

– 1Peter 3.14-16 –  
*In the Wake of Obergefell 3*  
**Be Ready to Give a Defense**

1Peter 3.14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

\* Has the church been here before? What was the situation in the early centuries of the church?

\* What does Peter tell Christians?

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(a)

(b)

\* What do we have to realize about our culture?

\* To be ready to give a defense, we must be prepared to ...

\* Re the Supreme Court's decision:

- "The Supreme Court's decision is tragic, really. It cast aside the considered wisdom of every culture in recorded history, and it short circuited the democratic process by removing the decision from the people and overturning the laws of 30 states. But we remain dedicated to building a thriving marriage culture built on the only union that produces life, puts the needs of children above the desires of adults, and gives kids the best opportunity of flourishing."
- Ancient cultures such as Greece and Rome embraced every kind of sexuality imaginable, but they never redefined marriage. Because at the end of the day, whatever self-fulfillment it might offer to adults, marriage

was about the only union that can produce life and give children the best environment for flourishing.

- "The Supreme Court's decision is just another step in the remaking of America, from a country that placed the interests of children first to a country that places the personal desires adults above all."
- "How much has America changed? Consider that today, the most dangerous place a child can be is in their mother's womb."
- "'Equal protection' has never been about 'redefining,' especially not redefining an institution that long predated the government. Our government was formed to protect inalienable rights conferred by the creator God, not rights made up, defined, or redefined by the government. The government merely recognized and protected the rights that God conferred. If you don't believe me, read the Declaration of Independence."
- "The result of the Court's redefinition of marriage will ultimately be to destroy marriage altogether, which really is the goal of many of the forces pushing for these changes."

\* Re "You lost; just accept it":

- "The church has been defeated, dead, and buried many times, and every time it comes back, because we have a God who knows the way out of the grave." (Based on Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man*)

\* Re free exercise of religion:

- "Every American should be free to live and work according to their conscience and convictions regarding marriage without fear of unjust punishment from the government."
- "The government was formed to be freedom's greatest protector, not its greatest threat."

\* Re hating/not loving:

- "As Christians, we love all, but love means seeking the good of another regardless of what it costs you. Telling someone who has cancer that they don't have cancer isn't seeking their good, and it isn't love."
- "Telling someone with cancer that they have cancer isn't hate."
- "The church is a hospital that admits all, but the Great Physician who runs the hospital doesn't allow patients to redefine their problems and pronounce themselves well."

\* Re "born that way":

- "That's what they keep saying, but that's not what the studies show; they show the opposite."
- "The problem is, every time there is a study that seems to support a genetic cause for homosexuality, it is put on the front page of every newspaper in the country. But when those same studies turn out to be invalidated by bigger and better studies, you don't hear anything about it."
- "One of the largest and most thorough studies was conducted by Yale and Columbia, and they were unable to find a genetic component to same-sex attraction. They found less than a 7% correlation of same-sex attraction between identical twins with identical genes. They concluded that *if* there is a genetic component to same-sex

attraction, it is “massively overwhelmed by other factors.” (*American Journal of Sociology*, vol 107, no. 5 (March 2002), pp. 1179, 1190, 1197-98).

- *What about the study that found identical twins shared same-sex attraction over 50% of the time?* “That study was basically invalidated for a couple of reasons. First, they recruited the subjects for the study by advertising in gay publications, and second, they had a very small sample set—only 41 sets of identical twins. For a valid study, you need a larger sample set, and you have to draw it from a generic, broad based pool. Even with all those disqualifiers, that study only had 14 of 41 sets (32%) where both twins were same-sex attracted. They came up with the 50% by using a special way of counting where, when twins are both same-sex attracted, that counts as two, but when they are not, that only counts as one. It's really 32%; 14 of 41 sets of twins. But even if it were 50%, that still doesn't support genetic causation. Remember, identical twins are genetically identical. If same-sex attraction is genetically determined, there should be 100% correlation between identical twins. Fifty percent—that's a coin toss.” (Bailey and Pillard study, 1990)
- “Another example of this kind of 'science' is the 'population bomb' narrative introduced in the early '70s and preached incessantly as scientific orthodoxy until just recently. In fact, the biggest global threat of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is worldwide depopulation.”

\* Re “immutable, unchangeable.”

- “Let's think about that. What about alcoholics, drug addicts, kleptomaniacs, compulsive liars, hoarders, and all kinds of other people with additions or compulsions? If you ask any of them, they will tell you that they didn't ask to be this way, that they were born this way, and that they can't change. Yet isn't the whole psychiatric profession based on the premise that with help, they can change? And really, every single one of us has impulses of one kind or another to do things that are wrong, and we didn't ask to be that way—it seems we were just born that way, and we don't know how we can overcome the problem because it runs so deep. So by saying those things, gays are really say that they're in the same boat as everyone else. But none of us should get to redefine wrongs as being right or problems as being 'no problem.' We cant' hide behind 'born that way,' or 'its unchangeable.' And from a Christian perspective, those statements are just admissions of the depth of our need for God's transforming love and power.”

\* Re the beauty of marriage by God's design:

- “Marriage is the privilege of loving like God loves and becoming his co-creators along the way. When God loves us, he is loving someone who is fundamentally “other” than him—for there is no greater difference than the difference between God as infinite, eternal creator and us as finite, mortal creatures. Yet he binds himself to us and give himself to us forever. This explains why God goes so far out of his way in bringing human life into the world only through one man joined to one woman. This is why he goes so far out of his way in building the human race one baby at a time with nine months of gestation and twenty years of raising. In marriage, we have the privilege

of loving someone fundamentally “other,” not just in the sense of another person, but of another sex—someone who looks different, thinks differently, needs differently, and gives differently from us. And God blesses it by bringing new life into being. This is sheer privilege and glory, and it is completely missing from all the modern discussion about marriage. We've missed the most important part.”