BREAKING NEWS: US Supreme Court Ruling Redefines Marriage for all 50 States-Devastating but not the end - Florida Family Policy Council

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U.S. Supreme Court Forces a Redefinition of Marriage in All 50 States Ruling is devastating, but not the end.

(Orlando, FL) In light of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on marriage, Florida Family Policy Council President John Stemberger issued the following statement:

"This sad day in history will forever reflect the that highest court of our land ignored the rule of law and the will of 51 million people in over 38 states in an illegitimate act of raw judicial power and arrogance.

Though countless millions of U.S. voters have defined marriage as between a man and a woman through the legitimate democratic process, a handful of judges in one decision today have disenfranchised them. The court deliberately ignored the plain meaning and legal history behind the Constitution and foolishly disregarded what is self-evident in biology, logic and the collective wisdom of human history.

Regardless of how it appears, today's decision is not the final word on marriage. The U.S. Supreme Court has been wrong before, as in the case of Dred Scott when the court attempted to declare that black people were not persons. The court was also wrong in *Roe vs. Wade* when it effectively declared that unborn children were not persons. Once again, the court is wrong today in its attempt to force all 50 states and all U.S. citizens to legally declare that marriage is something other than the union of one man and one woman.

Marriage, and the children and families created by them, is not merely a legal or political issue. These institutions are matters which define the human experience and are necessary to the building of a civil society.

Today's 'redefinition of marriage' by the U.S. Supreme Court not only affects the institution of marriage and states' rights, it also represents a frontal assault on religious liberty and free speech.

Core First Amendment rights that Americans for centuries have bled and died for are being trampled in just a matter of years and is now beginning to occur on a regular basis. Our morally declining society together with judicial activism in our courts, is opening the flood gates for legal attacks and discrimination against U.S. citizens who hold those rights dear. Pastors and churches, Christians and those of other conservative faiths,

Page 1 of 3 Jun 26, 2015 12:21:22PM MDT



non-profits, grant recipients, religious schools, businesses providing wedding services, and clerks of courts will become the next targets for attack as a result of the decision today. The weapons used in these attacks are deceptively called 'non-discrimination ordinances'.

Our response to this is that we double down on our efforts to rebuild a culture of marriage. We will never concede and we will never give up. Whether it takes decades or multiple generations, we will rebuild a culture of marriage. It may even get worse in the short-term before it gets better, but in order for this civil society to flourish once again, we must have a clear understanding of what marriage is and why it is important to our culture, society and social order.

We have only to watch the evening news to see the results of the breakdown of marriage and the family unit in our society. The tragic riots and mass illegal behavior that took place recently in Baltimore and other U.S. cities are examples of the consequences in a society when marriage and family structures break down or fail to form.

Homosexual rights activists love to accuse people who believe in marriage as being "on the wrong side of history". However, the reality of what marriage is, will never be on the wrong side of history.

The little boy in the inner city who longs to have a father in his life-- that longing, will never be on the wrong side of history.

The little girl with two dads who wishes she had a mother to help her understand the changes in her body--- that wish, will never be in the wrong side of history.

The unique and complimentary design and beauty of a man and a woman's body will never be on the wrong side of history.

The teachings and books of every major world religion will never be on the wrong side of history.

Natural marriage celebrates true diversity and gender inclusively when the two great parts of humanity come together and life springs forth and the next generation is born. These truths will never be on the wrong side of history.

In the midst of this moral and legal madness we still should still have great hope for the future. Our country has recovered before from times of social, legal and political division and I believe we can again. After the Civil War, the civil rights movement, and other times, our country returned to its foundational principles of human Page 2 of 3

Jun 26, 2015 12:21:22PM MDT



dignity deeply rooted in the Christian tradition. Even in the case of Roe vs. Wade, while the loss of human life has been absolutely devastating, the good news is that America is turning back to her roots, finding her way home as it were, and is more "pro-life" today than it has been in recent decades. Americans and Floridians have corrected their course before, and we will do it again."

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Page 3 of 3 Jun 26, 2015 12:21:22PM MDT