



Do you believe God can change one person's mind — especially about a covenant relationship He created? What if that person sits on the bench of the U.S. Supreme Court?

We believe God is sovereign in and over all things. That's why we're uniting in purpose with our public policy partner, [#CitizenLink](#), in calling all Christians to pray [#40DaysForMarriage](#).

On April 28, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments over whether the U.S. Constitution requires same-sex marriage in all 50 states. The implications for the future of marriage — and religious freedom — cannot be overstated, as it will have generational implications.

Thanks for joining this movement of prayer, repentance and restoration. *May God be glorified!*

— *Your Thriving Values™ Team*

Day 1: Pray for a peaceful rest tonight for those arguing tomorrow on behalf of one man, one woman marriage.

May they represent not only the states' interests in the institution, but also the heart of God for marriage to the Supreme Court. Also pray for open hearts and minds for the Justices tomorrow, as they take on an issue of critical importance to the very foundation of America, the definition of marriage.

"Open the gates that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock." — Isaiah 26:2-4 (ESV)

Day 2: Pray for Christian unity.

In this post-Christian America, taking a stand on behalf of marriage can get your business (or state) boycotted, sued and otherwise threatened with violence. But as we saw in the case of Memories Pizza in Indiana, whose owners were threatened for answering "no" to a hypothetical "gotcha" question from a reporter about catering a same-sex wedding, Americans (especially Christians) will come to the rescue.

Whether it was the \$840,000 raised for Memories Pizza in 48 hours via crowdfunding, or similar efforts on behalf of Washington florist Baronelle Stutzman, Christians have shown support for one another during these difficult days.

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" — Psalm 133:1 (ESV)

Day 3: Pray for endurance for Christians and all freedom-loving Americans.

The organizations pushing for same-sex marriage have declared their goal is not simply to re-define marriage; they have publicly stated that they are coming after religious dissent next, via state and federal "non-discrimination" laws that would force Christian businesses to compromise and contradict their deeply held beliefs on marriage and human sexuality. In this new mind-set, bakers can refuse cakes with Christian messages, but not cakes for same-sex weddings. <http://bit.ly/1CXifWH>

"For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised." — Hebrews 10:36 (ESV)

Day 4: Pray for states to actively protect people of faith and religious organizations from any government backlash for their stance on marriage.

States like Texas and Louisiana (and others) have introduced bills to prevent government retaliation against religious organizations that hold firm to the biblical definition of marriage. Ministers can't be forced to perform same-sex marriages; their churches can't lose their tax exemptions or other benefits and privileges; and they cannot be prosecuted for their public positions/actions.

Here's what the Texas bill looks like: <http://bit.ly/1DggYdu>

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." — Matthew 5:10 (ESV)

Day 5: Commit to fast and pray for the Supreme Court from now until they issue their decision on marriage in late June.

"We ought to act with God in the greatest simplicity, speak to Him frankly and plainly, and implore His assistance in our affairs." — Brother Lawrence

"He said to them, 'Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.' " — Matthew 17:20 (ESV)

Day 5: Pray for a return to the American ideal of open dialogue and vigorous but respectful debate.

It's simply amazing that one side of this debate rejects thousands of years of world history and experience with marriage to declare that there's no debating any longer the question "What is marriage?" In their search for a result they desire, those in favor of shouting down any reasoned discussion of the subject violate the very heart and soul of what it means to be an American.

"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened." — Romans 1:21 (ESV)

Day 6: Pray for the future of marriage.

According to marriage scholars, the results of the U.S. Supreme Court imposing [#samesexmarriage](#) on America will have a harmful effect on marriage and children.

PREDICTIONS: "...it is reasonable to predict that, over a generation, a forced redefinition of marriage would produce at least a 5 percent reduction in heterosexual marriage rates. That would result in an increase of nearly 1.3 million never-married women, and an increase of nearly 600,000 functionally fatherless children."

"I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before Him." Ecclesiastes 3:14 (ESV)

Day 7: Pray for the upcoming 2016 Elections.

Elections have consequences, especially for marriage. Federal legislation to protect marriage — and those who believe in natural marriage — will be necessary, if not vital.

REMEMBER: Federal judges who hear marriage cases are appointed by the President, and then confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Thus, every vote cast matters.

Commit to vote in 2016 — and to exercising your citizenship from a biblical worldview. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/1yxmihe>

"You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment." Deuteronomy 16:18 (ESV)

Day 8: Pray for the success of the 3rd Annual National #MarchForMarriage.

The march, held in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, April 25, is scheduled just days in advance of the oral arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Pray it gains national media coverage, so as to bring the truth about one-man, one-woman marriage — and what's at stake for the nation and future generations — to the American public's attention. Find out how you can participate in this event: <http://bit.ly/1FVv9sH>

"Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long." Psalm 25:5 (ESV)

Day 9: Pray for the children of same-sex relationships, who crave the mom or dad they have been (are being) denied.

Children of same-sex parents seem to be a focal point in this hugely important marriage case. Do you remember [#KatyFaust](#) — the woman raised by two lesbian parents — and her “Dear [#JusticeKennedy](#)” letter we posted several days ago?

Her riveting testimony went viral, catching the same-sex marriage advocates involved in this marriage case somewhat off-guard. They're so worried about her revelations and arguments; they filed an Amicus Brief to attempt to address her concerns.

Undaunted, Katy is back with a MUST-READ follow-up: “P.S, Justice Kennedy: Same-sex Marriage Isn’t Good for Kids.” <http://bit.ly/1PQD00j>

Let's help Katy's message be heard far and wide: share this article with your friends.

“Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.” Proverbs 23:25 (ESV)

Day: 10: Pray for the ex-gay community.

We repeatedly hear from marriage re-definers that marriage has NEVER been about procreation or about the complementarity of the sexes.

Well, several ex-gays — who are each happily married to someone of the opposite gender — are trying to educate the U.S. Supreme Court of this key point: Requiring same-sex marriage, as a constitutional matter of law, sends a harmful message to children...and sets a destructive precedent for the culture.

We encourage you to reach their powerful and compelling “friend of the court” brief: <http://1.usa.gov/1zj4YaA>

“...though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 1:13-14 (ESV)

Day 11: Pray for the legal profession.

Once a proud and noble tradition of representing unpopular clients and causes, it appears today's elite law firms are afraid to defend natural marriage.

Why? The grief that will likely come their way from LGBT activists, corporations and media. Michigan attorney John J. Bursch — one of the lead attorneys defending marriage in this present case — knows this all too well. His current firm, Warner Norcross & Judd, said he cannot use his firm's resources or name in defending marriage. Read more: <http://nyti.ms/1b566Jx>

"You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous." Deuteronomy 16:19 (ESV)

Day 12: Pray for faith-based adoption agencies.

In some states where marriage-redefinition already exists, faith-based adoption agencies have been driven out of business.

Why? They've either had state contracts revoked or they must comply with non-discrimination laws. By placing children only with a mom and a dad, they risk prosecution.

If the U.S. Supreme Court re-defines marriage for the entire country, these adoption agencies will be put under even more intense pressure to compromise their beliefs and policies.

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." James 1:27 (ESV)

Day 13: Pray for homeschoolers and for private Christian educational programs.

A few liberal states have already passed laws requiring public schools to teach the virtues of homosexuality, same-sex marriage, transgenderism and the like. As a result, Christian parents in many cases have opted to put their children in safer teaching environments.

Please pray the laws protecting these alternatives to public education are not weakened in any way.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)

Day 14: Pray for the Bride of Christ.

Scripture repeatedly refers to the believing Church as the bride of Christ and to Jesus Christ as the bridegroom. Marriage between a man and a woman gives us an earthly picture of the Church's relationship with the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

Please pray God's design for marriage will not be corrupted by the work of man, or the work of a court.

"Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready." — Revelation 19:7 (ESV)

Day 15: Pray for current marriages.

One talking point we constantly hear as justification for re-defining marriage is "Christians have already messed up marriage through divorce, so we should open the door for other types of 'marriage.' "

As illogical as that argument is, there is truth to the charge that Christians in alarming numbers are not holding to their wedding vows.

Pray for an awakening to the sanctity of marriage in this country among Christians, so we can be a light to the world and reflect the Gospel message.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

Day 16: Pray for America's churches.

What will the future look like for churches, if the U.S. Supreme Court imposes same-sex marriage on the entire country?

Atheist groups routinely claim churches don't deserve tax-exempt status, because they don't see the value or social benefit churches provide. However, now we're witnessing a new anti-church wave. Some LGBT advocacy groups are demanding churches who OPPOSE same-sex marriage have their tax-exempt status revoked.

For now, these groups will retreat, if confronted with their own ideology. But, what will happen after a June decision from the Supreme Court? Share your thoughts below.

"Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!" Psalm 43:1 (ESV)

Day 17: Pray for the defenders of marriage.

Advocates of marriage re-definition have been successful at punishing those who publicly advocate for God's perfect one-man, one-woman design.

Whether it's an executive with Mozilla, a military chaplain at home or overseas, a small-town wedding vendor, or the head of a pro-family state organization, we're witnesses to the retribution and hostility that standing up for marriage continues to generate.

"Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!" Psalms 43:1 (ESV)

Day 18: Pray for our young adults.

Media, pundits and pollsters keep touting same-sex marriage is "so accepted" among our youth culture today that it's practically a "done deal" — regardless of how the U.S. Supreme Court rules this summer on an historic marriage case.

Thankfully, these cultural voices are wrong. As in the 43-year battle over abortion, attitudes initially shaped by liberal media and advocacy groups do not stand the test of time when confronted with facts. Please pray that God would open the hearts and minds of our young adults to the realities of what marriage is and means, as well as the dangers inherent in re-defining it.

"In that day, the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see." Isaiah 29:18 (ESV)

Day 19: Pray for the persuasiveness of the parties filing "friend of the court" briefs in favor of traditional marriage.

Focus on the Family — along with our sister organization CitizenLink and numerous associated state family policy councils — has filed a brief explaining the different parenting roles that a husband and wife play in raising children. These briefs also explain why those differences create a rational, even compelling, reason to limit marriage to one man and one woman.

Read the Focus/CitizenLink brief: <http://bit.ly/1lugqZe>

Please pray these efforts will influence the justices and their staff to side with the biblical, long-standing definition of marriage.

Day 20: The attorneys arguing on behalf of the people (and the marriage amendments) of KY, MI, OH & TN.

On April 28, John Bursch, the former Michigan solicitor general, and Tennessee's Associate Solicitor General Joseph Whalen will be defending the will of the people who voted to preserve marriage by overwhelming numbers.

These attorneys already have truth on their side. What they REALLY need is prayer for clarity in their arguments, wisdom in responding to questions from the justices, and the Holy Spirit's power in conveying not only God's truth about marriage, but also why that truth is best for society and in keeping with the U.S. Constitution.

"And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." Luke 12:11 (ESV)

Day 21: Pray For Academia.

Elite universities around the country and their professors, who shape the minds of our sons and daughters, have a particularly hostile view of religion.

Consequently, their view of marriage is warped. Their complete inability to comprehend religion leads them to question — and then to advocate — that “sexual autonomy” should trump the First Amendment.

Read this fascinating interview with a law professor, who wishes to remain anonymous, because of his fear his conservative views could get him into trouble: <http://bit.ly/1IpJ4uv>

"Behold, God is exalted in his power; who is a teacher like him?" Job 36:22 (ESV)

Day 22: Pray for the U.S. Supreme Court Justices' staff.

The justices each have several young law clerks, usually recent graduates of law school, who will be researching the issues, sorting through the dozens of “friend of the court” briefs, and in many cases helping their bosses write opinions.

That's a lot of responsibility on the heads of these men and women, who because of their relatively young age may not even be married. And most of them are graduates of elite (i.e. very liberal) East Coast law schools.

Day 23: Pray for the adult children of homosexual couples who've bravely spoken out about the problems with homosexual parenting.

Contradicting the standard LGBT talking point — that gay parents are equal to or superior to heterosexual parents — can make you the target of left-wing vitriol. Even so, several of these adult children of homosexuals have filed a "friend of the court" brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in these marriage cases.

Their stories are eye-opening and should motivate us to pray for all children who grow up without a mom or a dad:

- Dawn Stefanowicz and Denise Shick <http://1.usa.gov/19U1p3J>
- Heather Barwick and Katy Faust <http://1.usa.gov/1Ge6QsM>
- Robert Oscar Lopez and B.N. Klein <http://1.usa.gov/1P9k4tk>

Day 24: Pray for wedding vendors in Indiana.

What should have been a standard piece of legislation to protect religious freedom in Indiana turned into a major fiasco, as legislators and the governor caved to pressure from gay advocates and big business.

Bottom line? The revised bill removed protection for wedding vendors to say no to same-sex weddings. Although Indiana state law does not yet require vendors to provide such services, several cities in Indiana do.

Day 25: Pray for the four states (KY, MI, OH & TN) that filed their legal arguments with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting one-man, one-woman marriage.

May the truth of marriage shine in the midst of darkness!

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24 (ESV)

Day 26: Pray for religious freedom.

As same-sex marriage spreads, more and more Christian business owners and operators are finding out that being forced by the government to violate their conscience by participating in same-sex ceremonies is the “cost of citizenship.” Read the Citizen magazine story <http://bit.ly/1BMwyOg>

Many have faced fines and even jail time for refusing to compromise their faith. Should same-sex marriage be forced on all 50 states, the trend while undoubtedly skyrocket.

“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...” 2 Tim 3:12 (ESV)

Day 27: Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Obama in 2009, Justice Sotomayor has been a federal judge since 1992.

She consistently votes with the liberal wing of the Court, and voted against the federal definition of marriage in the 2013 *Windsor* case.

Pray that Justice Sotomayor would adopt the wisdom of the Founders, who felt that judges ought to be “the least dangerous” branch of government when it comes to interpreting laws, rather making up law from the bench.

“For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding...” Proverbs 2:6 (ESV)

Day 28: Pray for accuracy in media.

This case has been receiving a lot of press attention and reporting already — and most of it has been inaccurate.

Pray the truth about marriage, the U.S. Constitution, and what’s best for children come through loud and clear — and that people of faith will not be disturbed or swayed by false reporting.

“You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.” Exodus 23:1 (ESV)

Day 29: Pray for the grassroots organizations and their constituents in the aftermath of a decision.

Should the Supreme Court re-define marriage, we'll have to: re-double our efforts to protect religious conscience; speak to the culture on the true meaning of marriage; protect our children from becoming just another "benefit" of marriage, rather than the purpose for it; and organize together to keep upholding righteous laws that nurture and defend God's view of family, marriage, and sexuality.

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it." —1 Corinthians 9:24 (ESV)

Day 30: Pray for the Body of Christ.

One of the tools the Enemy is using to attempt to influence the legal issues surrounding marriage is to have so-called "religious leaders" come out publicly in favor of same-sex marriage.

This is not a time for the true Church to sit on the sidelines. We need bravery in pulpits, in Christian homes and in the public square.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6 (ESV)

Day 31: Associate Justice Elena Kagan

A former Harvard Law professor and dean, as well as the Solicitor General under President Obama, Kagan was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2010. She is part of the liberal wing of the Court, and voted against one-man, one-woman marriage in the 2013 *Windsor* decision.

Please pray for a change of heart, and for a spirit of wisdom and understanding in her approach to the constitutional issues surrounding marriage.

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ..." Colossians 1:9 (ESV)

Day 32: Associate Justice Stephen Breyer

A former Harvard professor, Department of Justice lawyer and assistant special prosecutor in the Watergate scandal of the early 1970s, Justice Breyer has been a federal judge since 1980, and a Supreme Court Associate Justice since 1994, when he was appointed by President Clinton.

Breyer's judicial philosophy is quite liberal on most social issues, including same-sex marriage, and he voted to strike down the federal one-man, one-woman marriage definition in the 2013 *Windsor* case.

Please pray Justice Breyer would come to realize the dangers of re-defining marriage — not only for the institution itself, but for the democratic process and the social fabric of our nation.

"I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness." Ecclesiastes 7:25 (ESV)

Day 33: Associate Justice Clarence Thomas

Appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush, Justice Thomas is a steadfast defender of the U.S. Constitution and marriage. He voted for one-man, one-woman marriage in the 2013 *Windsor* case. And while he almost never asks questions during oral arguments, his written opinions are forceful and compelling.

Please pray Justice Thomas will stay the course and continue to stand for marriage, for states' rights, and for the Constitution.

"The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice." Psalm 37:30 (ESV)

Day 34: Associate Justice Antonin Scalia

Perhaps the most outspoken Justice on the Court on the topic of sticking to the original understanding of the U.S. Constitution, Scalia has been critical of the Court's attempts to destroy marriage.

This is from his dissent in the 2013 *Windsor* case:

"But to defend traditional marriage is not to condemn, demean, or humiliate those who would prefer other arrangements, any more than to defend the Constitution of the United States is to condemn, demean, or humiliate other constitutions. . . . It is one thing for a society to elect change; it is another for a court of law to impose change by adjudging those who oppose it hostes humani generis, enemies of the human race."

Please pray Justice Scalia would, once again, be a voice of reason on the Court.

Day 35: Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

A former ACLU lawyer, the reliably liberal Justice Ginsburg was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Clinton in 1993. In recent interviews, Ginsburg said, “[I]t would not take a large adjustment” for Americans should the Supreme Court decide to redefine marriage for the entire country. She also voted to strike down the federal definition of one-man, one-woman marriage in the 2013 *Windsor* case.

Pray that Justice Ginsburg would be touched by the Lord to respect the fact that natural marriage is a foundational characteristic of our nation and its laws, and refrain from turning the U.S. Constitution into a vehicle to impose her personal beliefs on the country.

Day 36: Pray for the children.

Marriage is not about the desires of adults, but rather the needs of children and how best to raise them to be productive, healthy adults. Contrary to media myths and liberal groups' talking points, not all the children of homosexual parents are "OK." Case in point: Heather Barwick. Her open letter to the gay community is a "must read": <http://bit.ly/1Blty4k>.

Barwick is one of numerous emerging voices of hurting adults who've been raised by same-sex couples. Why are these adult children of same-sex couples choosing to raise their voices now? It's not to denigrate their parents, but to point out to the Supreme Court — and to the nation — that children need a mother AND a father.

"So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."
— Matthew 18:14 (ESV)

Day 37: Associate Justice Samuel Alito

Also appointed by President George W. Bush, Justice Alito was also a strong defender of marriage in the 2013 *Windsor* case, which struck down the federal definition of marriage.

Do you agree with what he said in his dissent in that case?

"But the Constitution simply does not speak to the issue of same-sex marriage. In our system of government, ultimate sovereignty rests with the people, and the people have the right to control their own destiny. Any change on a question so fundamental should be made by the people through their elected officials."

Pray Justice Alito will, once again, stand for marriage and the right of the people to govern themselves — rather than to be ruled by the whims of judges.

"[F]or I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict."— Luke 21:14 (ESV)

Day 38: U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts

Appointed by President George W. Bush, the Chief Justice defended marriage in his dissent in the 2013 *Windsor* case. He is a skilled questioner from the bench.

Pray the Chief Justice will convince hearts and minds through his leadership of the Court and through his questioning of the attorneys during Oral Arguments on April 28.

"The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice." — Psalms 37:30 (ESV)

Day 39: Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy

Justice Kennedy is widely regarded as the "swing vote" on the nine-member Court, and has been the fifth vote on many pivotal cases, including the 2013 *Windsor* case, which pertains to a federal marriage statute. Kennedy actually wrote the majority opinion, declaring the federal definition of one-man, one-woman marriage was an insult to gays and lesbians.

It is not an overstatement to say that Kennedy is the key justice in this case. Pray God will move in Justice Kennedy's heart to restrain him from re-writing the U.S. Constitution and the definition of marriage in this case.

As Proverbs 20:1 (ESV) says, "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will."

Day 40: Pray that fellow Christians will not lose heart while praying and advocating for the biblical definition of marriage.

Two recent reputable polls rank support for same-sex marriage in the low 40s — and dropping — with slightly higher numbers of people supporting the traditional definition. Media polls are slanted to portray support for same-sex marriage as a majority view and increasing. Nevertheless, don't believe them for a second!

When Israel faced unknown enemies, as they entered the Promised Land, God instructed Joshua several times to tell the Israelites, "Be strong and courageous" and to rely on Him. (Joshua 1:9)
Let us do the same.

NOTE

These prayer points can also be found on our [Facebook.com/ThrivingValues](https://www.facebook.com/ThrivingValues) page. Enter the following hashtag in the "search" bar to access them quickly: [#ThrivingValues](#) and [#40DaysForMarriage](#).