

On gay marriage issue, pastors group urges Supreme Court to uphold God's law



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For Sam Rohrer, the debate on same-sex marriage comes down to an unwavering Biblical outlook on the world.



Sam Rohrer, president, Pennsylvania Pastors Network Patriot-News file photo, 2010

Rohrer, a former nine-term Republican state representative and now president of the Pennsylvania Pastors Network, believes political leaders who support gay marriage are shirking a sworn duty to uphold “God’s moral and natural law.”

“The concept of what is important and what is to be protected by government arises from the clear concept that those rights and standards and values emanate from God, not government,” Rohrer said. “Government’s responsibility is to protect those rights.”

The Supreme Court this week heard oral arguments on two cases, one challenging the federal Defense of Marriage Act, and the other, California’s Proposition 8. Same-sex marriage is illegal under both laws.

Rohrer, who ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2010, said that as the high court’s nine justices consider their ruling, they should take into account their pledge to uphold, what he said, are the God-given rights in the U.S. Constitution.

“The question is is marriage something that has origination in a Biblical position or from God himself?” Rohrer said. “The answer is obviously 1,000 percent yes. That’s where it came from. That is the concept of marriage, the idea that there is one man, one woman was God’s model from the beginning. What civilizations have done is either protected,

supported or defended that model or worked against it. You cannot point to any civilization that has diluted that standard and found a long history there after. Communities are made up of strong families.”

Ever the hot-button topic, the gay marriage issue this week has dominated news and social media streams. As thousands rallied in support of same-sex marriage in Washington and cities across the country, nearly 150 supporters on Tuesday rallied in Harrisburg calling for marriage equality. Meanwhile, U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, (D-Pa), has come under scrutiny and pressure, counted among the handful of Democratic lawmakers who have yet to come out in support of gay marriage.

Rohrer’s organization has actively been encouraging pastors to take to the pulpit to endorse traditional marriage and oppose gay marriage.

The Christian Coalition of America doesn’t think the group - and others - have done enough to speak out in support of DOMA.

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“The coalition and other groups are disappointed in the Republican party and the pastors and priests for not being stronger,” said coalition spokesman Jim Backlin. “It seems as if the whole argument is one-sided, coming from the left. We don’t have the support of pastors, priests, rabbis. It’s a lonely fight.”

The Christian Coalition has been lobbying hard in Washington asking lawmakers to make sure Congress protects DOMA. The group was part of coalition that ensured the House of Representatives defended DOMA.

Rohrer said pastors should be the most ardent advocates of the moral standards laid out in the Bible.

“That there are too few taking engaged roles? In fact there are many who are taking a role and engaging,” he said. “But there are not nearly enough standing up. Hopefully that will change.”

At its core, Rohrer’s organization endorses the position that “traditional, God-created families” provide the most stable foundation for society, particularly children.

“There is a standard. It is the genuine,” he said. “It is the gold standard. Any other variation is a counterfeit. It’s not the genuine. The position of the court and government generally is to protect the standard that has existed both from its original purpose and the historical proven position of what has worked and works.”

Backlin agrees with as much.

“We don’t believe it’s an issue that can be changed by a bunch of politicians who are catering to the latest trend in America,” Backlin said. “The vast majority of Christian Coalition supporters will not change their mind on this no matter what the Supreme Court rules.”

The court is expected to hand down its ruling in June.