



Concerning the Legalization of Gay Marriage

June 28, 2015

As you might imagine, the legalization of gay marriage poses structural challenges for local churches throughout the United States. Indeed, there will likely be many years of discussion and debate among evangelicals before general consensus concerning best and promising practices is reached.

Over the past few years, then, Mosaic has spoken three times to the broader issue of homosexuality: twice during the Romans series, in a two-part message covering Romans 1:18-32; and once in the Timothy series, I Timothy 1:8-17. Please refer to our sermon archives for these messages should you so desire: links are provided here:

- **Same Kind of Different as Me (Rom. 1:18-32) - Mark DeYmaz**
<https://vimeo.com/32089981>

In this first of two messages on this controversial passage, Mark DeYmaz establishes the exegetical context for understanding the author's intended meaning. Mark passionately explains why Christians must embrace kindness, tolerance, and patience in respect to those who do not believe or live as we do. This message was presented on November 13, 2011 at Mosaic's Little Rock campus.

- **Let Love Reach to the Other Side (Rom. 1:18:32 - Part 2) - Mark DeYmaz**
<https://vimeo.com/32630198>

Presented by Mark DeYmaz on November 23, 2011 at Mosaic's Little Rock campus, this message considers homosexuality while boldly navigating the tension between biblical convictions concerning marriage and the command to love all people, unconditionally, with the love of Christ.

- **For Faith and Church - 1 Timothy 1 - Mark DeYmaz**
The Goal of Our Instruction is Love
<https://vimeo.com/97734167>

In this message, Pastor Mark provides a fresh take on Paul's instruction concerning the identity of believers and unbelievers alike. More specifically,

he explains why and how the American Church must today tack to changing winds if it is to advance the name of Jesus, the church, and the kingdom of God, in an increasingly skeptical society. This message was presented on June 8, 2014.

Re. human sexuality and its impact on the church, please know that the Elders have had ongoing discussion through the years. In light of the recent SCOTUS decision¹ the Elders will soon take the legalization of gay marriage under review, and issue a prayerfully determined policy/practice statement at some point in the future.

In the meantime we believe it is important for us as individuals, and for us, collectively, as a church, to avoid taking extreme positions in every situation that threatens to divide the body of Christ, or that otherwise hinders the advance of the Gospel in an increasingly diverse and cynical society. More than this, our core beliefs² remain unchanged, rooted in an understanding that the Old and New Testaments, the inspired word of God, are without error in the original writings.

Mosaic is a church built on proclaiming truth and practicing love for all who come our way (Matthew 5:16; John 4:4; Ephesians 4:15). As such, I pray you will join us in continuing to remain one in spirit and one in the Lord by exercising faith, courage, sacrifice, hope, and above all else, love, in these unique and changing times. I have no doubt that if we do, Mosaic will continue to proclaim a most powerful and credible witness of God's love for all people on earth as it is in heaven...as we have in the past, and well into the future.

One in Christ with you,

Pastor Mark DeYmaz (on behalf of the Elders)

¹ <http://goo.gl/DEapph>

² <http://www.mosaicchurch.net/positions-beliefs#sthash.j7XeXBKN.dpuf>