

11 Scriptural Reasons Latter-day Saints Should Oppose California's Proposition 8

1. 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?

2. 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.

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

4. 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?

5. Marriage is Honourable 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?

6. 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”?

7. 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.?
- 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 value 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 does 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?

8. Not Good To Be Alone

“In the beginning... the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone”

— Genesis 1:1; 2:18

- God does not want any of His children to be alone — Do we believe these words of God enough to open the way so millions of His Gay and Lesbian children can enjoy the emotional, physical and spiritual blessings of committing to a “help meet” in marriage? (see LDS Bible; Gen. 2:18 footnote b)

9. Ye Have Done It Unto Me

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." — Matthew 25:40

- We are all children of the same God. Many Christians, churches and politicians show by their words, actions and legislation they consider Gays and Lesbians to be among "the least" in society. Would you deny Jesus the same legal recognition, rights, privileges and protections which you and your family enjoy?

10. The Golden Rule

"Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets." — Matthew 7:12, 3 Nephi 14:12

- Would any of us want the government or the majority to dictate who we can or cannot marry and what our family will look like?
- Would we want the majority to vote away the rights, privileges, benefits and protections our family enjoys?
- Is it right for us Latter-day Saints to help our Government do the same things to Gay and Lesbian Americans as the US government did to our polygamist ancestors?

11. Preserve Moral Agency

The Savior said: "...the laws and constitution of the people which I have suffered to be established, ... **should be maintained** for the **rights and protection** of **all flesh**, according to just and holy principles; **That every man may act** in doctrine and principle pertaining to futurity, **according to the moral agency which I have given him...**"

— Doctrine and Covenants 101:77-78

- Do the Lord's terms "every man" and "all flesh" include God's Gay and Lesbian children? If so, doesn't the Lord make it clear we should "maintain" the same "rights and protection" for them which all other Americans enjoy, even if we may not understand or agree with the way they choose to exercise their moral agency?
- Since Prop 8 seeks to change "the laws and constitution" in a way that takes away from, instead of "maintains" the "rights and protection" of millions of our Gay and Lesbian neighbors, can we campaign and vote in opposition to these clear teachings of Jesus Christ and truthfully claim to be Christians?

Jesus asked, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

—Luke 6:46

If you truly believe any of these teachings of Jesus Christ, please Vote NO on Prop 8 and let your voice be heard.

For more information please visit www.GaysAndTheGospel.org