

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Gay Marriage, Part One

June 28, 2015

Issue 219

On Friday the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples can marry nationwide. (Once the Court rules that something is a constitutional right, all state laws concerning that issue become null and void.) The gay community rejoiced. The Christian community lamented the decision. But the ruling was not unexpected. According to *The Washington Post*, in 1996 sixty-eight percent of Americans opposed gay marriage; today, 61 percent favor it. Thirty-eight states had already approved gay marriage by ballot initiative or court order.

I want to address both the person who is rejoicing over gay marriage and the

one who is thinking that this country has been unalterably changed. First, to the gay marriage proponent...

(1). *This is not just a love issue.* Saying "I love you" to something or someone does not permit someone to act in any way he/she sees fit. That's why adults cannot have sexual contact with children, a man cannot marry 6 women at once, etc. Allowing any behavior just on the basis of love would lead to disastrous social consequences.

(2). *Opposition to gay marriage is not an act of hate.* Actually, it's an act of love. If you conform to the teachings of Scripture, your

life will improve.

(3). *Gay marriage affects everyone's life.* We are interconnected. Violence in a neighborhood affects the entire neighborhood. Divorce affects entire families, friends, churches, etc., not just the two people getting divorced. Men cannot be mothers and women cannot be fathers. That distortion of the family unit will affect every school, every community, every future generation.

Black families have been greatly damaged by the lack of male leadership in the home, yet gay women can't provide a father for their children.

(continued on back)

Items of Note:

- John Hayes' shingles case is better, but the wounds are far from healed. He will deal with it the rest of the summer.
- Bill Johnson is recovering from surgery last week. He is very appreciative of all cards and flowers.
- Make efforts to attend every service!
- Remember JW Head, Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer, the Newells, Judy York, Leon Salings, and Rick Reed.

**Thank You To All Who Made VBS A Great Week!
Give James Questions For Q&A Sermon Next Sunday Night**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: L. Newell

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Garrett

Serve: JL Shelton, Billingsley, E. Walker

Pray: Terry Walker

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

Hebrews 10:23
"Let us hold fast the
confession of our hope
without wavering, for He
who promised is faithful."

Tim Agee is preaching our Gospel Meeting beginning the last Sunday of July at Coopertown. Here is a note someone put on Tim's Facebook page after he spoke to a church in Lebanon this summer:

"I loved your message, but I have to admit I kept thinking "wow, what an amazing talent he has" while you were speaking. No doubt you have spent countless hours studying to be able to recall the scriptures. But your talent is a gift from God. Whether or not you ever have employment in preaching, your "ministry" is powerful and effective. The apostle Paul also earned his living outside the ministry. What a beautiful thing. God bless you, brother. We look forward to hearing you several times in the future."

Gay Marriage, Part Two

Now, to the gay marriage opponent...

(1). *Homosexuality is as old as the Old Testament.* The Supreme Court didn't invent homosexuality on Friday. Gay people have been living together for centuries. Even if the Court ruled against gay marriage, homosexuality wouldn't have gone away.

(2). *Why are you more outraged by this sin than other sins?* Because it's gross? Because you've never personally known a gay person? Our opposition to sin should not be based on how physically disgusting the sin is. If God says it's wrong, we should oppose it. Churches have openly accepted illegitimate marriages, gossip,

and troublemakers for centuries. It will be hard to take the moral high ground on gay marriage when certain sins are ignored and/or excused by the church.

(3). *Jesus ate with sinners.* Jesus had no problem associating Himself with the people who the scribes and Pharisees rejected. He never endorsed fornication, but He spoke the truth in love to those who fornicated. He never endorsed fraud, but He ate in the homes of tax collectors. If we spend our lives distancing ourselves from the sinners of this world, how can we truly say that we are following the Great Commission?

God's word didn't change on Friday. The definition of sin didn't change. Love didn't change. Hate didn't change. But our mission didn't change either. The United States of America is not the church. It never has been. When we start seeking to convert our nation instead of putting our faith in our nation, our nation will turn toward God.

"...and My people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn away from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and heal their land" (II Chron. 7:14).

James Hayes
