

Franklin Graham: Carter 'Absolutely Wrong' That Jesus Would Approve of Same-Sex Marriage

Evangelist Franklin Graham responds to former President Jimmy Carter's recent assertion that Jesus himself would approve of gay marriage, saying the former president is "absolutely wrong."

In a short video clip of an interview published to the news website HuffPost Live Sunday and picked up by , Carter spoke about his religious faith. He said as a politician he never ran across "any really serious conflicts between my political obligations and my religious faith."

When asked about gay marriage, the 39th president said "That's no problem with me. I think everybody should have a right to get married regardless of their sex."

Carter told the interviewer that the "only thing he would draw a line on is ... I wouldn't be in favor of the government being able to force a local church to perform gay marriages if they didn't want to."

The former president was then asked, "Would Jesus approve of gay marriage?"

"I believe he would. I don't have any verse in Scripture," Carter replied. "I believe that Jesus would approve of gay marriage; that's just my own personal belief. I think would Jesus would promote any love affair if it was honest or sincere and was not damaging to anyone else. And I don't see that gay marriage damages anyone else."

In a post to his Facebook page Tuesday, Graham responded to the former president, saying he would “respectfully disagree with him on this one.”

“He is absolutely wrong when he said Jesus would approve of gay marriage. Jesus didn’t come to promote sin, He came to save us from sin,” Graham wrote. “The Bible is very clear. God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of homosexuality. God defines sin in His Word—it’s not up to our opinion, the latest poll, or a popular vote.” {eo}

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