



US SUPREME COURT SUPPORTS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

On June 26, 2015 the US Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision in *Obergefell vs. Hodges* that same-sex marriage is a constitutional right which must be allowed in all 50 US states, based on the equality provisions of the Constitution.

The majority five judges in this case were well-known to be ideological liberals, and were willing to throw legal precedent and the Constitution away in order to provide a constitutional right to same-sex marriage. As stated by Chief Justice John Roberts in his stinging dissent:

The majority’s decision is an act of will, not legal judgment. The right ... has no basis in the Constitution or this Court’s precedent ... As a result, the Court invalidates the marriage laws of more than half the states ... Just who do we think we are? ... do not celebrate the Constitution. It [this decision] had nothing to do with it.

Mr. Justice Antonin Scalia, in his dissenting opinion, aptly stated that this opinion lacked “even a thin veneer of law”. He called the style “pretentious” and the content “egotistic”. He also said he was astounded by the “hubris reflected in today’s judicial Putsch.” He called the judges unrepresentative—not a single evangelical Christian or “even a Protestant of any denomination”.

The majority opinion, written by Mr. Justice Anthony Kennedy, read more like a pop song than a Constitutional analysis.

He wrote that gay marriage allows two homosexuals to “find a life they could not find alone”. Kennedy then went on to bemoan the fact that traditional marriage condemns gay people to “loneliness”. The US Constitution was not written to protect people from being lonely. Loneliness is not a legal issue.

Judge Kennedy also extended the interpretation of “liberty” to mean a right to government entitlement to marriage. The word “liberty” previously meant protection from restraints and government interference. Precedent gave way to a judge’s obsession to find a politically correct right for a politically correct group of people.

History will not regard Judge Kennedy very highly.

It was not helpful that two of the judges, Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Elena Kagan, were both publicly acknowledged strong proponents of same-sex marriage. They publicly married same-sex couples before the Supreme Court hearing, and, in the case of Judge Kagan, she was a well-known LGBT activist during her tenure as Dean of Harvard Law School. During that time,

she introduced LGBT “rights” courses, including transsexualism in the law curriculum, and hired well-known homosexual/lesbian professors to teach them. She also took an active part in functions and forums of radical LGBT groups at the university.

The federal law on impartiality by judges provides that:

Any justice, judge, or magistrate judge of the United States shall disqualify himself in any proceeding in which his impartiality might reasonably be questioned.

There is no legal mechanism, however, whereby judges can be required to be removed from hearing a case. Consequently, both Judges Ginsberg and Kagan remained on the panel of judges hearing the same-sex marriage case.

This failure to recuse themselves (withdraw from a case on the grounds of lack of impartiality), however, calls into question the validity of the decision.

This is the third decision that the US Supreme Court has made in its history which has led to civil unrest and division within the country. Significantly, all these damaging decisions were based on political considerations, not legal ones. They were as follows:

I. 1857—Dred Scott Case

The US Supreme Court held that the black slave was the property of the slave owner and did not have any legal rights. The reason for this conclusion was that the court believed the agricultural economy of the American south, which relied on the work of slaves, had to be protected.

CONTENTS

US SUPREME COURT SUPPORTS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE.....	PAGE 1
ELECTION 2015 PAMPHLET	PAGE 3
ELECTIONS, 2015 – POLLS, POLLS, POLLS.....	PAGE 3
WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES IX YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP.....	PAGE 4
REAL WOMEN OF CANADA 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.....	PAGE 4
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE.....	PAGE 7

2. 1973—R v. Wade

The US Supreme Court held that a woman had a right to abortion based on her (hereunto never before realized) “right to privacy”.

This conclusion, according to two members of that court, Chief Justice Harry Blackmun and Madam Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, was based on the necessity to decrease the birth rate because of overpopulation.

These three Supreme Court decisions have grave, long-range ramifications for the unity of the country. A bloody civil war followed the *Dred Scott* case, and the decisions on abortion and same-sex marriage give rise to a civil war of another nature. These include civil disobedience, and intolerance towards religious liberty. This will result in state imposed punishment for those refusing to condone abortion and same-sex marriages. A civil war could not be otherwise.

Instead of a legislature making such grave decisions, a few hand-picked, appointed, unaccountable judges made these controversial changes in society. As a result, these decisions intensify and exacerbate the divisions already present within the country.

This decision, by five non-elected judges on the U.S. Supreme Court to legalize same-sex marriage, was also an exercise in raw political power to arrogantly wipe out the views of 50 million American voters in 14 states who had voted with overwhelming majorities to ban same-sex marriages. The judges overruled the voters by creating a non-existent “right” (previously unknown) to homosexual marriage. This newly discovered “right” will guarantee continued controversy over marriage for years to come.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IN CANADA DIFFERS FROM THAT OF THE UNITED STATES

Although both the US and Canada now permit same-sex marriage, the effects are different.

In the US, the Supreme Court pronounced that same-sex marriage was a constitutional right.

In Canada, however, the same-sex law was passed by Parliament. This means that the law can be amended or repealed at a future date by Parliament. A Constitutional right, however, can only be changed by way of a constitutional amendment—a much more difficult and rigorous process.

The Canadian legislation legalizing same-sex marriage also specifically protects religious rights i.e. protects faith groups from being obliged to perform same-sex marriages if such “marriages” are not in accordance with their religious beliefs. This provision, however, does not protect church properties from legal challenges by same-sex couples. For example, a Catholic Church hall owned by the Knights of Columbus was fined for discrimination against a lesbian couple for refusing to let them hold their wedding reception on the premises. Marriage Commissioners are not protected, nor are those businesses associated with weddings i.e. florists, bakers, limousine drivers, etc.

These same difficulties will now be faced by individuals

of faith in the US. Their problem is exacerbated by the fact that same-sex marriage is now a constitutional right, which means that it is now an entrenched right which will be very difficult to change.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN THE CROSSFIRE

Religious liberty is about more than just a religious “belief” but also includes religious practices in the public square. It is alarming that the five US judges proclaiming the right to same-sex marriage did not speak of the right of people to exercise their religious rights, but only to the right to believe, and nothing more.

This decision will have numerous consequences for organized religion. Even though the majority tried to reassure the public that religions and those who adhere to religious doctrines may continue to advocate their beliefs, this is not reassuring, however, for the future of religious liberty.

As noted by Chief Justice Roberts, “The First Amendment guarantees ... the freedom to exercise religion. Ominously, that is not a word the majority uses”.

Mr. Justice Clarence Thomas, who dissented, also wrote that the decision “holds potentially ruinous consequences for religious liberty”.

It is now likely that the tax exempt status may be removed from child welfare organizations, private schools, religious universities, relief providers, abstinence groups, military religious contractors, adoption agencies, Christian hospitals, and political non-profit organizations. Further, if they receive government grants, the government may require compliance with the same-sex decision in order for the grants to be continued.

Those who publicly speak out against same-sex marriage will also undoubtedly now be labelled bigots and treated as such by governments, employers and the media, who will demand a judicial remedy for such civil disobedience.

This decision will inevitably lead to lasting bitter wounds, according to Justice Samuel Alito.

Already, activists are preparing the groundwork to remove the tax-exempt status of faith based groups. This reality arose during the oral arguments in the case when President Obama’s lawyer, U.S. Solicitor General, Donald Verrilli, affirmed that Christian schools and other non-profit and charitable groups that refuse to go along with same-sex marriage, might lose their tax-exempt status.

Democratic Senator, Tammy Baldwin (Wisconsin), a lesbian, has already stated that although institutions of faith may observe deeply held religious beliefs, nevertheless, there are clear limits to this beyond the four walls of the church. In effect, she alludes to initiatives to provide for the loss of tax-exempt status for non-profit institutions and businesses which do not accept same-sex marriage. It is obvious that proponents of same-sex marriage are not really interested in compromise or peaceful co-existence. They are, at heart, essentially totalitarian, and want complete obeisance and affirmation of same-sex marriage.

CONSERVATIVE REACTION TO THE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DECISION

Conservative leaders are now rushing to build a fire-wall around religious freedom by bringing in legislation to protect it. For example, Representative Raul Labrador (Idaho) and Senator, Mike Lee (Utah) are planning to bring in “The First Amendment [freedom of religion] Defence Act” to protect religious freedom. This bill is not only to protect Evangelicals, but also Orthodox Jews and Catholics, who are equally vulnerable to attack. In Texas, Attorney General Ken Paxton is taking swift steps to shield his state from the federal government’s retribution. In a special legal directive, he gave public officials in Texas the right to opt out of performing same-sex marriages—and, in a separate statement, advised them that numerous lawyers were ready to provide

representation, if necessary. The struggle to protect religious liberties has now begun.

The decision by the U.S. Supreme Court will also have a fundamental effect on its ability to uphold the rule of law. If a bare majority of judges can invent a new right to change the definition of marriage, which has been upheld for millennia by all faiths and cultures, and impose it on the rest of the country, there is no real limit to what future majorities in the Court will be able to do. The court’s decision on same-sex marriage has made this a painful fact.

Finally, if President Obama, the Democratic Party, and the five liberal judges on the U.S. Supreme Court think that they have resolved the issue of same-sex marriage, they are mistaken. There are dark days ahead for religious liberties, but this battle is not over: it has just begun. †

ELECTION 2015 PAMPHLET

See REAL Women’s election pamphlet that is included with this issue.

The federal election, to be held on October 19th, 2015, will be a crucial election.

Every effort has been made by the mainstream media to harm the electoral chances of the Conservative Party in this election. They criticize, ridicule and demean any legislation or activity put forward by the Conservatives. In contrast, the media have generally promoted their “favourites” i.e. the opposition parties. First it was the Liberals under Justin Trudeau, and more frequently now, it is the NDP under its leader, Thomas Mulcair. This biased coverage will only increase once the election is called.

It is important, therefore, that voters have an accurate understanding of the policies of the political parties, in order to make an informed decision when casting their ballot.

REAL Women has, as impartially as possible, summarized the positions of the political parties in the pamphlet that is included with this issue of REALity. We have selected issues that we think will have the greatest impact on family life. Unfortunately, because of space limitation, we were able to include only the policies of the three major parties that currently hold seats in the House of Commons.

You are free to copy and distribute this pamphlet to friends, family, churches and organizations. If you would like more copies of the pamphlet, they may be obtained from our National Office. †

ELECTIONS, 2015 – POLLS, POLLS, POLLS

A few months before the October 19, 2015 federal election, Canadians are being bombarded with polls on a scale never seen before.

The problem is that these polls are not usually that accurate, and will constantly change before election day. These polls are also highly variable. How can they be otherwise when only one to two per cent of those surveyed respond to pollsters’ questions?

In an effort to drive down costs, some pollsters use robocalls (automatic dialling) or online polling, to conduct their surveys. The accuracy of such polls deserves a skeptical response. The public is also fed up with picking up the telephone only to hear a computer spew out questions. The result is that some pollsters are providing highly dubious findings without disclosing their entire raw data. The validity of the polling industry has been destroyed by these quick and unethical pollsters, but unfortunately, newspapers and TV news programs take their conclusions all too seriously. The media promote the horse race aspect of the election campaign

in order to sell newspapers and to increase public interest. That is, rather than covering substantive and leadership issues in the election campaign, the media frequently rely on polls to provide the “news” of the day about the election campaign.

Opinion polls in recent years have become so controversial—and sometimes so spectacularly wrong in forecasting election winners, that some critics are demanding a ban on all polls during election campaigns.

To head this off, in June, 2015, the Canadian Association of Public Opinion Research was launched. It consists of polling company executives, academics and media representatives who hope to establish guidelines on accountability, transparency and professionalism for the polling industry. Its oversight will eventually be good for the industry, the media and the voting public.

However, these efforts are too late to affect the endless stream of polls that will be coming down the pike in the upcoming 2015 federal election.

Be prepared to be saturated with these polls, and don’t take them seriously! †

WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES IX YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

The World Congress of Families IX, to take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, on October 30th, 2015, is offering a scholarship for young adults to attend this conference. The scholarship includes airfare, hotel room, food stipend and travel visa (if needed).

This scholarship is open to young adults 18 to 27, who embrace marriage, family and the sanctity of life.

The program will include features especially designed to inspire and motivate youth delegates. The youth delegates will receive inspiration, information and data to increase their knowledge and skills as they prepare to strengthen and promote families—the families that will

solve economic, social and political challenges in the real world of their future.

This scholarship is being offered because young adults are fundamental to the cause of the family. They represent the rising generation and have significant influence on public dialogue, culture and opinion-making. The youth of today will be the parents, policy-makers, teachers, public servants and opinion leaders of tomorrow.

Scholarship applications can be downloaded from www.wcf9.org and emailed to youth@wcf9.org along with the required essay, meme, poem, video, or photo of original artwork. Questions can be emailed to youth@wcf9.org. †

REAL WOMEN OF CANADA 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. LIST OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED
2. 2015 REAL WOMEN RESOLUTIONS
3. SPEAKER AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
—DAMIAN GODDARD

1. REAL WOMEN OF CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

At our Annual General Meeting held on June 5, 2015, our 2015–2016 Board of Directors elected were as follows:

Pauline Guzik – North Bay, Ontario
Gwendolyn Landolt – Richmond Hill, Ontario
Doraine Wachniak – Winnipeg, Manitoba
Maeve Ryan – Ottawa, Ontario
Cecilia (Sissy) Von Dehn – Vancouver, British Columbia



From Left to Right: Maeve Ryan; Gwen Landolt; Damian Goddard; Pauline Guzik and Doraine Wachniak.
Missing: Sissy Von Dehn

2. 2015 REAL WOMEN RESOLUTIONS

I. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN CANADA

WHEREAS the Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides in two separate sections (S2 and S15) protection for religious rights;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Human Rights Act provides protection in S3 for religious rights;

AND WHEREAS the federal and provincial Human Rights Tribunals do not objectively protect religious rights in their decisions;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada, in *Trinity Western University v British Columbia College of Teachers* in 2001, ruled that there is no hierarchy of rights under the Charter; and that there must be a balance of the differing rights established under the Charter;

AND WHEREAS special interest groups for homosexuals, which are similarly situated and protected under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Human Rights Act, demand that homosexual rights have priority over religious rights;

AND WHEREAS the special interest groups for homosexuals demand that freedom of religion be limited to its expression and its enactment only within religious premises and in private homes, and be excluded from public places and discourse;

AND WHEREAS the demands of the special interest groups for homosexuals fail to properly and proportionally balance religious rights with homosexual rights under the Charter as required by the Supreme Court of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT federal and provincial governments, courts and Human Rights Tribunals protect, without discrimination, the right of freedom of religion, both expressed and acted upon openly and freely without restriction, throughout Canada so that this is properly balanced and protected by the Charter.

II. THE ABORTION OF DOWN SYNDROME AND DISABLED UNBORN BABIES

WHEREAS all human beings are entitled to respect and dignity;

AND WHEREAS all human beings are equal in their humanity and require the same rights, including a provision of a place of safety in the world;

AND WHEREAS differing abilities in individuals do not change the requirement to provide equal rights to each individual;

AND WHEREAS Individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities contribute joy and humanity to society and to their families;

AND WHEREAS individuals with Down syndrome or other disabilities are not a burden to society, but make a contribution as participating members of society, and also frequently contribute as tax paying individuals to society;

AND WHEREAS approximately 80% of Down syndrome unborn babies in Canada are not permitted to be born, but are aborted because of the prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome or other disability;

AND WHEREAS genetic counsellors and other healthcare providers do not always provide support to assist in carrying a baby to term, or provide up-to-date scientific information about prenatally diagnosed conditions, or refer for support services;

AND WHEREAS it is acceptable in today's society and even considered a duty to abort a baby with Down syndrome or other disability;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT no person shall purposely perform an abortion if that person has knowledge that the pregnant woman is seeking the abortion because her unborn child has Down syndrome or another disability;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT parents who have been advised of the probability of the birth of a Down syndrome child or a child with disability, be provided with support services, including counseling, social and financial support, both before and after the birth of their child;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a physician shall have his/her license removed for performing an abortion for reason of the unborn child having the disability of Down syndrome or other disability.

3. DAMIAN GODDARD, REAL WOMEN AGM SPEAKER, JUNE 5, 2015

On Friday, June 5, at REAL Women's AGM, we were privileged to have as our speaker, a real Christian gentleman, a man dedicated to his family and community, to his authentic faith, and to standing for the truth of the Gospel, despite the consequences. In the case of Damian Goddard, those consequences have been sacrificial: the loss of his job, as well as broken personal relationships—former colleagues, friends and even family members.

Under the circumstances, one might have expected to hear a talk full of grievances, reproaches and anger. However, this was not the case. Damian's mature and humble faith, as well as his willingness to shoulder unexpected burdens, with the goal of serving the truth of the Gospel, came shining through. Simply put, Damian's authentic Christian witness and testimony were inspirational.

Damian had a fairly conventional childhood: he grew up

in Scarborough, one of seven children “in a strong Catholic family”. He was “a good kid”, who honoured God and worked hard. After 20 years of a successful career in both radio and television sports broadcasting, he was one of the leading anchors on Rogers Sportsnet. During that time, from his mid twenties on, he was an observant and prayerful Christian: he’d even forego dinner with the guys in order to go to mass! “God has been good to me”: Damian attributes his career successes and those of being a dedicated husband and father of two to the guidance of a loving—and exacting—God. So, until May, 2011, he “thought that true suffering was being a fan of the Maple Leafs”! Then, what he thought was a routine Tweet changed his life forever.

Todd Reynolds, a sports agent and friend of Damian’s, was being cruelly mocked for his support of traditional marriage. Such hatred and intolerance really bothered Damian, who took a principled stand to be with his friend by issuing the following Twitter post: “I completely and whole-heartedly support Todd Reynolds and his support for the traditional and TRUE meaning of marriage.” (By the way, this was President Obama’s stand at the time.)

As a result, Damian was fired by Rogers on the spot after 13 years of loyal service. He also endured the “Gestapo tactics”, including death threats, of the “tolerant” folks who disagreed with him. Damian filed a case with the Human Rights Commission (HRC), claiming that his firing was a case of religious discrimination. In 2013, the HRC threw out his case, claiming there was no link between “the complainant’s religion and the termination of his employment contract”. (Right.) Since that time, Damian has laboured to rebuild his career, which he pursues from a studio he’s built in his basement. His mission is summed up in the motto at his website: “Standing for freedom. Standing for faith.” (<http://www.damiangoddard.com/>)

Damian knows that Christians are in a time of increasing persecution: “Our culture is more and more hostile to what we believe to be true.” And while he altogether understands and abhors the unjust hatred and vitriol of our enemies, he believes that both the Church and individual Christians “have failed miserably” at being faithful to our calling. He believes that such groups as secularists, and those who unthinkingly follow the Zeitgeist hold more strongly to their beliefs than we do to ours. So, what are we called to do?

Damian believes that something big—and not good—is brewing in the world. He believes that a day of reckoning is fast approaching. In that context, he referenced Pope Paul VI’s document, “Gaudium et Spes” (Joy and Hope) of December, 1965. Since that strong and optimistic message, Damian believes that there has been a steady and determined dismantling of the faith. “The Devil attacks us where we are most vulnerable.” We must understand that Satan is real: one of his strongest weapons is people’s belief that he doesn’t exist. Damian firmly believes that “we need to be faithful no matter what”, even though, from bitter experience, he understands that that often means painful sacrifice. As the Gospel tells us, we must love Christ more than security and even family. Damian believes that we must “go deeper” into our faith in order “to find ways to embolden people”. He understands that we may even be called to martyrdom: “Christ-like suffering is a seed”.

Damian Goddard is an inspiring example of a Christian willing to live in obedience to the truth of the Gospel and suffer for it. By his faithful witness, he is also a shining example of how to live authentically in the love and joy of Christ in the midst of hardship and pain. †

MESSAGE BOARD

- Consider attending the Ninth World Congress of Families, October 27 to 30, 2015, in Salt Lake City, Utah. This is the first time the congress is being held in the United States. Gwen Landolt, our National Vice-President, will be delivering a speech. REAL Women will also have an exhibit booth. We are a partner organization of the World Congress of Families. For more information on the Congress, refer to <http://wcf9.org/>. Contact our Toronto office if you would like more information on how to register as a member of REAL Women. 905-787-0348.
- “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” (quote largely accredited to Edmund Burke, 1729-1797, Irish Statesman). A clarion call to activism: letter writing, attending rallies and conferences, praying, reading REALity, discussing issues, contacting government officials, March for Life, Life Chain. ... DO SOMETHING!! Go outside your comfort zone. Get involved. Stay informed. Vote accordingly!

SUPPORT REAL WOMEN OF CANADA

PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO JOIN OUR WORK
TO DEFEND & PROTECT LIFE & THE FAMILY

Membership \$30/year • Groups \$50/year • Donation _____
Contributions, unfortunately, are not tax deductible.

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Send online at www.realwomenofcanada.ca or by mail. Thank you.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our National Board would like to acknowledge the wonderful assistance we received from our REAL Women of Canada Toronto Chapter in making our 2015 Annual General Meeting run smoothly. The Chapter attended to many details such as procuring the venue, room set-up and take-down, membership renewals, and purchasing the refreshments for the evening social. Chapter volunteers also phoned members in the Toronto area to remind them of the AGM. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you also to those members who attended and provided some lively discussions.

REAL Women of Canada is now an Air Miles collector. You can help us accumulate travel points by requesting a Collector Card from our Ottawa office, at no charge. It is a loyalty card (like Shoppers' Optimum card). When you shop at sponsors such as Sobeys, Staples, Rona, Metro, Foodland, LCBO, Shell, Rexall, TimberMart, Michael's, and Budget Rent a Car and show the Collector Card, REAL Women receives points to pay for travel expenses when Board members attend Board meetings, UN conferences, World Congress of Families or other events where we are delivering a talk, manning our exhibit booth or lobbying. A complete list of Air Miles Sponsors can be found at www.airmiles.ca. Please help us in this fundraising endeavour, which does not cost you anything.

Thank you for your support.

Pauline Guzik