

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

28 June 2015

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Just one person (Hebrews 11)

A.M. Lesson:

Be strong and courageous (Joshua 1)

P.M. Lesson:

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant
(Matthew 13:21f)

Wednesday:

Singing

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	11:00 A.M.

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:2
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.*

What To Do after the Supreme Court Decision on Gay Marriage

Mark Galli. Christianitytoday.com. June 26, 2015
condensed

It is now the law of the land to permit other forms of "marriage."

The temptation is to go off and sulk in our holy corner. Or to dig in our heels and fight harder. Or to lash out in anger. Or to despair. We can do better. Like taking to heart especially the Beatitudes:

Rejoice. Not in the decision, of course, but "Rejoice in the Lord always," says Paul, "again I say rejoice." And elsewhere, "Give thanks to God in all circumstances." And this paraphrase: "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, or prevail against you in the public square because of me. Rejoice and be glad..." (Matt. 5:11).

Rejoice in what exactly? Let's just note the big things: That God has not gone anywhere. That Christ's death and resurrection remain the power of salvation for all. That the gospel still goes forth. That the gates of the Supreme Court or Congress cannot prevail against Christ's church. That there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. That the kingdom will come—and that there remains a great deal of vital work for us to do in the church and in society until that day.

Repent. Another temptation now is to point the finger at the forces—political, social, philosophical, spiritual—arrayed against the church and its moral teaching. Without denying the reality of "principalities and powers" (Eph. 6:12), we do well to ponder this: What actions and attitudes have we imbibed that contribute to our culture's dismissing our ethics? Our passion to root out sexual sins while being relatively indifferent to racism, gluttony, and other sins—opens us to the charge of hypocrisy. Before we spend too much more time trying to straighten out the American neighborhood, we might get our own house in order. Blessed are the poor in spirit who mourn their sins (Matt. 5:3-4).

Rethink. This certainly means thinking afresh about what we will and will not do when, for example, a gay married couple, seeking to draw closer to God, shows up in church and wants to get involved. It nearly goes without saying that we will welcome them unconditionally as we would anyone who walks in the door. But what does love look like in this particular instance? How much participation do we encourage before we ask them to adopt the Christian sexual ethic?

No matter the specific issue, we do well to remember that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness in such matters are blessed and will be filled (Matt. 5:6).

Re-engage. There is much talk today that the American church has been removed from a privileged place in society. We are said to now live "in exile" and "at the margins." To some degree, yes, but in other countries Christians are restricted from building churches and schools. People are going to jail and/or

losing their lives for their faith.

That's exile. We in the US are far from living at the margins. We still live in a society that protects free speech and free assembly, that supports religious freedom, that permits all its citizens to participate in governing at all levels. To be sure, we see serious challenges to these rights and liberties, challenges that require vigilance and hard work in the days ahead. But as it stands, these rights and liberties prevail here as nearly nowhere else in the world. Let's make use of them for the common good—becoming peacemakers (Matt. 5:9) as best we can as we re-engage at all levels of politics.

Reach out. Now that the issue of gay marriage is decided, we may find that we have a greater opportunity than ever to build fruitful relationships with those in the LGBT community who have been hostile to all things Christian. Up to this point, we've been seen as a threat to their political agenda. Now that we have lost on the issue of gay marriage, that threat is removed and it may not be long before we see more willingness to engage us as fellow human beings. We should welcome and even initiate those moments as opportunities to share—in mercy (Matt. 5:7)—the good and beautiful news of the gospel like never before.

Rejoice. Again with Paul we say, rejoice. In particular, we rejoice because of God's call for us at this critical juncture of history. Just as the 4th-century church was given the responsibility to think through the nature of Christ, and the 16th-century church had the task of pondering afresh the relationship of faith and works, so we in our time are called to think through and respond to a host of issues surrounding human sexuality. What we teach and what we do in our time will shape the church's thought and life for generations to come.

News:

Ken Knowlton is going to have some dental work done. He was advised to plan on a six week recovery time.
Mike Cavassos' twin brother Mark is receiving treatment for a heart aneurysm.

Floyd Dodd is receiving treatments for cancer
P.J. Waller is expected to have spinal disk surgery in July.

Prayer List:

Hattie Hedrick—poor health
Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration
Ken Cocke—back and shoulder pains
Janet Radar—nursing home
H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia
Mike Cavasos—constant pain, foot surgeries
Sandy Cavasos—degenerative disk disease
Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs



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<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>

JULY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 singing	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Kenzi Waller Birthday
12	13	14 Cindy Waller Birthday	15	16	17	18 Greg and Louella Briggs, Anniv
19 fellowship meal	20 Marc Cavasos Birthday	21	22 Jalynn Self Birthday	23	24	25
26 Parents' Day	27 Jonda Gardner Birthday	28 Kyle Cocke Birthday	29	30	31	