



What Do We Do Now? by Sellers Crain

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

Recently the Supreme Court of the United States once again overstepped its constitutional authority by making law instead of interpreting the Constitution. The final decision indicated how not only the court was divided on the issue of "same-sex marriage," but also how much the nation is divided on this issue. On that point, in an article recently written after this decision came down, an openly gay man, an entertainer, said, "We won the war," and he added that they did it through TV, movies, and the media. He was right. When he said, "We won the war," he was wrong because they won only the first battle in what will unquestionably be an on going war. The next battle has already begun to legitimize trans-gender surgery and to make the government pay for some of those.

In their misguided decision, the five judges who were the majority opinion changed the definition of marriage that has existed from the beginning, and in addition altered the real meaning of love. Since the decision was made it has been said multiple times, "Why should a person not be able to marry someone they love?" In the first place, does someone have to get married to love someone? In the case of homosexual couples, did they love each other as they say they did before they were given the right to marry? Why did being able to say "We are married," make the love any different or any stronger? Can those who make this statement not realize what slippery slope that can be. One man recently wanted a marriage license to marry his dog. Another man wanted a marriage license to marry his daughter. A man and his two live in female partners wanted to get a marriage license to legally marry the one he was not married to. What if a man wanted to marry his mother, his father, his sister or his brother? Would not the argument that a person should be able to marry whoever he loves not apply here? Unless this decision can be overturned, only history will proclaim the ultimate damage that will be done by it.

It is now "the law of the land" that homosexual and lesbian couple can legally marry. Though county court clerk's offices in some places, and even some state governments, are refusing to abide by this decision for the present time and say they will not marry same-sex couples. However, because they are public servants elected to serve all people equally according to the law, they will be forced to comply, or they will be dismissed and others who will comply will take their place. How will this decision affect churches and ministers?

As Christians, we are to "obey "the laws of the land" (**Romans 13:1ff**). Do we have to comply with this law if a same-sex couple comes to us and wants us to perform their ceremony? If they insist on using our building for the ceremony, must we submit and allow them to do so? What this decision did not do was to abolish the 1st Amendment which guarantees us the freedom of religion. At least for the foreseeable future, we have the constitutional right to refuse to perform a same-sex couples

marriage ceremony, and to refuse them the right to use our building for their ceremony. However, as I have said, "The battle has just begun," and we can expect there will be challenges to this constitutional right.

This decision did not change the law of God. While Christians should "obey the laws of the land," they must not obey any man-made law that is contrary to God's law. Marriage was ordained by God, and as Jesus said, it is only for a man and a woman (**Matthew 19:1-10**). Moses recording God's own words wrote, "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination" (**Leviticus 18:22**). In condemning homosexual relationships (**Romans 1:26-27**), Paul said, "They changed the natural use for what is against nature" (**v. 26**). Can intelligent reasonable thinking people not understand that? Ere Women were made for men and men were made for women. Any deviation from that is a perversion.

One of the most disturbing outcomes of this decision to me personally was to see people who claim to be Christians supporting it. Some even rejoicing that same sex couples could now marry the person they love, no thought being given as to how that would affect our nation's morality. If five robed individuals can with a few words make what has been considered immoral for centuries to suddenly be made "legally moral," where will it end. The statement has been made that "morals have changed." That may be true where men and culture are concerned, but it is not true where God's word is concerned. God's definition of morals has not and will not change (**1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:16-25**). Sin is still sin.

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