

# Sunday Assembly Reflection

**WRITTEN BY:** Robin Russell

**REFLECTION:** Jim said the church needs to use discernment regarding the Supreme Court's recent 5-4 decision, which held the Constitution allowed for same-sex marriage, and also to remember that King Jesus is our ultimate authority.

The court's decision came out of a culture that has increasingly focused on individual rights. The church was asleep, Jim said, when no-fault divorce gutted marriage 40 years ago in Texas -- long before gay rights became a thing -- yet the church still expects the government to help us disciple people about marriage! We live in a different story than the dominant culture. Like Jesus, we don't ask the government what it thinks before we teach truth. Paul was not one bit concerned about Rome's view of marriage. We can be legally and socially tolerant of the law, while holding to our spiritual, moral and intellectual convictions.

I was challenged by Jim's analogy of "spine" Christians, who hold to convictions without showing the love of Jesus, versus "heart" Christians, who wear the name of Jesus yet follow the crowd. As someone who has gay friends who profess Christ, I need discernment to be able to speak truth, show compassion and be consistent about the meaning of marriage. For any of us "crooked" people, marriage is about more than falling in love with someone. I agree that it begins with conversation where I listen more than I talk, and a willingness to confess my own sins rather than judge others.

**QUESTIONS:** Please answer one or more of the questions below with your small group, and be sure to pray for each other at the end.

1. Are you more of a "spine" Christian or a "heart" Christian when responding to same-sex marriage? How might your response change if you were both compassionate and consistent?
2. How would you explain the meaning of marriage, using the words of the Creator and the Redeemer in Genesis 1-2 and Matthew 19?

Pray for one another to have courage that will release the fruit of the Spirit in response to cultural changes.

[Sunday Assembly Reflection](#) is written by Lake Highlands Church members for Lifegroups and individuals to receive more from the spoken Sunday Assembly message through reflection and quick discussion. It is published on the first three Monday's of the month. If you are interested in knowing more about a Lifegroup or have a question about the reflection, please contact Donjalea Crane, [donjalea@lakehighlandschurch.org](mailto:donjalea@lakehighlandschurch.org) or contact one of our Lifegroup leaders by going to [lakehighlandschurch.org/Lifegroup-listings](http://lakehighlandschurch.org/Lifegroup-listings).

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