

The Supreme Court ruled Jack Phillips had his First Amendment right violated by the Civil Rights Commission in Colorado and based upon court and commission hearing specifically his "Christian beliefs". The following statements first by the Civil Right Commission in Colorado and the second a response by Justice Kennedy was as he called it the smoking gun. The Commissions' statement, "I would also like to reiterate what we said in the hearing or the last meeting. Freedom of religion and religion has been used to justify all kinds of discrimination throughout history, whether it be slavery, whether it be the Holocaust, whether it be ... I mean, we, we can list hundreds of situations where freedom of religion has been used to justify discrimination, and to me, it is one of the most despicable pieces of rhetoric that people can use to use their religion to hurt others." Kennedy replied, "'To describe a man's faith as one of the most despicable pieces of rhetoric that people can use is to disparage his religion in at least two distinct ways: by describing it as despicable and also by characterizing it as merely rhetorical, something insubstantial and even insincere.'" Justice Kennedy continues, "The commissioner even went so far as to compare Phillips's invocation of his sincerely held religious beliefs to defenses of slavery and the Holocaust. This sentiment is inappropriate for a Commission charged with the solemn responsibility of fair and neutral enforcement of Colorado's anti-discrimination law, a law that protects discrimination on the basis of religion as well as sexual orientation."

The ruling handed down Monday was considered by liberals as narrow, though 7 – 2 is not numerically narrow, the narrowness is on the definition and the wording of this particular case. Even though this court in 2015 determined homosexual marriage to be a "constitutional right", this baker cannot be required by law to violate his faith by celebrating a union his faith declares to be wrong. Justice Kennedy wrote, "The neutral and respectful consideration to which [Mr.] Phillips was entitled was compromised here. The [Colorado] Civil Rights Commission's treatment of his case has some elements of a clear and impermissible hostility toward the sincere religious beliefs that motivated his objection." Kennedy went on to say, "The outcome of cases like this in other circumstances must await further elaboration in the courts, all in the context of recognizing that these disputes must be resolved with tolerance, without undue disrespect to sincere religious beliefs." To acquire 7 votes on any case in today's politically charged SCOTUS courtroom is itself telling, and a positive for religious freedom this is by recent standards a landslide with the only dissenters being the newly appointed Sonia Sotomayor, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg who is so far left she isn't even on the see-saw any more. I think what is clear is the court is trying to protect everybody's right (and itself) under the constitutional democracy of the United States. One of the most important statements made to secure this freedom is this written by Justice Kennedy, "the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the US Constitution bars even subtle departures from neutrality on matters of religion. Here, that means the Colorado Civil Rights Commission was obliged under the Free Exercise Clause to proceed in a manner neutral toward and tolerant of Phillips' religious beliefs... It hardly requires restating that government has no role in deciding or even suggesting whether the religious ground for Phillips' conscience-based objection is legitimate or illegitimate.

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On these facts, the Court must draw the inference that Phillips' religious objection was not considered with the neutrality that the Free Exercise Clause requires." This is important because a majority of the Supreme Court said neither the Supreme Court nor any other lower courts have the right to decide an individual citizen's personally held religious beliefs are legitimate or illegitimate.

We are however definitely not out of the woods and the war is not over though this was a good victory in the battle. I see two issues which may come into play going forward which is rightly ensuring all persons rights regardless of worldview are secure and are not violated. This means other cases will be brought to test the system. So let's not forget the many Christian businesses who over the last 6 years have had to close their businesses because of lower court rulings which have now been overturned by the Supreme Court. Many believers have endured persecution in a financial sense and have been scolded by LGBTQ and other liberal groups but have now been vindicated in some sense. The war is not over, and we must be reminded these victories may only be temporary but we trust in God whose victory is eternal. Secondly, what may eventually be challenged is "established religious convictions", which may in the future come down to something in which is clearly delineated in one's official documents like articles of incorporation, operating procedures and/or statement of faith, an issue which churches and possibly even businesses may face soon. This may even include a personal statement of faith or history of one's belief. This is understood by the ACLU who said, "it (the ruling) does not set a broader precedent for future cases on religious freedom and LGBTQ rights". Also noted by the ACLU was, "in its majority opinion, the court reaffirmed the basic principle that businesses should not discriminate, including against LGBTQ people."

I assure you the issue of freedom of religion, specifically Christianity as it collides with other worldviews will come before the supreme court again. In this case the baker Jack Phillips, whose convictions were well known in the community, offered to sell them other items or bake another cake but just not a wedding cake, which causes one to wonder why they chose this cake shop and why all the fuss considering there are a least 5 custom bakeries in Lakewood, Colorado. No one is telling homosexuals they cannot legally live as homosexuals and as the Supreme Court ruled no one is telling non-homosexuals they have to bend to the demands of the whopping 3% of the population. What is made clear by the LGBTQ movement is it is not enough for homosexuals to be accepted and publicly accommodated they must be included in all aspects of life and publicly celebrated by every other person on the planet. The movement is entirely narcissistic and from a biblical worldview a ploy of self-satisfaction to continue to rage against God, His Word, the clear design of created human nature by those seeking acceptance by others to somehow cope with their faulty view of truth and acceptance of sin, continued action such that God let them, as any sinner who rejects Him do what they want. Romans 1.26-27, "Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error."



SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

### Morning Worship Service

# 495 *Serve the Lord with Gladness*

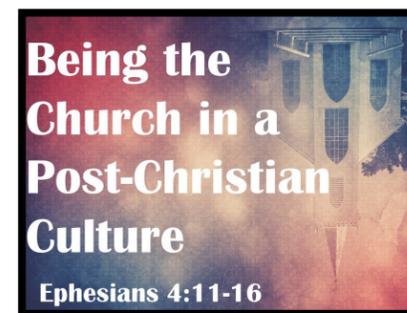
Scripture Reading - *Ephesians 2:19-22*

# 350 *The Church's One Foundation*

*From the First Hallelujah* - Choir

Scripture Reading - *Acts 2:42-47*

*The Way (New Horizons) & Oh My Soul*



# 302 *I Hear Thy Welcome Voice*

### Evening Worship Service

# 56 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Invocation & Welcome

# 203 *His Name Is Wonderful*

# 61 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Worship Through Testimonies & Prayer

# 292 *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

FAITH TO LIVE AND DIE - *Hebrews 11:20-40*

# 285 *Wherever He Leads I'll Go*

There are almost a dozen issues to write upon this week but none with as much publicity or importance as the "Cakeshop Decision" by the Supreme Court of the United States on Monday. If it seems like this has been going on for a while, it has. This case, which began in 2012, went all the way to SCOTUS logging a 6-year journey from first report to decision. So, what does the decision made this week mean for religious freedom? This is not, as it is claimed by the liberal agenda or LGBTQ community, a constitutional right to discriminate... One of the major argument for the rights of homosexuals goes like this: how does refusing to serve a gay person differ from refusing to serve a black person? And equating this decision to slavery or the Holocaust which were in part religiously motivated. The court did not open a door to widespread illegal and unlawful discrimination of an entire people group, cultural group, ethnic group nor (here is a real win) religious group. SCOTUS for better or not, tailored the decision to the specifics of the case at hand where an artist, baker, creator and designer of a product has the right to refuse service based upon religious convictions protected under the constitution. This essentially means you have the freedom to act or "not act" based upon your religious convictions. The two issues according to Justice Kennedy who wrote the majority opinion (this means he wrote, the others agree with what he writes, and can add their own statement if desired... SCOTUS is supposed to hand down 25 decisions during the week this streamlines an already lengthy system) are the protection of "gay persons" by states and government authorities and "fundamental freedoms guaranteed under the First Amendment and applied through the Fourteenth Amendment." Most folks from both sides knew eventually there would be a head-on collision between these two worldviews and this decision by the courts strengthened the rights of religious liberty going forward.

One of the warnings of the dissenting judges from the Obergefell decision in 2015 was the concern of the inevitable outcome of legalizing same-sex marriage would be infringement on religious freedom. The decision on Monday upheld both sides giving religious freedom an equal place in culture. Justice Kennedy's words are important: "The exercise of their freedom on terms equal to others must be given great weight and respect by the courts." But then, Kennedy continued, "At the same time, the religious and philosophical objections to gay marriage are protected views and in some instances protected forms of expression." This means both views are protected under the constitution and both must learn to exist side by side with equal rights. Neither able to infringe upon the other and both worthy of respect and civility as a basic human and constitutional right. What will remain to be seen and what was not decided yesterday, what SCOTUS will probably have to rule on in the next decade is how this is to be upheld by lower courts (in their defense the case was not about this so they did not have to rule on such a broad subject).

Thank you ever so much  
 We cannot express how great a blessing you all were for bringing meals. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.  
 Love,  
 Rick & Jackie Mackey

**Happy Birthday!**  
**June 12**  
 John Terrell  
**June 15**  
 Alma Durrance

**Sunday Services**

- Nursery.....21
- Children's Church.....
- Morning Worship.....107
- Evening Worship.....44

**Giving Record**

- Budget Needs/Week .....\$7,056.00
- Tithes & Offering .....\$6,746.80
- Difference.....(-\$309.00)
- Designated..... \$ .00

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Rev. Christopher M. Bishop - Senior Pastor - 781-5572 (Cell)  
 Rev. Marc Pollard - Student Pastor - (318) 286-5032 (Cell)  
 Rev. David E. Radford - Minister of Music - 781-9675 (Cell)



| SUN   | MON                           | TUE                              | WED  | THU | FRI | SAT  |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----|-----|--|
| 10<br>Passion Camp Fundraiser                         | 11<br>6pm Stewardship Meeting | <b>← PASSION CAMP →</b>          |  |     |     | 16   |
| <b>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY</b>                             | 18                            | 19                               | 20<br>5PM Nominating Comm Meeting<br>6:30 Business Meeting | 21  | 22  | 23   |
| 24  | 25                            | 26                               | 27<br>Rehearsal for Youth-Led Service                      | 28  | 29  | 30   |
| 1<br><b>JULY</b>                                      | 2<br>7pm Deacon's Meeting     | 3<br>House & Grounds Meeting 7PM | <b>HAPPY 4th OF JULY</b><br><b>IN GOD WE TRUST</b>         | 5   | 6   | 7<br>Youth-Led Service Rehearsal Dinner @ 5pm<br>Rehearsal @ 6pm |
| <b>REDEEMED</b><br>YOUTH LED WORSHIP SERVICE JULY 8TH | 9<br>6pm Stewardship Meeting  | 10                               | 11<br>Business Meeting 6:30p                               | 12  | 13  | 14   |

**COUNTING COMMITTEE - JUNE 2018**  
 Johnny Trammell, Alma Durrance, Debbie Wheeler

**WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**

Sundays

- 9:30 A.M. Media Center Open
- 9:45 A.M. Sunday School - Education Building
- 11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service - Sanctuary
- Kids' Church K-5
- 6:30 P.M. Evening Worship - Sanctuary

Wednesday

- 5:00 P.M. Women's Bible Study
- 6:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Live (TUPOS)
- G.A.'s, R.A.'s, Mission Friends - Kids Bldg.
- Women's Bible Study
- Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study - Ed. Bldg.

**USHERS OF THE WEEK**  
 Talmadge Albritton  
 Dewey Bennett  
 Bill Jernigan  
 Steve Smith

**DEACON OF THE WEEK**  
 June 10-16  
 Daniel Moore 781-1565  
 June 17-23  
 Bobby Calves 381-6921



If you're visiting us for the first time, we invite you to fill out a visitor packet in the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering plate.  
**We're so glad you're here!**



**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES...**



**Nominating Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday @ 5pm**

## Column Notes

To assist us with some of the history of the LGBTQ movement and the legal cases involved here is a brief recap published by Newsweek: ***One, Inc. v. Olesen, 1958:*** *The FBI and the Postmaster General of Los Angeles refused to deliver copies of ONE: The Homosexual Magazine in 1954, stating they found the material offensive. The court ruled that the magazine's content did not constitute obscenity. The ruling marked not only the first time the court had ruled on LGBT rights but also ruled in favor of the LGBT community.* ***Bowers v. Hardwick, 1986:*** *Twenty-eight years after the court took its first LGBT rights case, it heard a case in 1986 after a Georgia police officer witnessed a man having consensual sex with another man inside his home. The man was arrested and charged with sodomy, which was illegal in Georgia at the time. The case made it to the Supreme Court, which ruled there were no constitutional protections for acts of sodomy in a 5-4 decision against LGBT rights.* ***Romer v. Evans, 1996:*** *Ten years after Bowers v. Hardwick, the court took another LGBT rights case. Colorado residents had voted in favor of a state constitutional amendment that prevented laws from including sexual orientation as a protected group in anti-discrimination laws in 1992. The court ruled in a 6-3 decision that the amendment was a violation of equal protection clause, a win for LGBT rights.* ***Boy Scouts of America v. Dale, 2000:*** *The court's first ruling in the 2000s handed down a loss for the LGBT community after James Dale was removed from his position as "assistant scoutmaster" when the Boy Scouts found out he identified as gay. Dale filed a suit, which made its way up to the Supreme Court, with the final 5-4 ruling deciding that the removal of Dale was a protected right of the Boy Scouts.* ***Lawrence v. Texas, 2003:*** *Houston police arrested John Lawrence and Tyron Garner for having sex in Lawrence's apartment after responding to the address for a reported weapons disturbance. Lawrence and Garner were convicted of deviate sexual intercourse, a violation of a Texas statute at the time. The case made it to the Supreme Court, which ruled 6-3 in favor in the men's favor and declared sodomy bans nationwide unconstitutional. Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in his dissent that the ruling represented the "end of all moral legislation."* ***Obergefell v. Hodges, 2015:*** *The Supreme Court in favor of same-sex marriage in all 50 states in a landmark 5-4 decision in 2015. "It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage," Justice Kennedy wrote in the majority opinion. The court had ruled in favor of allowing same-sex couples to get married in California in 2013 in Hollingsworth v. Perry.]*