

How the “Respect for Marriage Act” Will Hurt Religious Liberty

Last week, more than 80 organizations—including the Colson Center, Alliance Defending Freedom, and Focus on the Family—sent a letter to Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The purpose was “to denounce . . . the so-called ‘Respect for Marriage Act,’ ‘in the strongest possible terms.’”

The letter outlined three problems with this legislation.

First, the act would require recognition of *any* state definition of marriage, making possible options such as polygamous or open marriages. This would sacrifice the well-being of children for adult happiness.

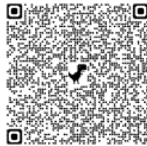
Second, the act sets up religious organizations and businesses to be sued for upholding that marriage is between a man and a woman. So, religious foster agencies, social service organizations, and other organizations and businesses contracted with the government could expect to be targeted.

Third, this legislation could threaten the tax-exempt status of non-profits that believe that marriage is between a man and a woman.

The so-called “Respect for Marriage Act” would establish and expand the wrongly decided Obergefell ruling. If you care about religious liberty and children, please contact your senator today.

Resources:

Call Your Senators About the Respect for Marriage Act.



Possible Script to Say to Senator’s Office About Marriage Act



Letter From Coalition to Senate Minority Leader.



August 7, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Death of a Soul

John the Baptist

**A Life of Uncompromising
Faithfulness to His God**

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call To Worship

Hymn of Praise: "Blessed Assurance(My King is Coming)"
..... Crosby/West/Kipley

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed*

Hymn of Affirmation

"In the Hands of Christ My King". . . Ivey/Dawes/Lnad/Collins

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

Scripture Warning: 1 John 1:8-9

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Ephesians 2:4-5

Song of Renewal: "Lift My Eyes".Turner/Galbraith/Farren

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:14-29

Prayer

The Sermon

"The Death of a Soul"

Song of Communion

"Lamb of God". Hansen/Kauflin/LaChance

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

Holy Communion

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

"I Got Saved". Voss/Yates/Riddle

Benediction

*The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325) and was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and the person of Christ. The term catholic refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, or geographic barriers.

vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. (Luke 23:8-11)

It is possible for a human being to be so jaded that he or she can stand face-to-face with Christ and feel nothing. It is possible to so squash the repeated warnings of conscience that it becomes as if dead. The primary message here is for nonbelievers. If Christ has been moving one's conscience, if he or she realizes personal sin and that Christ is perfect righteousness, then one must believe in him and rest in him.

But there is also a message for the believer. A neglected conscience will suffer progressive desensitization to God so that we do not hear him when he speaks. We need to cultivate our conscience by filling our minds with God's Word and then obeying it.

¹Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior* (Vol. 1, p. 144). Crossway Books.

²MacArthur, J. (2015). *Mark 1-8* (p. 308). Moody Publishers.

Notes

HEROD: A Violated Conscience

Mark 6:21–25 (ESV)

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²²For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." ²³And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." ²⁴And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." ²⁵And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

Presumably, with one deft stroke of the executioner's blade, John the Baptist entered into his glorious eternal rest, to receive his full reward for uncompromising faithfulness to God. He was not only the greatest and last of the Old Testament prophets, he was also the first martyr for Jesus Christ.²

HEROD: A Conscience Torn A Prophet Dead

Mark 6:26–29 (ESV)

And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. ²⁷And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison ²⁸and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

What was Herod's response? He **was exceedingly sorry** (v. 26a). "*The king was greatly distressed*" (v. 26). He was in genuine grief. This word was used only one other time in the New Testament, to describe Jesus' pain in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:34).

HEROD: A Dead Conscience (Luke 23:8–11)

The last recorded mention of this Herod (Herod Antipas) in Holy Scripture presents a chilling reality. At the end of Jesus' life, our Lord was sent from Pilate to Herod, for the case was under his jurisdiction and he was in town. Of this meeting,

When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there,

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 9 6:00 P.M. Young Adults meet at the Deicherts for supper, Bible Study, and games

Sunday, August 17 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering —1300 High St.

Saturday, August 20 8:00 A.M Men's Breakfast
at the home of Pastor Rick

Sunday, August 28 5:00 P.M. Baptism Service
at the home of Dave and Lisa Frame; followed by supper
Brochures are available at the Welcome Table.

Saturday, November 12 Ladies Event
Verna Bowman speaking: Time and Place TBD

DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Howden

- Pray for wisdom as they prepare for the Fall Semester.
- Pray for their baby who should be arriving near the end of this year.



CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl

- Pray as they lead "Art of Parenting" at their church this fall.

Crossing Cultures International

David and Mindy Nelson

Please pray for David. He is currently in Dalat, Vietnam with pneumonia. He was scheduled to fly to Uganda to attend a graduation ceremony for 13 students, but he is unable to travel until he recovers. When he recovers, he plans to go straight home, hopefully early this week. May the Lord keep him free from harm, give him energy & endurance and guide him safely back to Mindy.

Pro-Life Prayer Guide

SALVATIONFOR ABORTIONCLINIC WORKERS

Men and women working in abortion clinics are witnesses to tragedy and grief daily. Pray that they will find hope in Jesus Christ. Ask God to send people who will love them and speak grace and truth to them. Pray that they will encounter pro-life Christians who are kind and gracious. Ask that the things they see and hear would compel them to question what they have believed and been told about human life, and that their questions would lead them to truth and salvation.

Prayer/Praise. August 7, 2022

- Pray for Rindy and Noah Lee, who developed Covid symptoms. Praise that Noah is feeling better, but Rindy's symptoms continue. Pray for a quick recovery for Rindy and Noah.
- Pray for Jill Aument, who needs to have an eye procedure done one time per month for three months, for bleeding and fluid behind her eye. Pray for continued healing for Jill following this procedure.
- Pray for Ernest, co-worker of Steve Simons, whose wife passed away. Pray for God to give wisdom and direction for Ernest and his child's future.
- Pray for Steve's brother John's mother-in-law, who had a nasty fall and is in Paoli Memorial Hospital. Pray for her healing.
- Pray for Emelia, the 6-year-old daughter of Barb Hunter's friend, Lindsey. Emelia fell off monkey bars at the park and broke her elbow. Pray for quick healing and comfort in a cast during this summer for Emelia.
- Pray for Joie Horner's friend, Cheryl, who lost her husband in an accident while cutting down trees. Pray for God's continued strength, comfort, and peace for Cheryl and her family.
- Pray for Lorraine Blanski's sister-in-law, Beth, who will be starting a 5-day radiation treatment program for one month beginning on September 19th. Pray for God's continued healing for Beth.
- Pray for Austin, the stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece, who has been going through multiple surgeries due to burns from his accident. Pray for continued healing and mental health and God's strength for Austin.
- Pray for Leah, daughter of John Kurtyka and cousin of Lorraine Blanski, who is struggling with drug addiction and is away at an 8-month drug rehabilitation program. Praise that Leah is progressing but still has a long journey ahead of her. Pray for God's strength, peace, and comfort for Leah.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli's daughter, as her marriage is struggling, and harsh words are coming from her husband. Pray for her granddaughter as she is hearing things she shouldn't be listening to.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli's grandnephew, Liam, who is 1-year old and has a rare disease called PDHA-1. He will need a feeding tube. Pray for God's wisdom for Liam's doctors and strength and comfort for the families.
- Pray for Steve Simons neighbor, Mrs. McCabe, who has dementia. Pray for God's strength for the McCabe family during this difficult time.
- Praise that Dalton Weider, father of Lulu Bocci's friend, Mary, is now in rehab learning to talk, walk, and move his muscles. Pray for his progress and his family as they support him.
- Pray for Igor Parfeniouk, a North Coventry police officer with Matt Deichert. Pray for Igor's sister and her family, as they are still living in Ukraine.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Pray for God's healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker for healing through her chemotherapy treatment.

Message

The Death of a Soul

Mark 6:14–29

John was the first human witness to Jesus; he leaped in the womb of his mother, Elizabeth, when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, came to visit her (Luke 1:41). Later, of course, he bore witness to Jesus as **“The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”** (John 1:29). His main function was to call the people of Israel to prepare themselves for the coming of their King, but in at least one instance, he got much more specific in denouncing sin—he thundered against Herod Antipas for his adulterous lifestyle.

HEROD: An Anxious Conscience

Mark 6:14–16 (ESV)

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.”¹⁵ But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.”¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

Such an event is meant to call us to repentance and forgiveness. That is what Herod's conscience was doing. But there was no repentance, no radical turning, just a futile occult speculation that Jesus was somehow John renewed and returned from the dead. Herod was frightened into a paganistic spiritism which did not lead him to Christ.¹

HEROD: A Perplexed Conscience

Mark 6:19–20 (ESV)

And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not,²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

“The truth will make you free, but first it will make you miserable.”

—James A. Garfield

King Herod stood at the outside fringes of this reality in uncomfortable fear. **John 8:32 (ESV) and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**