

News and Current Events :: 1000+ Clergy Urge No Vote on Marriage Amendment

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[Image: https://www.sermonindex.net/images/forum/2004/may/featured_news.gif]

WASHINGTON, July 13 /U.S. Newswire/ -- Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, issued the following statement today announcing the release of a letter, signed by more than 1,000 clergy with differing views on same-sex marriage, urging U.S. senators to reject the Federal Marriage Amendment:

"On Wednesday, more than 1,000 clergy of over 30 religious denominations from across America will send U.S. senator a letter urging them to vote against the Federal Marriage Amendment. While we hold differing religious views on same-sex marriage, we are united in our belief that this amendment would dignify discrimination and threaten religious liberty.

"There is an all-too-common misperception that America's faith communities generally support amending the Constitution to outlaw same-sex marriage. This is simply not the case. The truth is that millions of Americans, as represented by this diverse group of clergy, are deeply concerned about this effort to write discrimination and religious intolerance into our Constitution.

"The clergy joining this important letter believe that this discriminatory amendment would undermine our Constitution and tarnish our nation's proud history of expanding civil rights. America's faith communities have long supported that expansion, and many of us are wary of amending the Constitution to restrict the civil rights of an entire group of citizens.

"The marriage amendment, which might be interpreted as "trumping" the First Amendment, could also prevent individual religious denominations from sanctifying same-sex marriage if they choose to do so. If the amendment passes and states adopt corresponding marriage laws, would ministers and rabbis who officiate at same-sex weddings risk being carted off as criminals? We respect the rights of individual traditions to decide, based on their own religious teachings, whether or not to sanction same-sex marriage. Religious decisions should be made by religious communities, not by the federal government.

Re: 1000+ Clergy Urge No Vote on Marriage Amendment - posted by disciplejosh (), on: 2004/7/14 19:11

Sad as it is, it's just the signs of the times.

I was thinking about this very issue over the last couple of days and had this thought in reference to something Pastor Chuck Smith of Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa, California said. He said something to this effect, "When did God send the angels to take Lot out of the city of Sodom before they destroyed it by fire? It was when the sodomites began to force their rights upon the righteous" (something to that affect).

Three or four years ago when I heard this, I was thinking of California and The United States of America going down...

But the thought I've been thinking the last couple of days is that the story of Lot in Sodom and the destruction of that city and it's neighbors is only a picture of what it's going to be like globally, not just locally here for me. :cry:
here's a peek around the globe...

(<http://www.globeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040714.wgay0714/BNStory/National/>) <http://www.globeandmail.com/servlet/>..

(<http://www.usatoday.com/usatoday/20040714/6363144s.htm>) <http://www.usatoday.com/usatoday/20040714/6363144s.htm>

...and that day is fast approaching.

I would recommend you to listen to Ravenhill's:

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid3977>) As in the days of Lot :cry: