

July 2018

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This month's Educational Update reports on the long awaited United States Supreme Court decision in the case of *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. The same-sex rights movement has threatened religious freedom. This case goes a short ways to protect religious freedom, but leaves something to be desired.

We are seeing the degeneration of our culture as a result of those who are advocating abnormal sexual practices. The Christian church and its beliefs are the only thing that stands in the way of removing all condemnation of homosexual activities.

There are still a number of other cases pending in Oregon, Washington and other places dealing with Christian bakers and florists. Just as with Jack Phillips in the *Masterpiece* case, these others deferred doing gay weddings, but were ordered by state courts to provide their services. Efforts to penalize Christians will continue.

America is not alone in this. Attacks on religious freedom continue around the world. Canada legalized same-sex marriage in 2005, with promises that religious persons would be protected. However, the Supreme Court of Canada recently ruled that Trinity Western University could not open a law school that supported traditional Christian teachings on marriage. The court held the accreditation not proper because of the "concrete" harm that would be done to LGBP law students, while the infringement on Trinity's religious freedom would be "minimal."

We have seen the Republic of Ireland approve same-sex unions by legislation. We are seeing the European Union force its members into accepting degenerate behavior. Recently, the EU's top court ruled that every EU member must accept same-sex couples. The case arose when Romania refused to grant resident status to a Belgium man's U.S. male spouse. A number of EU members, primarily its eastern members, do not condone same-sex marriage or same-sex activities.

The best we can hope and pray for is revival. At the same time, we must do all we can to protect religious freedom, including the right to not only believe, but to conduct our lifestyles in such a way as to glorify God. That is the story of Jack Phillips and the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* case. Religious freedom is our first and most important freedom.

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston