management, Amoroso was told to either change his shirt or leave. The message of the shirt read, “abortion kills a person.” Amoroso, thinking the problem was with the forthright statement on his shirt, came back on a later date wearing another pro-life shirt with a more generic message, “pray to end abortion.” Amoroso was again asked to leave the Planet Fitness facility.

Notice that in this case when a gym member complained, the one who was forced to leave was not the complainer, but the one wearing a pro-life T-shirt. Why didn't the “judgment free zone” apply to this man who was being “judged” for holding a pro-life position? Planet Fitness will defend a man's right to wear a dress and enter a woman's locker room, but a man wearing a pro-life T-shirt is booted out the door.

As Yvette Cormier told a reporter after having her membership revoked, “I feel it's kind of one-sided. I feel like I am the one who is being punished.”

Which is what we who hold to Biblical truth regarding life and sexuality can increasingly expect – punishment. As we remain silent when “non-discrimination” policies are put in place which discriminate against the Christian worldview, we will find ourselves unceremoniously shown the door.

To quote my favorite Robot again, “Danger, Will Robinson! America is not a “judgment free zone,” but we are in a danger zone – on the verge of losing our religious liberty and freedom of speech. It's vital that we speak up as a voice of reason and truth while we still can.

Planet Fitness
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ADA Summer Conference ~ July 31, 2015 Light Wins!



Mark your calendar and begin spreading the word regarding ADA's annual summer conference scheduled for Friday, July 31, 2015 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

This year's conference promises to be the most important of any we have hosted thus far.

If the Supreme Court rules against Biblical marriage, supporting Biblical marriage and speaking against homosexual marriage and homosexuality will bring dire consequences for Christians – even leading to punishment under law. This is already beginning to happen. How should we Christians respond? What are the actions we can take?

And as we face this battle on the home front, we also see Islamic terrorism spreading death and destruction, murdering countless Middle East Christians, and pledging to destroy America. Events are now unfolding so rapidly in terms of terrorist threats and attacks all across the world with America's military and security infiltrated by those who don't have our best interest in mind.

These are very real conflicts at home and abroad to which we should become more aware of and respond with prayer and action. Yet overall this turmoil, there is a sovereign God Who brings peace in the midst of battle, calling us to go boldly forth with His Truth, knowing the ultimate victory is secure.

It is all of these subjects that we plan to address in our power-packed Summer Conference on Friday evening, July 31 in

Our speakers:

Patrick Poole is a national security and counter-terrorism consultant and a correspondent for PJ Media. He is an internationally recognized expert on domestic terrorism and the global jihadist movement, and he has been actively involved in and served as a consultant on numerous terrorism cases. Mr. Poole regularly briefs members of Congress and congressional staff, he has conducted lectures and training for federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, and has taught classes at the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. Air Force Staff and Command College. He is a frequent contributor on the Glenn Beck program and was featured in the documentary, "The Project," which ADA has distributed.

Pastor Anthony E. Moore has served Carolina Missionary Baptist Church since 1987 and has been proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ for over thirty years. Pastor Moore spoke for us at our 2013 summer conference, blessing over 600 gathered on that particular evening. His stirring message was a great highlight for many attendees. Pastor Moore will be bringing a powerful message of hope and challenge as he helps us see what the Bible shows us about God's work in the midst of impossibilities.

Janet (Folger) Porter is the President and Founder of Faith2Action. F2A is pro-life, pro-family, and pro-active – to win the cultural war for life, liberty, and the family. Janet was invited to be one of our featured speakers as she brings activism and action steps to engage the culture and to address looming complicated spiritual battles that are upon us. Those who hear her daily commentary on AFR Radio should know of her passionate voice for truth and action. Before founding Faith2Action, Janet served from 1997-2002 as the Director of the Center for Reclaiming America, founded by Dr. D. James Kennedy. Janet has just created a new DVD entitled "Light Wins" which is the theme of ADA's July 31, 2015 conference. Her website is: <http://f2a.org>

Personal note from Bill Johnson

This event marks the third summer conference that we have hosted at the beautiful and spacious Sunshine Community Church on the East Beltline in Grand Rapids.

Some have told us in person or by way of writing that we have alerted them on matters of concern far before many others had, and that it had helped them to realize that there was an urgency in the land.

Clearly, that is one of the burdens of our ministry to make known the urgencies that face us as Christian individuals and families.

Two years ago over 600 attended our conference featuring Frank Gaffney, President of Center for Security Policy; Pastor Anthony Moore; and Gary Bauer, President of Campaign for Working Families.

Last year 500 attended our summer conference featuring Kamal Saleem, former terrorist - converted Christian, and Mat Staver, President of Liberty Counsel and former Dean of the Law School at Liberty University.


Will this conference be the last conference where freedom of religion is still intact?

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Beware of the Adulterous Bride

by Lisa Van Houten



Our nation is experiencing a massive seismic shift. We feel the tremors and see the destruction left in its wake. The erosion of marriage and family, the crumbling of the moral and religious underpinnings of society, the deterioration of a system of government no longer resting on the solid foundation on which it was established. There is no institution left unscarred, including the Church.

Recently the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) voted to change that denomination's constitution to affirm gay marriage. No longer does the Presbyterian Church USA define marriage as the union of one man and one woman, but now as "two people, traditionally a man and a woman." Only a minor change in wording, but a massive change in meaning.

It should be noted that the Presbyterian Church USA should not be confused with other far more conservative denominations also bearing the name "Presbyterian." There is the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) – both of which are staunchly committed to the inerrancy of Scripture and to the biblical definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman. However, the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) has a long history of not just watering down God's word, but abandoning its authority, teaching, and inerrancy altogether. This has included the PCUSA voting in 2011 to ordain gay and lesbian pastors, elders, and deacons.

As Al Mohler writes: *It had blurred the distinctions between the church and the secular world. The name for that is theological liberalism; the effort to try to accommodate Christian doctrine to the secularizing trends of the society. By now the PC(USA) has found room for almost*

every theological variant imaginable, and once a denomination or a church has abandoned the inerrancy of Scripture and the binding nature of a confession of faith that is tied to the inerrancy of Scripture, then it is only a matter of time until the denomination finds compromise on other fronts.

And that's true not only for denominations but for an individual congregation. ... If the Bible ... is not true, then virtually every individual or congregation or denomination will find some way to get around the plain teachings of Scripture.

Which is what has recently happened at the prominent City Church in San Francisco, one of the largest members of the evangelical denomination Reformed Church in America (RCA). City Church announced on March 13 that the church will no longer expect lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender members to remain celibate.

According to a report by Religion News Service: "The church ... has long welcomed LGBT persons to attend, but has required lifelong celibacy of those LGBT persons seeking membership."

Senior pastor Fred Harrell Sr. and six board members wrote in a letter to the congregation of City Church: ***"We will no longer discriminate based on sexual orientation and demand lifelong celibacy as a precondition for joining."***

The letter went on to state: ***"Imagine feeling this from your family or religious community. If you stay, you must accept celibacy with no hope that you too might one day enjoy the fullness of intellectual, spiritual, emotional, psychological and physical companionship. If you pursue a lifelong partnership, you are rejected.' This is simply not working and people are being hurt. We must listen and respond."***

Laura Turner, communications coordinator for City Church wrote: "Churches are slowly coming to recognize that if God is bringing people to them who are LGBT they have to meet them where they are and not demand that they change. ..."

Yet isn't that what Christians are called to do – turn away from our sin? The leadership of this church wants to avoid "hurting" those who identify as LGBT, claiming that God's commands are "simply not working and people are being hurt."

However, the Word of God does not hurt; it heals. True love does not leave people lost in their trespasses and sins.

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome." I John 5:2-3

Again, Al Mohler states it so well: *No doubt there would be LGBT persons who are telling us that they are experiencing harm by being prevented from getting married, by being dissuaded by means of moral conviction and biblical teaching from engaging in same-sex sexual acts and relationships. ... No doubt there are persons who are telling us that they are being harmed by the church's deep biblical conviction concerning the reality of human gender as one of God's most precious gifts and creation. And the fact that that gender, that biological sex, is given to us as a gift that is revealed even at the time of our birth.*

But this is where the Christian worldview, based upon Scripture, comes back to tell us we are actually incompetent at figuring out exactly what causes us harm. We can demand things that we would say would prevent us harm now, only to understand that what we thought would lead to human flourishing instead leads in the very opposite direction – not towards human flourishing and the alleviation of harm, but towards the cause of harm.

A church who abandons the inerrancy of Scripture, who seeks to bring healing apart from the redeeming work of Christ, is an adulterous bride. As we try to maintain our balance with the crumbling taking place all around us, make sure that you align with a church that has a sure foundation on the word of God.

We Pledge in Solidarity to Defend Marriage and the Family and Society Founded Upon Them



We stand together in defense of marriage and the family and society founded upon them. While we come from a variety of communities and hold differing faith perspectives, we are united in our common affirmation of marriage.

On the matter of marriage, we stand in solidarity. We affirm that marriage and family have been inscribed by the Divine Architect into the order of Creation. Marriage is ontologically between one man and one woman, ordered toward the union of the spouses, open to children and formative of family. Family is the first vital cell of society, the first government, and the first mediating institution of our social order. The future of a free and healthy society passes through marriage and the family.

Marriage as existing solely between one man and one woman precedes religion and civil government. Though affirmed, fulfilled, and elevated by faith, the truth that marriage can exist only between one man and one woman is not based on religion or revelation alone, but on the Natural Law, written on the human heart and discernible through the exercise of reason. It is part of the natural created order. The Natural Law is what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., referred to as a higher law or a just law in his famous *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

Marriage is the preeminent and the most fundamental of all human social institutions. Civil institutions do not create marriage nor can they manufacture a right to marry for those who are incapable of marriage. Society begins with marriage and the family.

We pledge to stand together to defend marriage for what it is, a bond between one man and one woman, intended for life, and open to the gift of children.

The institutions of civil government should defend marriage and not seek to undermine it. Government has long regulated marriage for the true common good. Examples, such as the age of consent, demonstrate such a proper regulation to ensure the free and voluntary basis of the marriage bond. Redefining the very institution of marriage is improper and outside the authority of the State. No civil institution, including the United States Supreme Court or any court, has authority to redefine marriage.

As citizens united together, we will not stand by while the destruction of the institution of marriage unfolds in this nation we love. The effort to redefine marriage threatens the proper mediating role of the Church in society.

Experience and history have shown us that if the government redefines marriage to grant a legal equivalency to same-sex couples, that same government will then enforce such an action with the police power of the State. This will bring about an inevitable collision with religious freedom and conscience rights. The precedent established will leave no room for any limitation on what can constitute such a redefined notion of marriage or human sexuality. We cannot and will not allow this to occur on our watch. Religious freedom is the first freedom in the American experiment for good reason.

Conferring a moral and legal equivalency to same-sex couples by legislative or judicial fiat also sends the message that children do not need a mother and a father. As a policy matter such unions convey the message that moms and dads are completely irrelevant to the well-being of children. Such a policy statement is unconscionable and destructive. Authorizing the legal equivalency of marriage to same-sex couples undermines the fundamental rights of children and threatens their security, stability, and future.

Neither the United States Supreme Court nor any court has authority to redefine marriage and thereby weaken both the family and society. Unlike the Legislative Branch that has the power of the purse and the Executive Branch which has the figurative power of the sword, the Judicial Branch has neither. It must depend upon the Executive Branch for the enforcement of its decisions.

As the Supreme Court acknowledged in the 1992 decision of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, its power rests solely upon the legitimacy of its decisions in the eyes of the people. If the decisions of the Court are not based on the Constitution and reason, and especially if they are contrary to the natural created order, then the people will lose confidence in the Court as an objective arbiter of the law. If the people lose respect for the Court, the Court's authority will be diminished.

The Supreme Court was wrong when it denied Dred Scott his rights and said, “blacks are inferior human beings.” And the Court was wrong when Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote in *Buck v. Bell*, “three generations of imbeciles are enough,” thus upholding Virginia’s eugenics law that permitted forced sterilization. Shamefully, that decision was cited during the Nuremburg trials to support the Nazi eugenic holocaust.

In these earlier cases, the definition of “human” was at issue. Now the definition of “marriage” is at issue. The Constitution does not grant a right to same-sex marriage — which is nonsensical since marriage intrinsically involves a man and a woman. Nor does the Constitution prohibit states from affirming the natural created order of male and female joined together in marriage.

We will view any decision by the Supreme Court or any court the same way history views the *Dred Scott* and *Buck v. Bell* decisions. Our highest respect for the rule of law requires that we not respect an unjust law that directly conflicts with higher law. A decision inventing a so-called right to same-sex marriage flies in the face of the Constitution and is contrary to the natural created order. As people of faith we pledge obedience to our Creator when the State directly conflicts with higher law. We respectfully warn the Supreme Court not to cross this line.

We stand united together in defense of marriage. Make no mistake about our resolve. While there are many things we can endure, redefining marriage is so fundamental to the natural order and the common good that this is the line we must draw and one we cannot and will not cross.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please feel free to make copies and circulate this petition.
Please return by April 15 to American Decency ~ PO Box 202 ~ Fremont, MI 49412