



Resolution

Opposing Coercive Measures Against the Freedom to Believe the Bible on Marriage, Sexuality, and Gender

- WHEREAS** The Holy Scriptures reveal that God created human beings in His image, He created them male and female, He called them to be fruitful, and He instructs that “a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:24). The Lord Jesus Christ reaffirmed these truths about gender, sexuality, and marriage—the holy union of one man and one woman (Matthew 19:4-6).
- WHEREAS** Christian communicators are compelled by faith to proclaim the truth in love. Since its founding 75 years ago, NRB has devoted itself to protecting First Amendment guarantees of religious liberty, free speech, and freedom of the press, particularly as they undergird the mission of Christian communicators to freely and fully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through electronic media.
- WHEREAS** The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) has for decades required U.S. courts to uphold a balancing test by which the federal government must give deference to the constitutional right of religious freedom unless it can prove a “compelling government interest” achieved by the “least restrictive means.”
- WHEREAS** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has promised to advance federal legislation known as the Equality Act, which would establish “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” (SOGI) as protected classes in numerous sections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Like its narrower predecessor, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which NRB opposed, it does not respect religious beliefs. In fact, its coercive nature is underscored by specifically forbidding any appeal to RFRA in court challenges arising from it.
- WHEREAS** Powerful government, corporate, media, and other activist political forces are growing more intolerant of the freedom to believe and hold views contrary to their own, and their evident intention is to wield SOGI laws as debilitating swords against citizens – among whom have been a cake artist in Colorado, a florist in Washington, a fire chief in Atlanta, pastors in Houston, and adoption service providers in cities across the country – who have shown no malice to anyone, but merely wish to live faithfully in light of their religious convictions about marriage, sexuality, and gender.
- WHEREAS** Some evangelical Christian voices in the public square, including leaders of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) and the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), have taken steps towards a “compromise” SOGI law that would reportedly negotiate protections for some religious institutions, but not all citizens of faith. Despite outreach from NRB’s president and others expressing serious concerns with this so-called “Fairness for All” approach, these leaders, whom we honor as our brothers and sisters in Christ, have stood behind this hazardous effort.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB contends that the U.S. Government must faithfully support and defend the U.S. Constitution’s guarantee that all citizens are free to speak and free to exercise the tenets of their faith in daily life. Moreover, NRB urges Congress and state legislatures to reject coercive proposals like the Equality Act and rather to pass laws preventing government intolerance and discrimination against those who – with malice toward none – simply wish to adhere to biblical understandings of gender, sexuality, and marriage. Moreover, NRB exhorts the United States to return to the truth that marriage is the sacred union between one man and one woman.
- THEREFORE
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RESOLVED** NRB respectfully urges our brothers and sisters in Christ in the CCCU, NAE, and elsewhere to reject any legislation that does not indisputably uphold the fundamental freedoms of all ministries and individual citizens to live, believe, and speak faithfully their biblical convictions.

Approved by the Board of Directors March 26, 2019