

**Sin Is Still Sin (I Corinthians 6:9-11)**  
**07-05-15AM**

On June 26, 2015, the United States became the twenty-first country to legalize same-sex marriage, as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Most Christians would have never believed that our nation would move to a place where homosexual marriage was seen as a civil right to be protected. It is difficult to know how to respond (or if we should respond at all) to these changes. Let us consider a few points relevant to this discussion.

First, sin is still sin, whether our government endorses it or condemns it. In I Corinthians 6:9-11 homosexuality is one of several sins that we are told prevent us from entering the kingdom of heaven. Homosexuality is condemned by name in Scripture eight times; the general grouping of sexual immorality (fornication, lust, homosexuality, adultery, etc.) is condemned over 50 times in the New Testament. These things are not changed by the laws of man.

Our reply to sin is made clear in Ephesians 5:11: *"Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them"*. Of course, not every "Christian" understands this; we are told that if we are not grounded in doctrine, we are blown back and forth by *"every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming"* (Ephesians 4:14). Too many simply go the way of popular opinion. Yet according to Scripture, *"although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them"* (Romans 1:32).

Second, let us consider that this is not the first time that our nation has condoned sin.

- In the court decision Roe v. Wade, we legalized murder.
- In the Family Law Act of 1969 (no-fault divorce) we legalized adultery.
- In the 21<sup>st</sup> amendment to the US constitution, we legalized drunkenness.
- In the Article 15.4 amendment to the Oregon constitution (lottery) we legalized theft and covetousness.
- In the court case Oregon v. Henry we legalized sexual immorality.

As you see, it is nothing new for our nation to proclaim that immorality is legal. We know that simply because our nation makes it legal does not make it moral.

There are some important conclusions we need to set in our minds. First, the world has never been nor will it ever be on our side in morality (John 15:19). Second, knowing this, we must never rely on the world to enforce morality (1 John 2:15-16). Finally, rest assured that the Lord's church will survive even these things (Matthew 16:18).

As these changes to morality progress, something good may come out of it. We have lived in a world where most people identify themselves as Christians only because they are socially expected to do so. As being a Christian becomes more unpopular, it may be that those who are faithful are afforded more of an opportunity to shine as a light to the world. As Paul said to the Corinthians *"for there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you"* (1 Corinthians 11:19).