

# What Do We Do Now?



**Romans 8:28**

# What Do We Do Now?

- By Now many of us are aware of last weeks U.S. Supreme Court Ruling in which the Justices declared that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees homosexuals the right to be married in this country.
- This means that Same-Sex Marriage is now legal in all fifty states.

# What Do We Do Now?

- **It doesn't necessarily come as a surprise to us.**
- **Many simply groan at the thought of enduring months and months of the media and people shouting about it and celebrating it in taunting like fashion while we are left feeling like somehow we have lost.**
- **This of course flies flagrantly in the face of God's people and His Word.**

# What Do We Do Now?

- Therefore this morning let us examine this new state under which Christians in this country now live.
- Understanding and knowing that no matter happens in the course of our lives or this country, that God is still, and always will be in control.

# **“Legal” and “Right” Are Not The Same**



# What Do We Do Now?

- We must remember that the Government of the United States of America is **NOT THE JUDGE OF MORAL RIGHT AND WRONG.**
- For example consider the many different things in our culture that the United States Government deems legal that the Bible says is sinful:

# What Do We Do Now?

- Adultery and Adulterous Marriages are not illegal in our country but are condemned by the Bible (**Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 19:9**).
- Abortion is sinful before God, and yet it is 100% legal in our country thanks to Roe vs Wade - 1973 (**Proverbs 6:16-17; Revelation 21:8**)

# What Do We Do Now?

- Being Intoxicated (*provided you are not operating a vehicle*) is legal in our country yet condemned by God (**Galatians 5:21**).
- Lying is not only legal but encouraged in our culture to spare the feelings of others or for the greater good, yet God condemns lying (**Revelation 21:8**)



# What Do We Do Now?

- The fact is that neither God nor God's Truth have ever changed.
- They are the same today as they were when God breathed them into the inspired writers of the Old and New Testaments.
- How do we know this?

# What Do We Do Now?

*“For I am the LORD, I do not change”*

**~ Malachi 3:6**

*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*

**~ Hebrews 13:8**

# What Do We Do Now?

- Ultimately this new ruling just adds one more item to the list of issues where we must show people that God's truth is wiser than what our culture says is OK.

**It Does Not Change How Christ  
Expects Us To Treat Other People.**



# What Do We Do Now?

- We must treat all people with the love and patience of Christ, even if they are celebrating sexual sin.
- It is being heralded that a great wrong has ended in our country, that an injustice of bigotry has finally been defeated.

# What Do We Do Now?

- These celebrations that are happening now and will continue to take place will be targeted at people of faith.
- Unfortunately many frustrated Christians will shout back with an un-Christ-like attitude, forgetting that Jesus Christ Himself did not retaliate when He was mocked and reviled.

# What Do We Do Now?

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: “*Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth*” who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously.

~ 2 Peter 2:21-23

# What Do We Do Now?

- Remember, God sees what is happening as well, and He hears His people on the matter (**Exodus 2:24; 16:12**).
- God knows what is being celebrated and said (**Hebrews 4:13**).
- The ultimate offense is against God who will act justly in His own time (**Romans 12:19**).



# What Do We Do Now?

- If you must speak, speak kindly, and trust the God who judges righteously to act in His own time.

*“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.”*

~ **Matthew 5:44**

# Christians Have Dealt With This Before And The Gospel Flourished Despite It!



# What Do We Do Now?

- **First- Century Christianity faced a culture that celebrated homosexuality more than most cultures in the world today.**
- **It was legal, celebrated, promoted, and even Emperor Nero married a 13 year old boy.**
- **It is believed that 14 of the 15 Roman Emperors were openly practicing homosexuals.**

# What Do We Do Now?

- With temple prostitution in which a person could solicit for pagan worship either a male or female it is a fact that homosexuality was dominant and prevalent in Greek and Roman cultures.
- Yet Jesus and Paul and other believers still taught the truth boldly and lovingly about God's design for marriage and sexuality

# What Do We Do Now?

And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.

~ **Matthew 19:9**

# What Do We Do Now?

For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

~ **Romans 1:26-27**

# What Do We Do Now?

- Despite the outright opposition and persecution of Christians from Jews and Gentiles under Nero, Titus, and Domitian, **The Church Grew!**
- In addition Same-Sex marriage has been legal in many European Countries for years and yet the Church still thrives in places like Ukraine, Poland, England, Italy, Scotland etc.

# What Do We Do Now?

God is still alive and working, and so we will keep teaching what the Bible says whether it is popular or not, and pray that our actions and teachings are presented in a way that helps others see God's goodness and find salvation through Christ.



# In The Big Picture Nothing Has Changed



# What Do We Do Now?

- Before the Ruling same-sex relationships and unions were already legal, and both homosexual and heterosexual people could choose how they wanted to act sexually.
- God gave us all the freedom of choice to make those decisions. Yes, same-sex marriages can now receive the same marriage certificates and tax breaks that husbands and wives receive.

# What Do We Do Now?

It is a small victory for sin, because the government's approval encourages people to accept it as a valid moral choice for themselves.

But that message of cultural approval has already been going on in media outlets for years now.

# What Do We Do Now?

- Do we remember another small victory for sin?
- When Christ gave up the ghost and died upon the cross (**Luke 23:46**)
- God told Satan that this would be a small victory for Him resulting in an even more devastating defeat (**Genesis 3:15**)

# What Do We Do Now?

- Imagine how the disciples felt after spending three years with Christ that Saturday after His death.
- Ultimately he rose from the grave and was victorious over death, and ultimately He is victorious over all sin:

# What Do We Do Now?

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.

~ **1 Corinthians 15:25-26**

# What Do We Do Now?

Tomorrow, we will wake up in the same world we've always been in:

People making their own spiritual choices, and God's people continuing to let His light through us.

# Christians Never Really Lose





# What Do We Do Now?

- Our Hope, longing, and desire goes well beyond this present world in which we live.
- We have a deeper hope in Christ than strengthens us when it appears that Satan and Sin are tightening their grip on God's people tighter and tighter.

# What Do We Do Now?

- We are a part of something greater than this world, far more important, a “A chosen generation, a special people, a Holy nation, and a Royal Priesthood” **(1 Peter 2:9)**
- It was for this reason that Paul wrote to Christians living in Rome:

# What Do We Do Now?

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us... who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

~ **Romans 8:18, 35**

# What Do We Do Now?

What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?... Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

**Romans 8:31, 37**

# What Do We Do Now?

- Perhaps it can be argued every time a soul (or a country) rejects God, you could say that the truth “lost” that time.
- However, in the big picture, we are promised that God wins, and so His people win with Him.
- This ruling on Same-Sex Marriage is just another day to remind us that God’s kingdom and the kingdoms of the world are not the same, and that this world is not our home.

# What Do We Do Now?

- It is *understandable* that Christians feel upset about this.
- The national conversation on homosexuality has been very biased and one-sided, but that's the way the world goes sometimes.
- To say sexual desires and actions are the same as being born black or white is simply not true.

# What Do We Do Now?

To say that Christians are “hateful” for teaching that there is a proper way to conduct ourselves sexually is *dishonestly and grossly misrepresenting Christianity.*

Perhaps the world will calm down and look at those issues a little more honestly in the next few years than they have the last few years.

# What Do We Do Now?

- But, what if God used this situation to open the door for Christians to grow stronger in their faith, more convicted in their teaching?
- What if in the silver lining in this cloud of worldliness and sin, a soul is saved despite the things that are happening?



# Don't Forget That God Is In Control

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

~ Romans 8:28

And God's Will Is Always Done