



ARISE !

FAITH, FAMILY AND FREEDOM

August 3, 2022

Respect for Marriage

“And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?” -- Matthew 19:4-5

On July 19th the US House of Representatives passed **HR 8404** (267 to 157), deceptively named **“Respect for Marriage Act”** which would repeal the **1996 Defense of Marriage Act**

affirming the legal definition of marriage in U.S. Code, as “only the legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife” (Section 1738C of title 28).

In its place the new law reads, *“(a) For the purposes of any Federal law, rule, or regulation in which marital status is a factor, an individual “shall be considered married if that individual’s marriage is valid in the State where the marriage was entered into or, in the case of a marriage entered into outside any State, if the marriage is valid in the place where entered into and the marriage could have been entered into in a State.”*

If HR 8404 becomes law, marriage will be defined as anything any state determines it to be. It also demands each state accept marriages from every other state regardless of how they are defined.

But isn’t this the law already? Yes and no. In 2015 the US Supreme Court, in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, redefined marriage to include homosexual relationships. **However, that did not change the fact that the Defense of Marriage Act remains in the US Code.** Therefore, just as the Supreme Court recently overturned *Roe v. Wade*, a future court could overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges* (the same-sex marriage decision). However, if HR 8404 becomes law, the redefinition of marriage will actually be “settled law,” rendering it infinitely more difficult to reverse.

The bill includes two clauses that are a serious threat to religious freedom:

“(b) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in the appropriate United States district court against any



person who violates subsection (a) for declaratory and injunctive relief.”

“(c) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Any person who is harmed by a violation of subsection (a) may bring a

civil action in the appropriate United States district court against the person who violated such subsection for declaratory and injunctive relief.”

These two clauses open the door for either the federal government or private individuals to go after businesses or individuals who disagree with the new definition of marriage by denying service or employment of a same-sex couple.

David Closson in *WORLD Magazine* correctly observes that:

“Although the [majority opinion](#) in *Obergefell* stated that ‘those who adhere to religious doctrines’ may continue ‘to advocate with utmost, sincere conviction’ that same-sex marriage should not be condoned, what has happened across the country in the intervening years is exactly what Justice Samuel Alito anticipated would happen in his dissent. At the time, Justice Alito accurately [predicted](#) that the court’s decision ‘will be used to vilify Americans who are unwilling to assent to the new orthodoxy.’ He presciently observed that those who disagree about same-sex marriage “will risk being labeled as bigots and treated as such by governments, employers, and schools.” - *WORLD Magazine* (7/28/22)

We have already seen numerous [wedding vendors](#) have been intimidated and harassed for declining to violate their conscience and participate in same-sex wedding ceremonies. Adoption agencies have been forced to allow same-sex couple to adopt children or go out of business. Additionally, religious schools

have faced lawsuits over nondiscrimination and public accommodation policies.

If the **“Respect for Marriage Act”** becomes law, we can anticipate more of the same and worse.

But no matter what either Congress or the Court says, marriage is still the union of one man and one woman. Any other union is simply a counterfeit.

Eagle’s Eye on the Nation

“The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.” -- Psalm 33:10

The House on Friday passed **The Assault Weapons Ban**, a bill to ban assault weapons (217-213). It is unlikely that the bill will pass in the Senate.

DEAL STRUCK: Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) surprised the world on July 27 when they released a sweeping, 725-page bill known as the **[“Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\).”](#)**

The compromise comes after President Biden's expansive **“build back better”** plan stalled in Congress and appeared to be dead for good. While the so-called IRA may be a far cry from some early Democratic ambitions — and it still has plenty of hurdles before it becomes law — the deal marks a potentially giant win for Biden and Democrats just a few months before midterm elections.



Tensions are growing between the United States and China. President Biden and China’s President, Xi Jinping, exchanged a heated phone call.

President Jinping warned the US not to meddle in China’s dealings with Taiwan. No progress was made on trade, technology or other irritants including Speaker Pelosi’s plan to visit Taiwan. China claims Taiwan as being a part of China.

The Department of Health and Human Services announced a new rule Monday that would force insurance providers to pay for breast removal and other transgender surgeries, including for minors. The proposed rule change by the [federal agency](#) concerns Section 1557 of the **Affordable Care Act**, a section of the law that prohibits discrimination in health programs based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Under the proposed changes, the definition of discrimination based on “sex” would be expanded to include gender identity, sexual orientation, and abortion.

Eagle’s Eye on New York

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.” -- Proverbs 12:15

DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED: New York Gov. Kathy Hochul signed into law Tuesday legislation removing “mentally retarded” as an official term from state laws overseeing everything from alleged crimes to the arts. The term “developmentally disabled” will be used instead.

MONKEY POX: Dr. Mary T. Basset, the state Health Commissioner, last week declared monkey pox to be an imminent threat to public health in New York. The World Health Organization declared it a “global health emergency” on July 23.

But according to a new [study](#) published on July 23 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 95 percent of the 528 confirmed cases in the study were transmitted during sex between men. Health officials believe the outbreak likely began during spring gatherings of gay and bisexual men and June LGBTQ Pride celebrations

Liberal Logic???

“Two negative quarters of GDP growth is not the technical definition of recession. It's not the definition that economists have traditionally relied on.” —White House National Economic Council Director Brian Deese, July 2022

“Of course, economists have a technical definition of recession, which is two consecutive quarters of negative growth.” —Brian Deese, March 2008

No one ever accused the LEFT as being consistent.

Ministry Report

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” -- Psalm 133:1

Last week was another busy week. I preached at Open Door Baptist Church in Cassadaga on July 24. On Thursday, I attended a meeting to meet a congressional candidate at Heritage Baptist Church in Palmyra.

I am frequently asked, **“How is Duane Motley?”** I am glad to report that both he and Nancy are doing extremely well. My wife and I had supper with them and Darrell and Shirley Zicafoose (he helps me with emails) on Friday night. He sends his greetings to you.



Tom Stiles’ Speaking Schedule

August 4 Faith Bible Church, Rochester, NY

August 7 Faith Baptist Church, Montgomery, NY

August 14 Bethel Ind. Baptist Church, King Ferry, NY