

November 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Liberals, progressives, non-Christians and others see evangelical or fundamental Christians as using their personal religious beliefs to influence or oppose the culture. This is seen as discrimination by them because they oppose things like abortion and same sex marriage.

Religious liberty is an excuse to discriminate. This was the argument made against the Child Placing Agency Inclusion Act passed by last year's Legislature, which protects Christian adoption agencies and the efforts to regulate church daycare ministries in last legislative session. Because people want to insist on their religious rights, they are labeled as intolerant and hateful.

The City of Birmingham just passed a nondiscrimination ordinance. It is the epidemic, however, of the very intolerance that its supporters preach. This month's Educational Update addresses the provisions of that ordinance and the problems it will cause. We might say it is a wakeup call for churches in the City of Birmingham. On the other hand, we would be more accurate in saying that the churches slept through the alarm.

This month's Educational Update may raise questions for churches and other ministries. Not long after the ordinance takes effect, there will be claims of discrimination. We hope to file a preemptory lawsuit on its constitutionality. We encourage those who have questions or who will be affected to call us. We will be glad to provide free advice and guidance on this issue. This is an extremely important issue and is a sad commentary on the disintegration of traditional values. As we explain, implicitly important to this is a case now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

On an unrelated issue, many of us have stopped watching NFL football. Unlike NFL players, the rest of us cannot make political statements on our employer's time. We can on our own time by joining organized efforts for whatever we feel is important. NFL players, however, think they can demonstrate on other peoples' time, employers, fans and sponsors alike, then play football for millions of dollars. SLI is about free speech, but this is private speech and has nothing to do with the 1st Amendment. Such arrogance is not worthy of our approval. Such hypocrisy!

Thank you very much for your support of our efforts. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston