

3 Ways to Talk to Your Children About the Supreme Court Ruling on 'Gay Marriage'

If you've seen any of the articles online about the Supreme Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriage, you've probably sensed the issue is emotionally charged. People are so happy. And others are so mad. This is a critical time for the church and for Christian parents. What should we do in light of this ruling?

Things are getting confusing. We've put our heads together at Generations of Virtue to give three ways parents can respond and help their children navigate this confusing time.

1. Talk to your kids about homosexuality. If you haven't explained homosexuality to your children and they are at an age where they are starting to key in to all the hype in the media (and possibly among their peer groups), now is the time. This is your opportunity to communicate what God's Word says about homosexuality.

Our kids need to hear the truth from God's Word about this lifestyle. Some key verses to start with include Leviticus 18:22, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and Romans 1:26-28. Another point you might consider making with your children is that even though the Supreme Court made the choice to legalize gay marriage, it does not mean that this was the right choice. It's an unfortunate truth we have to share with our children, but governments and rulers don't always make the right choices (shocking, I know).

Finally, tell your children the truth about the differences between men and women and why God designed a family to be a

man, a woman and children. (I'll list some resources below to help with this discussion). It helps children to know this truth from a young age given all the press in our media trying to convince them of the virtues of alternative lifestyles.

2. Show your children how to show the love of Christ to gay people. We should take a lot of comfort in the fact that it's not our job to judge people. When I was in university, I took a job where my immediate superior was another student who identified himself as a homosexual.

I asked the Lord how I should interact with my new boss. He told me to be his friend and to respect the authority of his position. I did that. I became his friend and we got along wonderfully.

The truth was, he was really good at his job, and it was easy to follow his lead because he was doing a great job. I don't think we should be afraid of befriending homosexuals or teaching our children how to befriend them in healthy and beneficial ways. It's true that we need to be careful and you should discuss with your spouse what kind of policy you will have with your family and befriending homosexuals (for example, leaving your children alone with them), but don't let fear steal a chance to show a homosexual Christ's love.

The truth is, homosexuals are hurting people who need the truth of the gospel. They are living a lifestyle of sexual immorality—the consequences of which are devastating. At the same time, I know many heterosexual Christians who are living in a similar state of sexual immorality, and as the church we embrace them.

3. Don't be intimidated. Like I mentioned earlier, there is a lot of emotional hype in the media right now concerning this decision. Don't let it take you for a ride.

Keep calm and parent on. The truth is, God is on His throne and He still calls the shots. A couple months ago I had the

privilege of hearing Dr. Michael Brown speak in Singapore. He had a great insight about the LGBT agenda in the U.S. As a way of paraphrase, he said we shouldn't fear the separation that will come between the people who interpret the Scripture (about homosexuality) through the lens of culture and those who will follow God's Word in spirit and in truth.

There is some separation happening in the church right now. Which side do you want your family to end up on? Finally, don't let the enemy intimidate you by the Supreme Court's decision. Instead of responding in fear, take this opportunity to ask the Lord how to respond. And finally, speak to your children.

Help them to know the truth of God's Word and what He has to say about homosexuality. Let them know the truth and let the truth set them free from all the confusion encapsulating this issue. To quote Rick Warren, "Truth, is still truth, no matter how many people doubt it. I may deny the law of gravity, but it doesn't change gravity. And just because we break God's laws, does not invalidate them."

Don't be afraid to share the truth with your kids. Kingdoms will fall and rulings will be forgotten, but the Word of God will stand. One final thought: be prayerful as you address this issue with your children. Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and answers. Ask Him how your family should respond to this ruling.

Below I've listed some articles and books I've found really helpful in discussing the issue of homosexuality in light of our current culture. I hope you find them helpful!

Same-Sex Marriage: A Thoughtful Approach to God's Design for Marriage by Sean McDowell and John Stonestreet

God's Design for Sex Series by Stan and Brenna Jones (Book 3—*What's the Big Deal*—has a chapter specifically about homosexuality)

Focus on the Family's How to Talk to Your Kids about Homosexuality and an Interview with John Stonestreet webinar by Generations of Virtue

Short video with Dr. Michael Brown explaining the context of the Levitical scriptures.

Megan Briggs *joined the Generations of Virtue team to become the Product Manager, a position which keeps her busy researching, reading resources, managing inventory and speaking to young people.*