

Love Thy Neighbor

“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

– Matthew 22:39-40

Is love shown to our Gay and Lesbian neighbors by taking away their civil right to marry and live according to their beliefs and conscience?

Preserve the Free Exercise of Conscience

“We believe that no government can exist in peace, except such laws are framed and held inviolate as will secure to each individual the free exercise of conscience... human law... should never suppress the freedom of the soul... holding sacred the freedom of conscience... We believe that... governments have a right, and are bound to enact laws for the protection of all citizens in the free exercise of their religious belief; but we do not believe that they have a right in justice to deprive citizens of this privilege, or proscribe them in their opinions...”

– Doctrine and Covenants 134:2, 4, 5, 7

Does Prop 8 “secure to each individual [including our Gay and Lesbian neighbors] the free exercise of conscience?” Does it provide “protection of all citizens [and churches] in the free exercise of their religious belief” even if their religious beliefs about marriage differ from ours? Marriage is as much an exercise of conscience and religious belief for Gay citizens as it is for other Christians. Prop 8 takes away the right of Gay citizens and growing numbers of churches who love and support them “the free exercise of their religious belief” regarding marriage.

Do Good To All

“We believe . . . in doing good to all men;”

– 13th Article of Faith

Are we doing good to our Gay and Lesbian neigh-

bors by taking away their right to marry and enjoy the same benefits, protections, stability and blessings of marriage and family which we cherish?

Defend the Cause of Liberty

“And now the design of the Nephites was... that they might preserve their rights and their privileges, yea, and also their liberty..., they were fighting for their homes, and their liberties, their [spouses] and their children, ...for their rites of worship... their families... their freedom...”

– Alma 43:9, 45, 47, 48

Today our Gay and Lesbian neighbors are fighting for the exact same liberties Captain Moroni, the Nephites and the Stripling Warriors fought for. Will you support the cause of freedom by opposing legislation that seeks to deprive any of God’s children of these good things?

Marriage is Honorable in All

The Bible declares: *“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge”*

– Hebrews 3:4

Millions of God’s Gay and Lesbian children are fighting for their right to enter honorable marriage. Growing millions of them are no longer willing to live the lifestyle of “whoremongers and adulterers” to which religion and society have traditionally consigned them. Is God pleased if we Christians campaign and vote to take away the right of millions of His children to enter safe, stable and honorable marriage? If we forbid millions of our fellow citizens to enter honorable marriage aren’t we actually fostering unhealthy and unstable lifestyles among them?

Preserve Equality

Our Book of Mormon declares: *“...it was strictly contrary to the commands of God that there should be a law which should bring men on to unequal grounds.”*

– Alma 30:7

If state or federal law allows some members of our community to marry according to their beliefs and denies our Gay and Lesbian neighbors that same privilege isn’t that “unequal grounds” ?

Maintain Freedom of Religion

“We believe that religion is instituted of God; and that men are amenable to him, and to him only, for the exercise of it, unless their religious opinions prompt them to infringe upon the rights and liberties of others.... We do not believe it just to mingle religious influence with civil government, whereby one religious society is fostered and another proscribed [prohibited] in its spiritual privileges, and the individual rights of its members, as citizens, denied.”

– Doctrine and Covenants 134:4, 9

Is it right for any religious society to impose through law its religious opinions about marriage, baptism, prayer, Sabbath observance etc.?

Prop. 8 infringes upon the rights and liberties of both individual citizens and churches. Growing numbers of churches value God’s Gay and Lesbian children and their families and believe it is good and right to offer them the blessings of marriage. Is it right for Latter-day Saints to take away the religious freedom of other churches who support God’s Gay and Lesbian children, their relationships and families and want to offer them the blessings of marriage?

If we impose our religious opinions on others, doesn’t this open the door for the majority, who oppose some of our religious beliefs and practices, to impose their religious opinions on us and proscribe or prohibit us through law in our spiritual privileges, religious freedoms and civil rights?