

January 2000

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Domestic Partners—“A Marriage Kind of Thing”

“If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. --Martin Luther (1483-1546)

We received long awaited word today that the Vermont Supreme Court stopped short of creating homosexual “marriage” but has ordered the legislature to enact marital benefits for non-married sex partners. Christians had been bracing for the possibility that Vermont would become the first state to legalize homosexual unions.

The people of Vermont, however, do not want their state to become a place where homosexuals flock to pick up fake “marriage” licenses. A recent poll conducted by Directions in Research and commissioned by Take It to the People, showed that 79% of Vermonters do not want the Vermont Supreme Court to decide this issue.

Certainly, the court decision falls short of homosexual activists’ dream of imposing “gay marriage” on Vermont and then the rest of the nation. But according to Janet Parshall with the Family Research Council, “it is dangerously wrong to appropriate marital benefits for non-marital relationships.” She said, “Unless Vermonters amend their constitution, this order would force the people of Vermont to support what is essentially a sin registry and make them complicit in supporting bad public policy. This would amount to tyranny over people who hold to commonsense morality.”

We agree, and that is why we are concerned with events that are unfolding in our state.

Last week, Olympia became the third city in the Pacific Northwest to establish a “domestic partner” registry. The matter came before the council on an evening when city fathers were otherwise busy increasing local fees and taxes before the end of the year when I-695, the \$30 Car Tax, kicks in.

The unanimous vote of the council on the “domestic partner” registry issue followed twelve minutes of “public” input - six minutes pro and six minutes con. Council members and the Mayor then prefaced their votes with two to four minutes each of stern lecturing, directed towards the two Christians who had been allowed to testify. This unfairly gave supporters of the measure a 9 to 2 advantage in testifying for the public record.

Speaking to the proposed registry, the Mayor pro-tem said “this is a harmless measure,” and a lesbian activist added “it is symbolic and doesn’t require businesses to provide benefits they don’t already offer to domestic partners.” However, we learned otherwise when retiring Mayor Bob Jacobs said, “*We are talking about a ‘marriage’ kind of thing here.*” There, he said it. The term “domestic partner” is a euphemism for homosexual “marriage.”

Jacobs noted that in Europe, where he lived for five years, marriage has both a religious and secular aspect, and said we are mixed up in the United States and should not give preference to the church or religion in the matter. He said we sanction awful and abusive marriages in the church while prohibiting other wonderful and loving relationships.

Other council members reminded the Christians that Olympia is a tolerant, progressive and diversified community. The city believes it is important to protect civil liberties while accepting all kinds of people for all kinds of reasons.

One member said that we are experiencing more and varied sexual practices than ever before because we have more population than ever before. And the new Mayor-elect said any combination of two adults in a consenting relationship is OK with him.

Really?

How about brothers and sisters? If not, why not?

Calling “domestic partnerships” a “civil” matter (*what pray-tell would be a religious matter?*) council members admonished the dozen or so Christians in the audience to remember that in this country we have “separation of Church and State.” Essentially, then, a pro-homosexuality point of view is secular and appropriate for discussion in government meetings, while opposition to homosexuality is a religious point of view and therefore inappropriate and not entitled to the protection of free speech. Go figure!

When elected officials call for “separation of Church and State,” what they really mean is they don’t want any interference when making religious decisions. Unfortunately, most pastors and churches prefer that arrangement - thinking they in turn will be left alone to pursue their ministry in peace. Sorry, it doesn’t work that way. (Matt 13:25).

America has always been blessed by the two-fold partnership of Church and State. The role of the Church in the partnership is to be the light which provides the bedrock principles from which our laws spring forth and salt which is the voice of conscience for civil government.

As always, I want to thank each of you for standing with us as we continue to be a prophetic voice of conscience to our community and our nation. I look forward to all that the Lord has in store for us this coming year.

Rick Forcier

Executive Director

PS: We have received good news that the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) would like to join us in filing suit against several cities in our state that have extended marriage benefits to same-sex partners. We are looking for willing plaintiffs in Seattle, Olympia, Tumwater and Vancouver. Please call our office for more information.