

Dr. Erwin Lutzer, The Moody Church  
James Ford, Jr. Christ Bible Church of Chicago  
Rev. Wilfredo De Jesus, New Life Covenant  
Rev. Robert Vanden Bosch, Concerned Christian Americans

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*For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. (Acts 20: 27-31)*

Friday, December 21, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What an opportunity we have for the church to be the church!

We are just learning that those who seek to redefine marriage are hoping to exploit the upcoming veto session in the General Assembly to pass a law to legalize “same-sex marriage.” I’m sure you agree that such a law would constitute an incomprehensible defiance of God and truth.

We are well aware that we have people in our congregations who struggle with same-sex attraction; we welcome them and are grateful that they have come to worship with us. Our responsibility is to encourage them to live lives of celibacy, the same commitment we expect from the heterosexual singles among us. We are eager to extend the grace and love of God to all people regardless of their feelings or life choices knowing that we are fellow sinners who are equally grateful for God’s undeserved salvation and mercy.

This letter speaks only about those who would impose same-sex marriage upon us through legislation. We are very concerned that we must not enshrine into law the indefensible notion that children have no inherent right to know and be raised by a mother and father. The fact is---and we’ve included information to show this---same-sex marriage hurts children.

As pastors, we have struggled with what our role should be in the same-sex marriage debate. On the one hand, we do not want to unnecessarily alienate the homosexual community that needs to hear the good News of the Gospel. On the other hand, we know that we cannot stand by and watch these cultural developments and pretend that such legislation would not greatly affect our children and grandchildren. In our opinion, far too many pastors and priests have abdicated their roles to teach, lead, and protect their flocks. Consequently, even our flocks are being deceived by the lies of our spiritual enemy. The flocks that God has entrusted to us with the fearful responsibility to lead, are now being influenced by our schools, our entertainment industry and our news media. And too often in the face of these lies we remain unconscionably silent.

Homosexual activists and their ideological allies deceitfully exploit the noble ideas of equality, compassion, love, and justice to teach our little ones that “equality” demands the acceptance of same-sex marriage, and unfortunately, too many in our churches are unprepared to see the error in such reasoning. There are far-reaching consequences to the legalization of same-sex marriage, and at the most basic level we must ask: how can enhancing the status of profoundly dishonorable relationships

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possibly be good for our children or the nation? We forget that we cannot long survive as a nation once we destroy marriage and family.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who himself paid the ultimate price for boldly venturing into the politics of his day while others chose silence, said, “The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world it leaves to its children.” Our children deserve our support and God demands it. And the church is the only institution with the reach and power to stop this legislation from becoming enshrined in law.

We have truth and power on our side if only we will humble ourselves and ask what God would want us to do at this critical hour. True love—the love that comes from a just and holy God—cannot and must not affirm sin as righteousness.

We as faith leaders must publicly, unashamedly, and unselfconsciously oppose the legalization of “same-sex marriage” with courage, grace, and reason. I firmly believe that if we lead by example and urge our flocks to do likewise, they will follow our lead. Through prayerful action this battle can be won.

We live in a country in which we govern ourselves, and people of faith are not excluded from participating in this privilege of self-governance. For far too long, Christians, including faith leaders, have abdicated the culture battles pertaining to homosexuality and, therefore, bear a measure of culpability for the confusion, degradation, and suffering we see around us. Now is the time for us to speak up and let our collective voice be heard. Please stand with us to defend marriage, family, and our children.

We are including some resources that you can use to both inform and inspire your congregation to action. Let us pray for one another as we enter a new year of service for Christ.

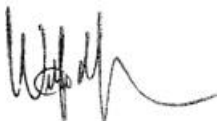
Yours in Christ,



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