

Downtown Church Elders Statement
in Response to Supreme Court ruling on Same Sex "Marriage"
June 27, 2015 and reaffirmed Dec 16, 2020

"As most of you know, on Friday the SCOTUS announced its decision to overturn the bans in 14 States against same-sex marriage. In effect, same-sex marriage will now be legal in all 50 states. As the shepherds charged with serving this flock, we believe a response from us is in order.

First and foremost, we want to make sure that any of you, our members, who wrestle with same-sex attraction know that we love you and want you to feel safe here as together, in a culture obsessed with sexuality, we seek to ground our identity in Christ and not in anything less.

Second, while we are disappointed in this ruling, we are not surprised to see the court follow public opinion on this issue. Like you, we don't know all the implications of this ruling for churches and faith-based institutions. But know for certain that we will stand with the apostles who said, 'We must obey God rather than men.' We hope and pray that the courts of the land will also uphold our freedom to follow our consciences and promote what we believe to be God's own design for marriage, plainly taught in Scripture, a design we are not authorized to change.

Third, we call on all of us to maintain the spirit of Christ at all times, in all conversations, in all settings. In the words of 1 Peter, "Let us set apart Christ as Lord, always prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give a reason for the hope that we have, and do this with gentleness and respect, so that those who speak maliciously against our good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."