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"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty." 2 Cor 3:17

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A Message from Mat Staver, our Founder and Chairman

THE SUPREME MISTAKE: THE HIGH COURT CROSSED THE LINE ON MARRIAGE RULINGS

On June 26, the Supreme Court made a supreme mistake. It crossed the line of its legitimate authority when it struck down the Federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which affirmed marriage as a union of one man and one woman. The implications of this ruling are staggering. Marriage is the foundation of society. Now the question is – "What shall the righteous do?"

Justice Kennedy, writing for the 5-4 majority of the Supreme Court, struck down Section 3 of DOMA, which defines marriage as one man and one woman for purposes of federal law and federal benefits. Justice Scalia wrote in his dissent that the Court's errors, both in explaining its jurisdiction and its decision, "spring from the same diseased root: an exalted conception of the role of this institution in America."

Disgusted with the majority's unrealistic view of itself, Scalia wrote, "I promise you this: The only thing that will 'confine' the Court's holding is its sense of what it can get away with."

In other words, the Court will retain only the authority the people give it. Its authority lies in the fact that the people deem its decisions to be legitimate, and

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The United States Supreme Court (its iconic West portico and steps are pictured at left) is at the center of intense controversy after striking down key portions of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and remanding the suit against California's famous Prop 8 back to the trial court in late June. **Charges of overt judicial activism erupted from the public following the decisions.** The Justices of the High Court (shown at bottom right) are, bottom, left to right, Clarence Thomas, Antonin Scalia, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., Anthony M. Kennedy, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Top, Sonia Sotomayor, Stephen G. Breyer, Samuel A. Alito, Jr., and Elena Kagan. **Please pray for wisdom as Liberty Counsel works with national leaders and pastors to develop a bold and principled response to these illegitimate and outrageous decisions.**

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this decision clearly is not.

In the 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* abortion decision, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor candidly admitted that the Court's authority rested solely upon the trust of the people. She wrote:

The Court must take care to speak and act in ways that allow people to accept its decisions on the terms the Court claims for them, as grounded truly in principle, not as compromises with social and political pressures having, as such, no bearing on the principled choices that the Court is obliged to make. Thus, the Court's

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legitimacy depends on making legally principled decisions under circumstances in which their principled character is sufficiently plausible to be accepted by the Nation.

The Supreme Court has lost its legitimacy as an arbiter of the Constitution and the rule of law. *The DOMA opinion is the death of the Court's legacy, because the decision defies logic and is a pure invention of a handful of Justices.*

Marriage predates religion and civil government. No civil authority, including the Supreme Court, has the authority to redefine marriage. For any Court or civil authority to think it has the authority to redefine marriage is the height of hubris. Deconstructing marriage will hurt children and society. The Supreme Court has damaged its image, lost legitimacy, and set in motion considerable harm to society and to the State of the Union.

The Court has cut the tether that once connected it to the Constitution. On top of this flawed opinion, the

majority demeaned the Court and weakened its authority by labeling as hateful those who believe that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Such irresponsible language by the Court undermines its legitimacy.

In anticipation of this ruling, I codrafted the *Marriage Solidarity Statement*, which many of the nation's leading Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox clergy and leaders signed. Acknowledging there are differences of religious views on doctrinal matters, we committed to stand together to defend marriage.

The statement declares in part: *We affirm that marriage and family have been inscribed by the Divine Architect into the order of creation. Marriage is ontologically between one man and one woman, ordered toward the union of the spouses, open to children, and formative of family. Family is the first vital cell of society; the first church, first school, first hospital, first economy, first government, and first mediating institution of our social order. The future of a free and healthy society passes through marriage and the family.*

Marriage can no more be redefined by government than can the laws of gravity! But when government pretends to redefine marriage, experience has shown that government will use force and punishment against people whose religious conviction and conscience oppose this "Alice in Wonderland" fantasy.

Standing together in defense of marriage, we boldly declared: "While there are many things we can endure, redefining marriage is so fundamental to the natural order and the true common good that this is the line we must draw and one we cannot and will not cross."

Psalm 11:3 poses the question, "If the foundations are destroyed, what shall the righteous do?" *We must repent and pray for revival. Prayer changes things.*

In 1989, after a pastor was jailed in Communist Romania, his congregation gathered outside his house and prayed.

Soon, most of the residents of his city gathered to pray, chanting "We need God!" A revolution quickly spread throughout the country. In one week, the people overthrew the Communist regime and experienced freedom on December 25, 1989. With God, nothing is impossible (Luke 18:27)!

Like our Romanian brothers and

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sisters in Christ, we must also act! Declare your support for marriage by signing the *Marriage Solidarity Statement* at MarriageSolidarity.com. Get your friends to sign it. While you're at it, be sure to also sign up for our Grassroots Action email at LC.org.

But signing a statement is not enough. Gather concerned members of your church and meet with your pastor. Urge the pastor to preach about marriage and freedom. Establish a "Salt & Light Citizenship Ministry" in your church to keep the pastor and the church apprised of action steps. Visit SaltandLightCouncil.org. Call us to find out how you and your church can be part of our *Pastors & Patriots* program and begin a *Salt & Light* ministry in your community.

Urge your Members of Congress to pass a Constitutional Marriage Amendment. Tell your state leaders to stand firm on marriage. If your state has already crossed the line, then vote in new leaders!

Whether you pick up the phone, a pen, a picket sign, send a check, or

write an email, you must act in defense of natural marriage if we are to have any hope of escaping the bitter fruit the recent rulings on same-sex “marriage” are already bringing.

In addition to our increased battle in the courts, Liberty Counsel is moving full steam ahead with our *Pastors & Patriots* initiative. Last month we launched an intense week of meetings with pastors in Florida where we already have an established network. We are establishing these networks across the country.

God has not changed His mind about marriage and the created order. We cannot remain silent on the matter of marriage. *This is a line we cannot cross.*

Stand in solidarity with us! We need your prayers and will immediately put your financial support to productive use. *Thank you* for stepping forward to be God’s answer in this time of national crisis. And please join Anita and me in thanking Him for the honor He has given us in helping bring forth a “Rebirth of Liberty in 2013.” 🙏



Mathew D. Staver, who founded Liberty Counsel along with his wife, Anita, in 1989, serves as the organization’s Chairman. A leading constitutional attorney, widely read author, and sought-after speaker and cultural apologist, he also serves as Dean of the Liberty University School of Law and as Chairman of Liberty Counsel Action. Staver is among the core leaders of a national effort to rebuild the conservative movement in America.



Prayer Requests

□ As America’s constitutional crisis intensifies, please pray for the launch of our new Liberty Prayer Network (LPN). As you know, Liberty Counsel asks for committed prayer for many of our major litigation efforts. For instance, this spring a little over 100,000 of our friends signed up in an *Amici Book* (Book of Friends) in support of our case against ObamaCare when it was reheard at the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Liberty Prayer Network will connect intercessors to pray for the mission of Liberty Counsel in our many ministries and will also intercede for America, our leaders, Israel, and our supporters.

□ Please pray for the continuing success of Liberty Counsel’s lawsuit against ObamaCare, *Liberty University v. Geithner*, and our new “Delay, Defund, and Defeat ObamaCare” campaign. You can always go to www.LibertyCounsel.com to learn more and update your prayer list.

□ Please pray for protection and great wisdom for our education and action outreach to over 750,000 Americans via email. Pray that Internet communication channels remain free and unobstructed by government regulation or censorship, especially in light of the recent disclosure that the National Security Agency (NSA) is monitoring Internet messages.

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members of our communities to exert influence over the school boards, curriculum committees, and other public offices affecting education. We must show up anywhere and any time we can make an impact.

We cannot stick our head in the sand while our nation’s children are held hostage in government indoctrination camps. *We dare not leave our most precious resource – our children – to the humanists.* Secularization has deeply infected many school systems nationwide, spurred on by anti-Christian groups like the ACLU, People for the American Way, Freedom from Religion Foundation, and other

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radical groups that systematically coerce administrators into kicking God out the door.

The threat posed to our constitutional republic by socialist indoctrination in government school systems is very real and very present. But the good news is that Liberty Counsel and other pro-liberty groups are standing up against this subversion and are winning the battles! Join with us for the sake of our children and grandchildren. Resist the godless, socialist indoctrination before it’s too late! 🙏

Anita L. Staver, Liberty Counsel’s President, cofounded the ministry in 1989 along with her husband, Mat. Anita is a member of the bars of the state of Florida and the District of Columbia. She is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, every federal court of appeals in the nation, and six federal district courts.

From Anita Staver, President

STEALTH CREATION OF GOVERNMENT INDOCTRINATION CAMPS UNDERWAY



“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God...your sons and daughters shall be given to another people.”

— Deuteronomy 28: 15, 32

Most Americans are blissfully unaware that dangerous, anti-God indoctrination camps have been opened in every state in our nation!

A further outrage: You and I are being forced to support these socialist camps that threaten our nation’s very survival.

Under the guise of bringing positive reform, these camps are undermining the American way of life. Every day, millions of helpless people are taken there on busses to be brainwashed and victimized. In fact, our government has created an entire bureaucracy dedicated to advancing these repressive institutions.

You probably even have relatives or friends who are mandated to live in these camps for countless hours of the most impressionable and formative

years of their lives. Of course, these government indoctrination camps are also known as “public schools.”

Public schools have indeed, become some of the most dangerous places in America, not just because of potential violence, but due to

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humanists with revisionist textbooks espousing anti-God lies to throngs of unsuspecting indoctrinees.

In one of the most alarming cultural trends of the century, public schools are increasingly teaching children to reject and ridicule their parents’ viewpoints on religion and morality. Parents are losing the right to raise their children without government interference!

Although public schools were started to spread and affirm Christian morals and the Bible, government schools have become hostile places for God’s Word. The tragic fact is that the lack of morals in our public school classrooms is endangering our nation’s future.

These days, when parental authority is overruled by bureaucrats and activist judges, leaving parents as mere caretakers, Christians need to heed the warnings and take control of the public schools while they still can. And while we are working on school reform, we need to be sure our own children do not fall victim to the brainwashing.

I am convinced that parents will be judged for choices that impact their children’s future. Schooling is largely a personal choice. There are few situations, such as in a single parent home or for health reasons, where a family is forced to place their children under government care.

More often, school selection is a matter of priorities, and whether parents are willing to sacrifice comfort, convenience, material possessions, or personal fulfillment for the sake of their child’s educational needs.

As one who was homeschooled until 7th grade, I understand the importance of a stay-at-home parent. In fact, if I had known years ago what I know now, I would never have placed our own daughter into the hands of public school indoctrinators for even one of her twelve school years.

I believe that many Christians will need to ask God’s forgiveness for neglecting His most precious gift: our nation’s children. And while we are training up our own children, we must also take the public schools back from the secularists, humanists, and socialists who have gained a stranglehold on their curricula.

Even if we do not have children or grandchildren in the government-controlled school systems, we must be deeply concerned about those who will someday govern our nation.

My fellow Americans: We must get involved. We must exercise our rights and responsibilities as citizens and

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Restoring the Culture by Advancing Religious Freedom, the Sanctity of Human Life and the Family

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