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We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

John Adams

Marriage Battle Continues to Wage in the States

While supporters of same-sex marriage have recently claimed victory in several circuit courts, the battle is not over as traditional marriage supporters across the country are fighting back. Just in the last week, five states have seen the battle intensify as supporters of traditional marriage stand strong in their defense. In [Idaho](#), marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples were allowed to proceed on Monday when the U.S. Supreme Court dropped the stay that it had issued after the 9th Circuit Court overturned the traditional marriage laws in Idaho and Nevada. Idaho's Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter and Attorney General Lawrence Wasden both oppose the ruling, issuing statements that they will continue to fight for traditional marriage and are currently considering their legal options. In [Nevada](#), the Coalition for Protection of Marriage is calling into question the case assignments by the 9th Circuit Court as the most liberal judges on the panel consistently get the cases involving gay marriage. The group is asking for a rehearing of the case in order to ensure an unbiased ruling, and included with their request a statistical analysis showing the odds that the same judges get these cases are 441-1. In [Missouri](#), a county circuit judge ruled that the state must recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states, despite the state constitutional marriage amendment that voters in Missouri put in place in 2004. The state Attorney General Chris Koster has refused to appeal the judge's ruling; so House Speaker Tim Jones sent a letter to the attorney general demanding Koster defend the law, warning that if he fails to act the state legislature will take action to defend their state constitution. In [Alaska](#), a federal judge overturned the state constitutional marriage amendment which has been in place since 1998. Alaskan Governor Sean Parnell has indicated his office will appeal the ruling and fight to defend the amendment. In [Florida](#), Attorney General Pam Bondi called on the Florida State Supreme Court to make a decision concerning same-sex marriage for Florida after two county circuit judges ruled in July that the state marriage amendment was unconstitutional. Bondi's office defended the amendment in both court cases and appealed the rulings. Since the U.S. Supreme Court [failed](#) to take up the marriage issue last week, Bondi has ordered the State Supreme Court to take up the case. It is important to note that the recent decisions which have legalized gay marriages have all been made by a handful of judges who have overturned state amendments and laws that millions of people voted on. Furthermore, recent [polling](#) shows that public support for gay marriage is actually down from 54% to 49%. Some pundits believe the decrease in support is due to the growing number of instances where religious liberty is being threatened by advocates of gay marriage.

Houston Pastors Subpoenaed for Sermons

In a chilling display of religious intolerance, Houston attorneys have [ordered](#) a group of pastors to hand over any sermons in which they talk about homosexuality, gender identity, or Annise Parker, the city's first openly

lesbian mayor. This is the latest step in the battle over religious freedom since the city passed the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance last June. The new non-discrimination law prohibits any discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and would allow, among other things, men to use ladies' restrooms and vice versa. Over 50,000 signatures were collected for a petition to place a referendum on the November ballot to overturn the ordinance—well over the required 17,000 number, but the mayor and city attorney denied the petition claiming irregularities in the signatures. Opponents of the new law then filed a lawsuit, and the city's attorneys responded with the subpoenas to the pastors. In addition to the collection of sermons, some pastors have even been told to turn in "all communication with members of your congregation" that have taken place regarding the ordinance. The pastors who have been subpoenaed were not part of the lawsuit, but they were part of the coalition of pastors and churches that worked to oppose the ordinance. Failure to comply with the subpoena will result in the pastors being held in contempt of court. Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) [filed](#) a motion with a Texas court to stop the subpoenas, calling them "overbroad, unduly burdensome, harassing, and vexatious." ADF attorney Christina Holcomb stated, "The city's subpoena of sermons and other pastoral communications is both needless and unprecedented. The city council and its attorneys are engaging in an inquisition designed to stifle any critique of its actions."

Supreme Court Halts Parts of Texas Abortion Law

The U.S. Supreme Court has issued a [stay](#) in the 5th Circuit Court decision which allowed for a Texas law that restricts abortions to go into effect. The 2013 law was intended to strengthen the protection for women's health, but the Center for Reproductive Rights claimed it placed "undue burdens" on women seeking abortions. The law requires, among other things, abortion clinics to meet the same standards as an ambulatory surgical center, and it also requires those performing abortions to "have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital." Since the law was enacted in 2013, the number of abortion clinics able to operate in Texas shrunk from 41 to 7. With the recent stay issued by the Supreme Court, about 13 clinics will likely be able to reopen.

Christian Business Owner Told to Leave Religion at Home

The Human Rights Commission in Lexington, KY, has [issued](#) a recommended ruling that Blaine Adamson, the owner of T-shirt business Hands On Original, broke the law when he declined to print T-shirts that would have promoted the Lexington Gay Pride festival. While the company has done business with the LGBT community before and hired LGBT employees, Adamson declined to service this request because the message the shirts would have communicated violated his religious beliefs. He was then sued by the Gay and Lesbian Services Organization. The Human Rights Commission examiner recommended that the owner be required to attend diversity training conducted by the Human Rights Commission and that he be held accountable to provide service to anyone, without any discrimination regarding sexual orientation or gender identity. Alliance Defending Freedom attorney Jim Campbell is handling the defense and stated, "No one should be forced by the government or another citizen to endorse or promote ideas with which they disagree."

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Connecticut Targets Homeschoolers](#)

[What the 2014 Elections Might Mean for Education](#)

[High School Forced to Reverse Ban on Christian Student Group, Again](#)

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