

Response to the recent Supreme Court Decision on Same Sex Marriage

Michael Balcomb

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I have been asked by many members and pastors to prepare a simple statement from the Family Federation outlining our response to the recent Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage. Today, being the 33rd Anniversary of the Madison Square Garden Blessing, is an auspicious day to begin this conversation.

We are working carefully on preparing a fuller statement, but in the meantime please find attached a simple list of FAQs which address some of the more urgent questions that we may have. We will continue to research this matter and make more resources available in due course.

Above all, we should be confident that this is an opportunity to speak with more renewed confidence about the meaning and value of True Parents' Holy Blessing, which our Heavenly Parents wants to be a blessing to all of humanity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Balcomb

FAQS ON THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE

1. What did the Supreme Court decide on June 26, 2015, regarding same-sex marriage?

The Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the 14th Amendment “does not permit [any] State to bar same-sex couples from marriage on the same terms as accorded to couples of the opposite sex.” In other words, every State must recognize same-sex marriages. The ruling was based primarily on the due process right to “liberty,” with some mention of equal protection of the law.

2. Why does the Family Federation support traditional marriage between a man and a woman?

Since the beginning of their ministry, our Founders Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon have taught that the God-centered unity of man and woman in holy marriage is the true basis for the realization of a healthy society and world. They have encouraged and sanctified many such marriages.

This conforms to Holy Scripture, which teaches that we are all made in the image of God, male and female (Gen. 1:27) and Jesus’ teaching that it is God’s Will that the two shall become one flesh (Mark 10:8). In addition, there is strong evidence that the two parent traditional family provides the greatest benefit to children and to generations yet to come.

3. Does the Family Federation approve of discrimination against gays?

No. The Family Federation recognizes that gay people have at times been badly treated by people in the name of religion. This is wrong. The Family Federation upholds the value of every individual as a son or daughter of God.

4. Can ministers still advocate the traditional view of marriage between man and woman?

Yes. The Court’s opinion specifically states that “religious organizations and persons” will still be able to “teach the principles . . . central to their lives and faiths,” that their “own deep aspirations” will be protected, and that they will be allowed to “engage . . . in an open and searching debate” regarding the meaning of marriage. In light of the Court’s decision, we will redouble our efforts to promote the teachings of our Founder, which uphold God-centered marriage as the fastest road to peace.

5. Will the Family Federation be required to allow same-sex couples to participate in the Holy Blessing Ceremony?

No. The Family Federation may restrict participation in the Holy Blessing Ceremony to couples comprised of a man and a woman.

6. If churches are making their facilities available for ceremonies by other groups, will they be required by law to allow same-sex marriages in their facilities?

Maybe. It will depend, in part, on the nature of the facilities and on state and local laws.

*If you have further specific questions, please direct them to:
Mrs. Kaye Allen, Director of Legal Affairs at HSA-UWC.*