



EMAIL TO CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY REGARDING THE SUPREME COURT DECISION ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

JUNE 30, 2015 / 105 COMMENTS

Below is the email that I sent to the Faculty and Staff at Cedarville University on Saturday, June 27, 2015. I am posting it here so that students, parents, alumni, and friends can join in praying for Cedarville University in the coming days and specifically praying that God would visit our campus in a unique way this fall. I want to see God move like He did during the Great Awakenings and for all of us to come to clearer realization of who we are, who God is and to be more like Jesus.

Dear Cedarville Family,

Today, I am in Seattle, WA for an alumni meeting. Tomorrow, just blocks from my hotel room rainbow banners mark the route where a gay pride parade will celebrate, as none have in the past, the recent ruling of the Supreme Court.

I could not help but reflect upon the rainbow, a symbol of God's mercy, which has been turned to mean something very different. I am burdened for our nation and for so many people hopelessly looking for fulfillment down the dead end road of a sexual revolution. They will soon discover the emptiness of their journey, and amidst their eventual despair, we must be ready to present a biblical worldview and the hope of the Gospel with more clarity, compassion, and boldness than ever before.

Walking beneath the banners, I found myself thinking back to Daniel and what he must have experienced as he remained faithful in a much more secular culture. He never lost hope as he faithfully prayed for about 70 years for God to restore His people, and even as I write this to you, I am praying that God would send a revival and an awakening to Universities and Churches this fall that would change our world forever.

In my lower moments, I have sought refuge by reflecting upon the God who taught the mightiest person on the earth at that time, King Nebuchadnezzar, who was really in control. Daniel 4:34-35 records Nebuchadnezzar's words after this lesson,

³⁴ At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever,

for his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;
³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and he does according to his will among the host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay his hand
or say to him, "What have you done?"

I wonder if God has not allowed a winnowing of the chaff in our American society to distinguish true faith in the Gospel from cultural Christianity in our time? If so, perhaps in God's infinite wisdom and overflowing mercy this turn of events may result in ultimate good.

I want to assure you that at Cedarville University, we will continue to affirm that marriage is between one man and one woman in a covenant relationship for life. We are taking every step we can to prepare for future obstacles. I want to encourage you to pray with me for God to visit us unlike ever before and show us His glory and heal our land. I am asking that we all continue to stand together for the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ.

Toward that end, I and several others have signed on to a statement entitled, "Here We Stand: An Evangelical Declaration on Marriage." You can find it at this link: <http://erlc.com/erlc/herewestand> For your convenience, I have included the statement below.

In conclusion, we know that our God still reigns, the Gospel through the Holy Spirit still saves sinner, and Jesus still lives to come again one day in power. Our work is not finished, and we have an opportunity to make an eternal impact. I consider it an honor to serve King Jesus along side each of you, and I am confident that God has assembled each one of us at Cedarville University for just such a time as this. Let us be found faithful to our calling in this generation.

Here We Stand: An Evangelical Declaration on Marriage

As evangelical Christians, we dissent from the court's ruling that redefines marriage. The state did not create the family, and should not try to recreate the family in its own image. We will not capitulate on marriage because biblical authority requires that we cannot. The outcome of the Supreme Court's ruling to redefine marriage represents what seems like the result of a half-century of witnessing marriage's decline through divorce, cohabitation, and a worldview of almost limitless sexual freedom. The Supreme Court's actions pose incalculable risks to an already volatile social fabric by alienating those whose beliefs about marriage are motivated by deep biblical convictions and concern for the common good.

The Bible clearly teaches the enduring truth that marriage consists of one man and one woman. From Genesis to Revelation, the authority of Scripture witnesses to the nature of biblical

marriage as uniquely bound to the complementarity of man and woman. This truth is not negotiable. The Lord Jesus himself said that marriage is from the beginning (Matt. 19:4-6), so no human institution has the authority to redefine marriage any more than a human institution has the authority to redefine the gospel, which marriage mysteriously reflects (Eph. 5:32). The Supreme Court's ruling to redefine marriage demonstrates mistaken judgment by disregarding what history and countless civilizations have passed on to us, but it also represents an aftermath that evangelicals themselves, sadly, are not guiltless in contributing to. Too often, professing evangelicals have failed to model the ideals we so dearly cherish and believe are central to gospel proclamation.

Evangelical churches must be faithful to the biblical witness on marriage regardless of the cultural shift. Evangelical churches in America now find themselves in a new moral landscape that calls us to minister in a context growing more hostile to a biblical sexual ethic. This is not new in the history of the church. From its earliest beginnings, whether on the margins of society or in a place of influence, the church is defined by the gospel. We insist that the gospel brings good news to all people, regardless of whether the culture considers the news good or not.

The gospel must inform our approach to public witness. As evangelicals animated by the good news that God offers reconciliation through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus, we commit to:

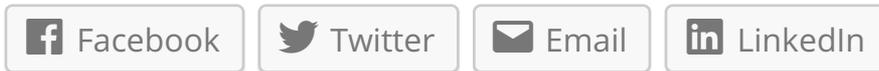
- Respect and pray for our governing authorities even as we work through the democratic process to rebuild a culture of marriage (Rom. 13:1-7);
- the truth about biblical marriage in a way that brings healing to a sexually broken culture;
- affirm the biblical mandate that all persons, including LGBT persons, are created in the image of God and deserve dignity and respect;
- love our neighbors regardless of whatever disagreements arise as a result of conflicting beliefs about marriage;
- live respectfully and civilly alongside those who may disagree with us for the sake of the common good;
- cultivate a common culture of religious liberty that allows the freedom to live and believe differently to prosper.

The redefinition of marriage should not entail the erosion of religious liberty. In the coming years, evangelical institutions could be pressed to sacrifice their sacred beliefs about marriage and sexuality in order to accommodate whatever demands the culture and law require. We do not have the option to meet those demands without violating our consciences and surrendering the gospel. We will not allow the government to coerce or infringe upon the rights of institutions to live by the sacred belief that only men and women can enter into marriage.

The gospel of Jesus Christ determines the shape and tone of our ministry. Christian theology considers its teachings about marriage both timeless and unchanging, and therefore we must stand firm in this belief. Outrage and panic are not the responses of those confident in the promises of a reigning Christ Jesus. While we believe the Supreme Court has erred in its ruling, we pledge to stand

steadfastly, faithfully witnessing to the biblical teaching that marriage is the chief cornerstone of society, designed to unite men, women, and children. We promise to proclaim and live this truth at all costs, with convictions that are communicated with kindness and love.

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105 COMMENTS



ChristianHurtByChristians

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 12:49 PM

How can you all look at the pain and destruction you are causing in people's lives and still push forward?

I just don't understand why you are all so willingly blind.



Brent Persun

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 2:17 PM

Did you even read this before you sent it?! As someone who managed to get a decent education in writing and editing at Cedarville, despite all the oppression to my self from such views as seen above, I am appalled that this made it out in this form. I can't even consider what you're saying because I'm too stuck on the egregious errors prevalent through out the entire message. The very first line (aside from the greeting) says "I am Seattle"! Did you even bother to use basic grammar checking software? It does not improve from there.

I'll leave it to calmer minds to dissect all the twisted thinking of this message. I'm just glad I have a graduate degree so that my resume shows more than Cedarville listed as my education. This is seriously disgraceful.



Joy

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 2:28 PM

Dr White, you need a ghostwriter. Or at the very least, an editor. But I could overlook your terrible writing if you had an ounce of compassion and empathy.



Mary Gentile

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 2:30 PM

True Christians would love and accept their LGBT brothers and sisters. Love one another. Stop harming the gay students in your University with these views. It's time to evolve and treat all with kindness and respect. That includes respecting their relationships with the person they love.



Reverend Paige Wolfanger

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 3:23 PM

The Supreme Court decision did not redefine marriage, at least not Biblically or historically.

If we look at the Bible, marriage is defined there in many different ways...as one man and one woman (say, Adam and Eve); as one man and many women (King David, and Michal, and Bathsheba, and Abishag, just to name a few); as one man and his female slave (Abraham and Hagar, although technically she was Sarah's slave); as one woman and one woman (Ruth and Naomi, whose vows have been used as part of the sacred Christian marriage rite for centuries); as one man and one man (David and Jonathan, see above.) To choose only ONE of the Biblical definitions of marriage as the ONLY definition is rationally inconsistent.

And for the record, my emptiness and despair ended the day I claimed my God-given, created sexuality, which just so happens to be same sex oriented. When I was denying it and hiding it, the despair threatened to swallow me. I am now a better Christian and better human than I ever was while hiding at Cedarville.

Don't speak about things you clearly have not researched and do not understand.



Anonymous

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 3:49 PM

"To accommodate the culture and law"?

How about to accommodate the fact that you're upholding traditions that not only fail to line up with the will of God for his people, but which also harm them by the very fact of their being instated by an authority figure like Cedarville.

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For

you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.”



Alumnus

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:09 PM

“I am Seattle”

That’s a lofty claim



Alumnus #2

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:12 PM

Is it leagal for a city to marry a person?

Even in the case of you and your wife?



Marcus

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:12 PM

You’re absolutely right Dr. White.

God is winnowing the chaff.

He’s getting rid of people like you.



Sarah

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:18 PM

Could straight, homophobic, “Christians” stop saying that they have to take “refuge” in times like these.

Really? You have to “take refuge”?

Stop the BS. The people who have to take refuge are the LGBT followers of Christ who you persecute with statements like these and your disgusting university policies.

Saying you have to “take refuge” in these “difficult times” for you as a white, straight, middle class, cis man while people who have been persecuted for their sexuality finally get the rights they deserve by law and by the true will of God simply comes off as incredibly delusional and ironic to the point of being nauseating.



Alumnus #3

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:20 PM

I can't decide which is worse, you stating you are in fact the entire city of Seattle, Washington, or the sheer lack of realization that this country isn't a Christian nation and doesn't abide to your Southwestern theology.



Former Proud Alumnus and Former Employee

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:23 PM

As a formal employee and an alumnus of Cedarville University, I am appalled at not only the hackery that is the grammar in this email to learned men and women of the faculty and staff, but also by the hurt that these policies have caused.

Cedarville University is not the Church nor is it a para-church ministry. It is an institution of higher learning. The University should strive to produce godly men and women who are engaged critically in the culture around them (as it did under Dr. Brown) and not just men that can regurgitate the thoughts, ideas, words, and theology of woman-hating, abuse-condoning members of the Southern Baptist Convention (in case you don't know who I am referring to, your beloved mentor and now an "esteemed" member of the Board of Trustees).

I am saddened and disgusted by the pharisaical language of the SBC and therefore you. May the God of all grace, mercy, and judgement grant you wisdom. I used to be a proud alumnus, not anymore.

You belong in the South where your "good ol' boys" welcome you and your hateful, judgmental rhetoric. Go back to where you belong and let us continue to engage the culture with the mind of Christ. A mind of compassion, grace, and healing.

I think it may be time to "flip the tables of the temple" and you have found yourself standing squarely behind one.



Godgirl93

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:26 PM

It doesn't matter!



Anon

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:31 PM

May God have mercy on your unkindness



Anon

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:31 PM

And yes Mr. White, I mean you



Seattle

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:35 PM

Who is this imposter and why is he trying to dirty my good name >:/



CedarvilleStudent#158873

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:41 PM

“Grandpa! You and Papa were alive when it wasn’t legal for you both to marry! What was it like! What were the Christians doing about it?”

“Well, let me show you”

Pulls out Dr. White’s email

“This is what they were doing”



Anonymous

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:45 PM

“cultivate a common culture of religious liberty that allows the freedom to live and believe differently to prosper.”

The freedom to live differently...

Did you seriously not read what you were writing or were you honestly so drunk on your high horse that you didn’t even see the paradox that you are living if this statement above is what you actually want to promote?

Should I laugh or cry?



Ville Student

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:51 PM

Dr. White: “I am praying that God would send a revival and an awakening to Universities and Churches this fall that would change our world forever.”



Gif Master

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:55 PM

The entirety of this article and the responses –

http://reactiongifs.me/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/mr_chang_senor_chang_laugh_spits_milk.gif



Anonymous

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:55 PM

ITS ADAM AND EVE NOT SEATTLE AND EVE!!!

YOU SIT ON A THRONE OF LIES



TheRationalOne

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:57 PM

You really are quite the martyr, Dr. White. I do hope Cedarville soon loses it's federal funding as a result of your discrimination towards married same-sex couples who attend, or apply to, Cedarville. I'm afraid not even the Republicans can save your discriminatory practices from the justice-bent moral arc of the universe.

You will, of course, never see it, as you're insufficiently reasons-responsive, but you are no different than Bob Jones, Sr., whose great intolerance for good things (based, of course, on the "clear" interpretation of Holy Writ) ruined both his university and his name. Like him, you will no doubt fight until the bitter end.

You will lose.



Anonymous

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 4:57 PM

You are a beautiful human being



Anonymous

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:00 PM

The worst part of this is that no matter how funny this is, no matter how much I can enjoy laughing at all this, I'm still going to go back to Cedarville. I'm still going to face the hatred and bigotry. I'm still going to find myself wanting to die because of the people God called to bring life.

And that, Dr. White, is what's actually sickening



Kaitlin

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:01 PM

There are a lot of hateful comments here. I'm sorry a culture so desperate to end hate, lashes out at you with personal attacks. I will be praying for you, Dr. White. I know you've made great strides, and have truly been humbled in a Godly way. God loves you, and I know you desire to honor Him.



TheRationalOne

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:18 PM

The comments are "hateful" in the same way that comments opposing anti-interracial marriage views were hateful: that is, not at all. But so goes the rhetoric of the bigots.



TheRationalOne

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:20 PM

You are loved. Don't go back there.



RevDocW

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:26 PM

Ya' know, it'd be really great if folks in the fundamentalist crowd would actually engage with the myriad scholarship that exists for this issue. Apparently the mantra of 2 Timothy 2:15, "study to show thyself approved," does not apply to how the Bible does and does not handle sexuality. (Or is it simply just more effective to beat the bully pulpit?) I know Dr. White's administration has done all it can to rid Cedarville of folks who are interested in substantive dialogue, but good grief, this is both ludicrous and depressing.



Anonymous

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:26 PM

There are a lot of hateful comments here. I'm sorry a culture so desperate to end hate, lashes out at

you with personal attacks. I will be praying for you, George Wallace. I know you've made great strides, and have truly been humbled in a Godly way. God loves you, and I know you desire to honor Him.



Ben

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:29 PM

Dr. White,

Cedarville will always hold a special place in my heart as my alma mater. But I am deeply concerned for students trapped under your warped and hateful interpretation of God's word. I'm praying that God opens your eyes to the truth of God's love and acceptance. Like you, I pray that God would bring revival and change to the church. I have seen God work in the hearts of many people as God calls them to love and acceptance. I hope for the same in your heart.



Anon

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:31 PM

I hope that Dr. White will realize the error of his ways.

God doesn't desire that anyone should live as a city. He has made a way for you to change and leave your sinful temptations behind! You don't have to live such an immoral lifestyle anymore!

#godhatescities

#ex-city



Chris

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:42 PM

With respect, sir, we are ALL Seattle. LOL



Sam

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:49 PM

Agreed. I escaped, so can you.

Cedarville Studebt

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:50 PM



" I am burdened for our nation and for so many people hopelessly looking for fulfillment down the dead end road of a sexual revolution. They will soon discover the emptiness of their journey, and amidst their eventual despair"

We aren't looking for fulfillment Dr. White. We realize fully that no human relationship, even the purest, is able to fulfill what only God can give.

But do you know what we want?

The right to have our lifetime union to the person we love called a marriage. And for the



Cedarville Studebt

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:53 PM

people who we thought cared for us to stop saying that the very love we have for someone, just because of their gender, is entirely disgusting to God.

If you want to even discuss this topic Dr. White, you need to stop telling us what we want, and listen to what we're actually trying to say.

But wait.

That's right.

You don't allow for "dissenting opinions" at your fine establishment of higher learning.

My mistake



Joe

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 5:54 PM

This comment wins!!



TheRationalOne

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 6:01 PM

OMG that was really good.



TheRationalOne

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 6:04 PM

We will help you. Contact Cedarville Out.



Brian Ray

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 6:11 PM

It amazing how timely reminders from one America's most articulate, kind and benevolent leaders, Franklin Graham and now Cedarville University's president, Dr. Thomas White are met with disdain. The Bible serves as the sole standard of authority on these matters and clearly warns against calling wrong right. I feel for those predisposed with same sex attraction, but view it as any other moral issue. It is not unlike the battle for personal purity within each of us. I have tremendous respect for those who choose to struggle and disappointment for those who claim the name of Christ who simply yield to temptation. Thank you Dr. White for your biblical stand on this issue and unwavering leadership.



TheRationalOne

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 6:18 PM

How likely is it that one of the most articulate leaders claims, "Today, I am Seattle"? I'll give you a hint: it has the same plausibility as attributing maximal benevolence to Franklin Graham, which has the same plausibility as attributing earthquakes to Poseidon.



Reverend Paige Wolfanger

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 6:37 PM

You are made in God's Divine image...that include's your sexuality! Be safe, know you are loved, and there are places and communities that will love you!



Anon

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 7:00 PM

"It is not unlike the battle for personal purity within each of us."

That's where you are so entirely and emphatically wrong Brian. It is not like your struggle.

When a straight person comes to their pastor and says, "I really love this person", when was the last time the pastor said to them, "your love for them is sin, it is a result of the fall. Do not entertain thoughts of sex, but also abstain from marriage, dating, or even the contemplation of such occurrences with this person because it would be innately disgusting to God."

Even if you didn't call us to change our sexuality when we cannot change it, something that a great deal of the church does, or even if you deny the claim that we are choosing to be attracted to the same sex, yet another

claim widely made, you still tell us that we must go beyond the purity that straight people face.

You don't call us to be pure.

You ban us from love.

"They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them."



Tiger Up!

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 7:28 PM

I'm not religious, but I'm glad Wittenberg was accepting of everyone. ELCA welcomes all and wishes to invite the world to a potluck. I'll bring the jello salad.

White,

I have a recommendation for you: stop crying a river, get down off your cross, use the wood to build a bridge, and get over it.



Thomas

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 8:24 PM

Thank you all for posting comments and for keeping them relatively clean. I sincerely appreciate it, and sorry about the typo Seattle. With Starbucks, the Seahawks, and Pike Place market, no one would ever intentionally claim to be such a city. I absolutely loved the fresh flowers, but I can live without that traffic.

To many of you, we simply disagree. I have studied the matter, and I am convinced that biblical marriage was intended to be one man and one woman in a covenant relationship for life. I understand we disagree. That doesn't mean that I don't care about you. I do, and tonight, I will pray for everyone who commented on this post. We will continue on with compassionate conviction as we attempt to help everyone grow closer to Christ at Cedarville University. I believe we are all sinners in need of the grace of Jesus Christ, and I consider myself as one of the chief of sinners. For those who think I am a horrible person, please pray for our University twice as hard, and I gladly welcome your prayers for me. Thanks again and have a great night.



Troll Ling

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 8:29 PM

Now we have our answer as to why a philosophy department is so important. In addition to fostering elegant and scholarly thought that prizes pristine grammatical construction, elegant thought also flourishes. No more. Shitty intellect, poor grammar, and further small-minded alienation: that's so Cedarville. As we say in the south: Bless your heart. Bless. Your. Heart. And pity on the students that have to look up to this literary example as a scion of intelligence.



Pastor Douglas Graham

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 8:37 PM

Praise God! Great response! May the LORD bless Cedarville University!



Jessica Peck

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 8:51 PM

I totally understand why some people believe that same-sex sexual activity is “sinful.” But is outlawing it the right answer?

The Bible does not support interfaith marriage, should we outlaw that?

The Bible does not support premarital sex, should we outlaw that?

The Bible does not support telling white lies, should we outlaw that?

The Bible does not support personal retaliation against enemies, so, can we outlaw that?

The Bible does not support fighting or arguing or even complaining, so, should we outlaw that?

The Bible supports going to church, tithing, being compassionate towards your enemy, having children, spreading the Gospel, etc... should we use the law to mandate Americans to do these things?

The answer to all of the above is no. That’s because there’s NO sense in coercing non-Christian people to behave like Christians, using the government as the coercive means. Legislating a specific form of Christian morality will not bring anyone closer to Christ. In fact, there’s a lot of reason to believe it actually drives people away from Christ.

I am NOT saying we should sacrifice Biblical truths. I AM saying that we need to specifically think about how or if we legislate those truths.

Instead, our laws should be derived from the consent of the people and the people’s representatives (all three branches, as according to the Constitution.)

Jessica Peck

CU Alumna 2010



Concerned and Confused Alumnus

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 8:59 PM

Where is the line between disagreement and harassment? And why aren’t you consistent in your determinations on what is a sin and how bad that sin is? If you are going to discriminate against the LGBTQ community, then why don’t you also discriminate against those who have gotten divorced or those who sin in other ways? Why are the supposed “sins” of the LGBTQ community worse than your sins? Why does this particular “sin” disqualify someone from student body leadership positions, but your sins do not disqualify you

from the ultimate leadership position as president? As a Christian, I believe I should not judge others based on their “sins” – that is God’s place, not mine. So, I don’t understand why you all think you can take God’s place and determine which sins are “unforgivable” and unacceptable for students and faculty verses which sins are okay for students and faculty to engage in as long as they ask for “grace” and forgiveness.



CurrentStudent

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 9:09 PM

I believe that you truly think that you are caring for your students, but in this issue please understand that you are not.

Please, I beg for you to reconsider your stance. You may think you are helping people come closer to Christ but you are driving us away.

This is about more than what side of history people will land on. This is more than politics, or Cedarville’s name looking good or bad. These are people’s lives that are being undone by people working in the name of Christ!

Please. Please stop this.



CedarvilleCloset

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 9:16 PM

Thank you so much for seeing and putting into words that this isn’t just the university telling students that we’re wrong in our beliefs

We are targeted by the campus and discriminated against as though our “sin” is somehow greater than any other.

And that’s not ok.



Amy Hayes

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 9:17 PM

In response to the Supreme Court’s decision finding that the states are required to license marriages between people of the same sex you write that gays are “hopelessly looking for fulfillment down the dead end road of a sexual revolution” and “will soon discover the emptiness of their journey”. One would think from reading this that gay people never had long-term relationships prior to this court decision. In fact, gay people just like straight people meet, fall in love, and form long-term or even life-long relationships. Jim Obergefell and John Arthur were together for 20 years before John’s death from ALS. Edith Windsor and Thea Spyer were together almost 45 years before Thea’s death from heart disease. Not only do gay people form long-term relationships, but they raise children. April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse have three adopted children with special needs. Because they are not married they could not jointly adopt, putting their family at risk of being ripped

apart if one of them were to die and denying their children the protection and dignity afforded to children of opposite sex couples.

These individuals did not find their road led to emptiness, but to family. The Supreme Court found that our Constitution, which guarantees both the freedom to practice one's religion and to not have the religion of others forced upon oneself, protects the right of these people to marry the person they love.

Now you can disagree if you like, but don't misrepresent the motives of the families that appealed to the Supreme Court, and for goodness' sake don't make this about you and other evangelicals. The Evangelical Declaration states, "The Supreme Court's actions pose incalculable risks to an already volatile social fabric by alienating those whose beliefs about marriage are motivated by deep biblical convictions and concern for the common good." On one side of the scale, this declaration asks us to weigh the hurt feelings of evangelical Christians who are thwarted in their attempts to prevent others from entering into a particular private contract. On the other, we weigh the civil rights of millions of Americans. A rapidly increasing percentage of people—including young evangelicals—is finding the balance lies on the side of civil rights.

I Peter 2:12 says, "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." Right now when "the world" sees Cedarville, they see the equivalent of the anti-miscegenation party in Loving vs. Virginia. Is that the legacy you want to leave?



Jen Castellani

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 9:17 PM

Dr. White,

As an alumna and a former employee, I have a few things I'd like to say in response to your email. First, it is pretty clear to me that you probably never have developed a friendship with an LGBTQ individual. For you to state, "I am burdened for our nation and for so many people hopelessly looking for fulfillment down the dead end road of a sexual revolution. They will soon discover the emptiness of their journey, and amidst their eventual despair..." tells me that you really have no idea what our lives are like (and frankly, to claim that you do is exceedingly arrogant). I can tell you that during my time at CU as a student and as a staff member, I felt deeply shamed for who I am as a person, even apart from my sexual orientation. Indeed, I rarely felt loved. Truly, I was empty, hopelessly looking for fulfillment down the dead end road, and I despaired. But after leaving CU and being able to claim my full personhood and embrace who I am, I felt the tremendous burden of shame, condemnation, and self-loathing lift. Today, outside of christianity, I can testify that I have experienced more love and compassion than I ever did inside of christianity and at Cedarville. So, have no fear: The LGBTQ community isn't hopeless, has found fulfillment, and certainly does not despair. I'm doing quite well and am at peace.

Blessings to you,

Jen



Kaitlin

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 9:22 PM

You can disagree with someone's views, beliefs, and/or lifestyle, without segregating, hating, or ostracizing them.



Thomas Avery Redic

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 9:54 PM

My only hope—a faint hope, but a hope none the less—is that LGBTQ Cedarville students will find opportunities this fall to wrestle, to rejoice, to breathe, and to engage the Holy Spirit with all of their identities not only unisolated, but joined in solidarity.

I, along with a few others, hope to be a small support system for those most in need on Cedarville's campus. There is support, there are safe places and people who will listen. We are very Christian and very LGBT—we are fortunate enough to encounter Christ in environments that do not threaten to suppress the identities that make us who we are.

Current students: text me, message me on Face Book and/or email and we will do our best to find safety for you. We hope to combat your moments of isolation.

Sincerely,

Thomas Avery Redic

thomasaveryredic@gmail.com

614-464-7240



Becca

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 10:32 PM

When a straight person comes to their pastor and says, "I really love this person," when was the last time the pastor said to them, "your love for them is a sin, it is a result of the fall. Do not entertain thoughts of sex...because it would be innately disgusting to God."

I believe the pastor would say this to a straight person who says they really love the spouse of another person. Adultery would be met with the same counsel offered to someone with homosexual desires. That straight person might truly love the already-married individual, may entertain thoughts of sex and have a true desire to be with that person forever. BUT to act upon those feelings would be a direct violation of God's commands. It would be a sin, regardless of how deep the feelings between the two are. You can't rewrite scripture when it's inconvenient for you or when you think certain rules or restrictions shouldn't exist. God's Word is truth, all the time, every time, convenient or not.



Joy Shaughnessy

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 10:42 PM

Dr White,

I hope that as you read these comments, you find yourself pondering a few questions.

Perhaps you will contemplate something along the lines of “why are so many alumni responding this way? Have they all become corrupted by the culture? Are they still Christians?”

As a leader of an institution of higher learning, I hope to God you ask yourself some questions & find the courage to engage with the issue rather than merely uttering a scripted response. If you care about these students, you should at least consider reading “If Grace is True” by Philip Gulley & James Mulholland. Better yet, read the book & then make the short drive to Indianapolis to visit the pastors who authored it. These men understand what it looks like to live as Christ loved.

Peace to you,
Joy



Becca

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 10:43 PM

“Why are the supposed sins of the LGBTQ society worse than your sins?”

The sin of homosexuality is no worse than any other sin. However, the other sins are not celebrated and endorsed in such an aggressive and large-scale manner. No one celebrates divorce as a wonderful God-given solution. No one celebrates theft and lying and adultery. And if suddenly our culture decided that those sins aren't actually sins and should be not just permitted, but also endorsed and celebrated, we would oppose that as well.

Homosexuality is not unforgivable or worse than other sins. It's refusing to acknowledge the fact that it is, indeed, a sin. And that's where the distinction sits.



Shelby Padgett

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 10:53 PM

No where in the Bible does God ask us to defend him, but COUNTLESS times he commands us to love people radically. As a member of the LGBTQ community and a Cedarville alumni, this post does not make me feel loved. Rather it makes me feel like a terrorist. Someone who is to be sought out and annihilated. I love God with all my heart. I seek to serve him in all I do. To make an assumption that I am a threat to the Church when I am a sister in Christ is the very thing that continues to drive people out of the church and leads them to depression and suicide. It's those feelings of shame that led me to be a place of refuge and love to the hurting members of the LGBT community on campus this past semester. I will no longer be in the area this year but I will always be an advocate for people on campus. Along with Thomas, anyone who is hurting or needs a place of refuge you may contact me. You are loved and your feelings are important.

Shelby

Shelby@padgett.cc

260-341-9928



TheRationalOne

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 11:13 PM

Your defense is predicated on the assumption that same-sex sexual activity (hereafter SSA) is sinful. Your evidence is the Bible, though you appear unaware that it's quite debatable what the Bible says (if anything) about SSA. Thus, when you claim that your interlocutor is rewriting scripture, it's hard to see how you have grounds for suggesting that. Why not suppose that your interlocutor simply interprets the Bible differently as she best understands it, much like Calvinists (should) believe that Arminians interpret the Bible as best they can?



Anon

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 11:17 PM

And would you care to elaborate on the reason why God would instate a commandment against entering into a union with someone based solely on their sex and how that reason is similar to the harm that God attempts to prevent by calling His people to remain loyal to those they enter into such a union with, or purposefully not working to undo a relationship in such a union. In other words, while adultery harms people, what/who does homosexuality within a committed relationship hurt?

Or maybe you'd like to explain how we are twisting God's commands to meet our desires? Who says you aren't the one doing it? I'll give you a hint: you are. We aren't rewriting scripture, we're pointing out what actually there, and what people like you ignore or don't even take the time to research. Instead you go on reeking ruin in people's hearts and their relationships with God.

But above all, if I may, I call BS on the entirety of your rebuttal.

If you are gay and working by the traditional views of the church towards sexuality, there is NO ONE WHO YOU MAY LOVE IN THE WAY THAT YOU ARE BIOLOGICALLY WIRED TO LOVE. If there is a straight person who finds themselves in love with someone who is already married, they can move on and find someone else. Calling a straight person not to enter into union with ONE PERSON already in a union is not the same thing as telling a gay person that they cannot enter a union with ANYONE WHO THEY ARE CAPABLE OF FEELING AFFECTION TOWARDS. That is what you are calling gay people to do. This is why our struggle is not the same.

Your argument falls flat.



CedarvilleCloset

JUNE 30, 2015 AT 11:23 PM

Did you even read what they said?

It's not about praising it.

It's about the fact that whether homosexuality is a sin or not, the policies of Cedarville University discriminate against those who who are not straight.

If Cedarville really says that homosexuality is merely a sin like any other sin, then they need to stop treating LGBT+ students differently than any other student who they would say is likewise sinful.



Portland

JULY 1, 2015 AT 7:36 AM

As much fun as the Seattle comments are, this right here is the most spot on comment I have read.

I'm Portland!



Portland

JULY 1, 2015 AT 7:37 AM

I love you. Marry me?



Sarah

JULY 1, 2015 AT 8:45 AM

Hilarity about Seattle aside, I don't understand the point of this. At all. (Except for the part where I actually do... which I will get to).

Cedarville University ~~is~~ was an institution of higher education. It is not a church, and the president is not a pastor. No one is performing marriages at Cedarville University. I mean, you guys fired the campus pastor anyway, so there's no risk of anyone mistaking Cedarville for a church.

This blog post adds nothing to any conversation – except to circle the proverbial wagons, throw around some rhetoric, look like you are doing something bold and “taking a stand” about something that causes you no undue hardship whatsoever. It's a way to get people who agree with you to throw more money at Cedarville, by appearing to be “relevant.” Except this blog says nothing new. Many conservative Christians have been saying the same thing for a long time, and this post adds nothing to what has already been said. It reads more like a transparent attempt at name dropping for relevancy.

I skimmed through the blog and nearly every post has been about strategic planning meetings, that, while those dragged on and on, at least applied to Cedarville. These posts presented a better front of providing a glimpse into the mind of a university president (though they also reeked of justification). This post just feels phoned in; a student playing the role and presenting all the answers he knows the professors – in this case,

the donors – want to hear. For the “A” grade. For applause. For money. But not for any deeper reason.

It isn't bold, and it isn't really even interesting, aside from the jokes about Seattle.

Sarah Hyatt

Cedarville University Class of 2007



Becca

JULY 1, 2015 AT 8:57 AM

“If Cedarville really says that homosexuality is merely a sin like any other sin, then they need to stop treating LGBT+ students differently than any other student who they would say is likewise sinful.”

The only reason Cedarville is treating LGBT students “differently” is because these students are attempting to justify their homosexuality by saying it’s not a sin. Cedarville’s stance remains that homosexuality is a sin, so the administration will take the steps necessary to try to allow those students to see the error of their ways according to scripture (or at least Cedarville’s interpretation of scripture).

Yes, all sins are equal in that they keep us from God, but certain sins are more all-encompassing and deep-rooted. Yes, God hates all sin. But just as in the criminal justice/legal system, certain crimes receive more severe punishment. Same goes for the Christian “disciplinary” system.

I guess what it comes down to is that a sin committed by a person once or on a very infrequent basis is still a sin, but can’t be treated the exact same way as a sin committed habitually, a lifestyle of sin.

Whether a person is involved in homosexuality, or violates the Cedarville covenant with habitual drinking and drunkenness, or makes a practice of frequent lying or stealing or cheating – all would be handled (or at least should be) with equal disciplinary action.



TheRationalOne

JULY 1, 2015 AT 9:23 AM

Thanks for the basic lesson in non sequiturs. The experts will take it from here.

Your claim was that the prior comments were hateful. We argued that they’re hateful only if similar comments in defense of black civil rights would be hateful. Your response now is to say that one can disagree with some person without treating them in various ways.

Aside from ignoring how folks like Dr. White *have* segregated LGBT+ Christians and their allies, including students and faculty and staff; how they *have* removed LGBT+ students, faculty, and staff from positions at CU simply because they were LGBT+ (and, mind you, not “practicing” their “sinful lifestyle” at the time!); it’s hard to see how this comment bears any relevance to your original claim or the subsequent rejoinders.



Seattle

JULY 1, 2015 AT 2:07 PM

I'm sorry, but I'm not looking for that level of commitment right now



Anon

JULY 1, 2015 AT 2:11 PM

That beautiful moment when a hateful message and its supporters are drowned out and torn down with genuine logic and witty arguments based on historical parallels.

Keep it up



Anonymous

JULY 1, 2015 AT 2:12 PM

That beautiful moment when a hateful message and its supporters are drowned out and torn down with genuine logic and witty arguments based on historical parallels.

Keep it up!



Responding

JULY 1, 2015 AT 2:25 PM

Because I can't reply to Becca's comment directly, I am forced to reply here.

First I would like to say that you obviously have little idea of how LGBT+ students are treated at Cedarville. Your comments make it hard to believe anything otherwise.

Care for an example?

Have you ever tried forming a support group for "struggling" LGBT+ students at Cedarville? You know, because one of the most suicide and self harm prone minorities in the U.S. might need some help from one another as they deal with the toxic environment of Cedarville for even those who do decide that their sexuality is sinful. Well guess what, you can't. According to the administration, such an organization would go against the universities views of homosexuality. That's right, a group designed for the aid of a group already predisposed to self harm due to negative environmental interactions is forbidden by the very establishment that goes on to fuel an even more negative and harmful environment.

So don't tell me that being LGBT+ is treated like any other "sin" on my campus.

There are groups where people can openly work with one another over their failure to avoid photography, but not their so called "struggle" with homosexuality or any other non-normative sexual orientation or gender

identity?

You do not know what we face because you have neither been in our place nor have you opened your eyes to what the school is promoting and putting into place in its policies. So please cease acting and speaking as though you do understand.



Responding

JULY 1, 2015 AT 2:34 PM

“The only reason Cedarville is treating LGBT students “differently” is because these students are attempting to justify their homosexuality by saying it’s not a sin.”

There are students all throughout Cedarville who view their sexuality as sinful and have no desire to live in any way other than celibacy.

Yet they are still met with discrimination like the kind mentioned above and with a community that badgers them THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATION with policies, public messages, and even chapels that demonize them.

Your overgeneralization of the views that LGBT+ students hold exemplifies your ignorance on the reality of this issue and how it actually affects people. It also gives a good example of why you are so blind to the discrimination we face because you have not even done so much as taken the time to realize what a large portion of us believe.



Aubrey

JULY 1, 2015 AT 2:36 PM

As a CU graduate and a believer, I am saddened by many rude and intentionally hurtful comments on this thread. Even more so, I’m disappointed to see believers join the movement that to uphold the biblical, God-created design for marriage between one man and one woman is somehow hateful, unacceptable, or discrimination. Not agreeing with the Supreme Court decision does not directly equal not loving those who do support it or those who struggle with or practice homosexuality. If that is you, I would highly recommend reading this article below and considering the questions. Please note that I am referring to this article as simply a viewpoint to consider – I not advocating that other views are unacceptable. A few questions to highlight:

- How would you make a positive case from Scripture that sexual activity between two persons of the same sex is a blessing to be celebrated?
- What verses would you use to show that a marriage between two persons of the same sex can adequately depict Christ and the Church?
- Do you think Jesus would have been okay with homosexual behavior between consenting adults in a committed relationship? If so, why did he reassert the Genesis definition of marriage being one man and one woman?
- Does equality entail that anyone wanting to be married should be able to have any meaningful relationship defined as marriage? If not, why?

- Should your brother and sister in Christ who disagree with homosexual practice be allowed to exercise their religious beliefs without fear of punishment, retribution, or coercion?
- Will you speak up for your fellow Christians with their jobs, their accreditation, their reputation, and their freedoms are threatened because of this issue?
- If “love wins,” how would you define love?

Aforementioned article can be found here:

<http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevindeyoung/2015/07/01/40-questions-for-christians-now-waving-rainbow-flags/>

A question I have for those who strongly disagree with Dr. White – what are your expectations for a response from the university regarding the Supreme Court’s decision, knowing that Cedarville is a Christ-centered, biblically based learning institution?



Responding

JULY 1, 2015 AT 2:38 PM

“Same goes for the Christian “disciplinary” system.

I guess what it comes down to is that a sin committed by a person once or on a very infrequent basis is still a sin, but can’t be treated the exact same way as a sin committed habitually, a lifestyle of sin.”

Their lifestyle of sin...

Yes, their lifestyle of simply existing with a sexual preference that they cannot change leading them into such vile sins as, walking to class, eating at Chucks, or using the bathroom.

Once again, you have overgeneralized an entire minority of students (see above) making your rebuttal empty.



Anonymous

JULY 1, 2015 AT 2:45 PM

As a CU graduate and a believer, I am saddened by many rude and intentionally hurtful comments on this thread. Even more so, I’m disappointed to see believers join the movement that to uphold the biblical, God-created design for marriage between one man and one woman of the same race is somehow hateful, unacceptable, or discrimination.

- How would you make a positive case from Scripture that sexual activity between two persons of different races is a blessing to be celebrated?
- What verses would you use to show that a marriage between two persons of different races can adequately depict Christ and the Church?
- Should your brother and sister in Christ who disagree with interracial marriage be allowed to exercise their religious beliefs without fear of punishment, retribution, or coercion?

•Will you speak up for your fellow Christians with their jobs, their accreditation, their reputation, and their freedoms are threatened because of this issue?



Anon

JULY 1, 2015 AT 2:50 PM

The fact that you can willingly ignore the discrimination and hypocrisy of Cedarville's administration explained in the comments above and go on calling the college a "Christ-centered, biblically based learning institution" (even with your evident beliefs on homosexuality) does not give me very much reason to read what you have to say.



SickofThis

JULY 1, 2015 AT 2:55 PM

"How would you make a positive case from Scripture that racial integration is a blessing to be celebrated?"

The bible does not directly address every topic or every situation someone may face as a disciple of Christ.

The lack of direct reference to something as a "blessing to be celebrated" does not make that thing any less of a blessing.



Aubrey

JULY 1, 2015 AT 2:57 PM

What frustrates me is a refusal to even consider or read my comments if they could be different from yours. I am not ignoring anything – you know neither myself nor my position. I posted questions that I sincerely am interested in hearing responses on from other CU alumni. Furthermore, CU advertises itself as a Christ-centered, biblically based institution, which is why I referenced it as such. Thanks!



Aubrey

JULY 1, 2015 AT 3:01 PM

Looks like another person (Anonymous) changed everything out to "interracial marriage," which is a different topic at hand. If you'd like to address it, go for it, but my comments are specifically tied to Dr. White's article on same -marriage and his response.



CurrentGayStudent

JULY 1, 2015 AT 3:07 PM

“Do you think Jesus would have been okay with homosexual behavior between consenting adults in a committed relationship? If so, why did he reassert the Genesis definition of marriage being one man and one woman?”

This question requires you to affirm that Jesus’s reference to Genesis was meant to reassert an idea that marriage can only exist between a man and a woman. To do that would require someone to ignore the reality that Jesus was discussing divorce at the time of referencing these verses, and that His use of such a reference was for the sake of telling people that they ought not to divorce, even though Moses allowed it by law, because God has united those in marital Union into “one flesh” or one family and that humans ought not to undo what God has done.

This question requires you to ignore context and sets persons up to fail due to ignoring said context

This question is invalid.



CurrentGayStudent

JULY 1, 2015 AT 3:10 PM

The point of their alterations was to point out how your question could just as easily been used in twisting the Bible to support anti-integration movements made by Christians in the past.

They are not interested in discussing interracial marriage but want to discuss same-sex marriage while using reference to past marriage debates as a tool for better understanding.



Anon

JULY 1, 2015 AT 3:18 PM

1: I did not ignore your comments, if I did I would not have responded specifically quoting you.

2: Judging from your support of Cedarville’s LGBT+ policy in spite of evidence clearly argued in comments above I can say with confidence that you are ignoring quite a lot of everything.

3: You wanted responses and you got them. Go look at them. But you cannot bar persons from giving responses that go beyond what you asked for.

3.5: Judging from your comments to what was said in response to your own statements, don’t be surprised if no one answers your questions. We have been faced with these arguments for a long time, and don’t care to spend the time and effort explaining what we have to say to persons who don’t want answers. Based on what you’ve replied with and your questions in the first place, it feels as though you just want to poke at us, not discuss our theological standing.



Aubrey

JULY 1, 2015 AT 3:33 PM

Unfortunately, I believe you're misunderstanding the purpose of my post. My intent is not to poke but to join the discussion. (although now it certainly feels like you're poking at me!) I was hoping for true and civil discussion (of differing views) with other CU grads. I actually have several close friends and family members in my life who are gay, and I love them dearly. They are some of my favorite people. The topic of same sex marriage has been a common conversation in the last few days, so I was very interested in gaining biblical insight and discussion from fellow believers on this topic. In terms of written responses to the questions posed in the article, I am not disappointed if they're not openly addressed. The thought was for those interested in reading the questions to simply consider them.



Aubrey

JULY 1, 2015 AT 3:36 PM

Thanks for sharing your thoughts!



CurrentGayStudent

JULY 1, 2015 AT 4:21 PM

Absolutely! Thank you for asking them!

And don't feel too upset over the anonymous replies that are more...angry. I can understand where they are coming from. They're hurt, and still hurting, from a lot of really negative people who aren't interested in actual discussion at all. They end up feeling like they have to lash out at anyone who may not be genuinely interested in discussing the topic just so they can stay sane.

I've been there before.

That's nt excuse. But please try to understand why they can be so biting at times. If you want answers you may need patience getting some people to trust that you're genuinely interested in mutual benefit.



Kaitlin

JULY 1, 2015 AT 4:23 PM

The address was to Dr. White. I don't want to debate here, hence my simple reply to your mockery of my previous comment. Yes, I do think berating Dr. White for making a typo in an email/blog post is not very loving. We can disagree on that, that's fine. I will opt not to post here any further.

Anon

JULY 1, 2015 AT 4:35 PM



@Aubrey

I agree that my reply was angry, and that my anger comes from being hurt far too many times by both those with and without good intentions. Some of the anger that came out in my response wasn't needed.

But I stand by what I said.

More importantly, I'll add that if you really want answers to your questions on a Scriptural understanding of Christian support for homosexuality then I thank you. But this is not the place to look for it. There are plenty of books, essays, sermons, and entire websites dedicated to giving this kind of information to anyone who wants it. Even more, you say you have gay friends who you love (that phrase makes me nervous just from hearing it's similarity to "I'm not racist, I have plenty of black friends!") so you can go to them and ask questions without them thinking that you are attacking them.

Pseudo-anonymously asking questions like the ones you did while on a discussion section of an email like the one Dr. White sent is not the way to get calm and gentle answers. It leads people like me to think that you are not interested in discussion but simply want to smack us down. I'm still not entirely convinced that isn't what you did, even if you didn't realize it.



Aubrey

JULY 1, 2015 AT 4:43 PM

Thank you, you bet! I can understand that would be the case. I know my brother (a family member I mentioned in a post above) has been hurt by others in the past, and it hurts ME and our family just as much to know he's experienced that. I certainly wouldn't want you or anyone else to feel that way. I'm sorry you've been there too.

You're right! I think that both parties in any discussion can too easily assume that a comment or reply is to attack them, or that they need to be on the defense at all times, when that may not be the case at all:)

I think it's so valuable to share our experiences, our beliefs, and our faith in Christ to challenge each other in really important life topics that we face every day. That's why I so appreciate your willingness to share!



Aubrey

JULY 1, 2015 AT 5:04 PM

Thanks for your thoughts, @anon! I really wish you weren't anonymous! It's been a bit uncomfortable talking to a confidential writer. It struck me as ironic that you say I pseudo-anonymously posed questions when you're totally anonymous! 😊

As I mentioned, the article and questions posted were to initiate thought and consideration of the topic at hand. I really hope people will peruse the article and consider the questions, whether in agreement or not with the article's author. More so, it was to encourage differing thoughts - considering this page is tied to Cedarville

University in which many fellow alumni would be reading it, I felt it IS an appropriate outlet to mention such questions that were directly tied to the original post. There were a LOT of really strong posts disagreeing with Dr Whites article, so I wanted to add some other thoughts.

I mention my brother because I felt by your response earlier you assumed I was not a reliable source to share thoughts on same-sex marriage or perhaps couldn't understand it. On the country, the relationships I mentioned are some of the closest, most valued in my life and we do have regular discussions. However, my brother and those individuals are not believers (don't claim to be...not tied to their sexual orientation in any way), so our conversations are different than discussions WITH other believers. Please don't feel the need to take some of my comments and pick them apart. Just as I don't want to assume your intentions in posts, please do the same for me. 😊

Alright all, I have a job to get back to and I'm throwing in the towel on this thread. I pray for CU and its leaders and for wisdom in the days ahead!



Aubrey

JULY 1, 2015 AT 5:12 PM

@anon, you mentioned, "it leads people like me to think you're not interested in discussion but simply want to smack us down." truly, that is exactly how I felt your responses were to my comments. It does go both ways, and we certainly should all do a better job of both not automatically doing that, or assuming that was the person's intention!



Thomas

JULY 1, 2015 AT 10:07 PM

It would not be productive for me to address every comment on this post. But I do want to correct one perspective that has been presented. We have avenues for every student at Cedarville University who is struggling with any temptation to get help. We desire to help every student grow in his or her faith. Our Counseling Center, our discipleship leaders, our RAs and RDs, and many others stand ready to help students grow in sanctification and to walk with them through temptation. Any student who acts out on behavior prohibited by our student handbook enters the student discipline process. That process has redemption as its ultimate goal wherever possible. Those who lack repentance or have developed a regular pattern of prohibited behavior will be disciplined and may not be allowed to continue depending on the details of the offense.

We will continue to stand for the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ which means maintaining our convictions on the biblical view of marriage, and we will continue to demonstrate compassion to all of our students, faculty, and staff as we walk together through this life so affected by our fallen natures.

We have many incredibly godly counselors, faculty, staff, and administrators who work very hard to walk with our students through any temptation. I expect and understand comments that attack me, and I do not wish to defend myself. But these others who serve Jesus, Cedarville, and our students faithfully deserve to be defended, and I am honored to serve alongside them. We have incredible men and women of faith at

Cedarville. Please do not dismiss their efforts to help students flippantly. Thank you.



Moody Graduate

JULY 2, 2015 AT 7:01 AM

This is the sort of thing that comes up when potential employers Google “Cedarville University.” Leave now before Mr. White & Co. hang their bigotry all over your permanent resume.



Moody Graduate

JULY 2, 2015 AT 7:13 AM

As long as we consider ancient religious texts to be “God’s Word,” we allow individuals like Dr. White to spread their blind, out-of-context interpretations of said texts, ex cathedra.



Moody Graduate

JULY 2, 2015 AT 7:14 AM

Or we all have been, at one point or another.



Moody Graduate

JULY 2, 2015 AT 7:15 AM

Leave now!



Sad, Sad Moody Grad (Drop out of Bible school!)

JULY 2, 2015 AT 7:30 AM

“Sole standard of authority,” huh? Well, there’s your problem! Your one and only source is a conglomeration of ancient texts ripped out of their respective cultural contexts and honed into an instrument of manipulation through years of loyal use by such men as Dr. White. What steers your ship: God or the Holy Canon as interpreted by Dr. White and established by his forebearers? Look at the places your scripture has carried us: War, segregation, sexism, atrocities against art, atrocities against science, atrocities against philosophy, education, and literature. It’s not just your prophet-teacher on trial: It’s your Bible, too.

Sad, Sad Moody Grad (Drop out of Bible school!)

JULY 2, 2015 AT 7:35 AM



Thanks for being concerned with the relative cleanliness of our comments. I'm glad someone is. In fact, I've been waiting for someone to bring it up: Watch your language, everyone 😊



Dwight

JULY 2, 2015 AT 8:06 AM

Thomas and Co.,

As much as I admire your desire to see a resolution between the Church and the LGBT community, I'm afraid such an alliance can never come about. The Bible is blunt in its commendation of homosexuality, and, as the bedrock of the Christian worldview, the Bible isn't going away. The Church at large would have to accept a watered-down, partially true version of its holy text in order to embrace you fully. The Church shouldn't do that, and neither should you. Cut the ties! Find a book that speaks FOR you, not one you have to make excuses for! The Bible is God's living word, right? You commune with God through his word, right? Well, would you continue to commune with someone who had publicly called you "an abomination?" Would you continue to subject yourselves to the scrutiny of those who followed such a one? Would you continue to listen to this individual? Would you worship him? By continuing to cling to the deity who scorns you and to the church that will always keep you at arm's length, you fail to draw close to your allies. Leave Cedarville. Leave the Church. Leave publicly. Live openly. Freedom is in front of you! Reach out and take it! It's your voice the world needs to hear NOW.

Yours,

M Dwight Sheppard



Anonymous

JULY 3, 2015 AT 12:21 PM

Please respond to the fact that, as someone already mentioned, students who "struggle" with homosexuality are not permitted by the student government to form support groups due to the guidelines handed down by the university.

How is that not discriminatory against this group of people, especially when homosexuality is an inherent trait and not a conscious choice.



No...

JULY 5, 2015 AT 11:06 AM

Here is your response...

<http://knittingsoul.com/2015/07/03/1-question-for-people-who-wont-wave-the-rainbow-flag/>



TheRationalOne

JULY 6, 2015 AT 8:47 AM

Your gift for missing the point strikes me as difficult to surpass. The criticisms were far broader than that, and your failure to indicate otherwise is further evidence of your data-selectivity. Ironically, that's precisely White's problem, too: he sees what he wants to see.

Moreover, your claim that you were addressing White is either irrelevant or a lie. If you're referring to your first comment, then yes, you were addressing White, but my response was to your second comment which addressed me — so, irrelevant. If you're referring to your second comment, then you're frankly lying, as your general defense of White and criticism of his interlocutors is hard evidence that you weren't criticizing him, which you would have been if you were addressing him.



TheRationalOne

JULY 6, 2015 AT 9:05 AM

Some of us, Tom, were at Cedarville before you and are not less informed than you are about the atmosphere for LGBTQ+ students. Nor are we less informed about the counseling staff or the disciplinary procedures. The assumption that we are speaking from ignorance is frankly astounding, but not atypical from a member of the administration.

Now, I don't expect you to respond to every comment here. I realize that so many crushing defeats would be psychologically tough on you, as apparently learning from the LGBTQ+ community is. But I do hope you find the time to say something substantive someday.



TheRationalOne

JULY 6, 2015 AT 9:07 AM

Aubrey, you strike me as sincere (though I've been fooled before). If you'd really like to discuss this further with an academic member of the LGBTQ+ community, post here to give me some way to contact you, and we'll have a (friendly) dialogue!



R

JULY 6, 2015 AT 9:56 AM

Dr. White,

According to the university's website, Cedarville only has 2 counselors on staff. TWO. For an entire student body of over 3,000. I know from experience as an RA that the wait list for students to get in to see a counselor is absurd. And as an RA, we were advised not to handle issues such as self-harm, same-sex attraction,

drug/alcohol issues, or anything we didn't necessarily feel equipped to handle. Instead, we were told to direct these students to Counseling Services, only to be met with the frustration of a 2-month (or longer) waiting period.

If you truly want to help your students, I beg of you to hire more counselors. Make that a priority. I won't pretend to understand how the university's budget is outlined, but there must be some way that you could make some adjustments to include at least 5 counselors on staff. The RAs, RDs and faculty/staff do not have the training to handle most of the more serious issues students might face, and it is irresponsible to ask them to take on such a dire responsibility without the necessary training/experience. Yes, we all do our best to help where we can, but there comes a point where the issues are beyond what we can handle.

Please please please, I urge you to hire more counselors. For the betterment of the students and the university as a whole.



Patrica Vroegindewey

JULY 7, 2015 AT 8:35 AM

Amen! Be assured of our continued prayers and support in this most important area. I was reflecting last night on how God brought all the animals to Adam to name and there was not one that complemented him. The animals were not a hen and a hen or a bull and a bull but male and female. GOD made Eve to complement Adam; not another man, an animal, or even an angel. God knew what was best for Adam and He still knows what is best for each human being. Also, marriage clearly represents Christ and His Church in the New Testament. The Church is His Bride. The distortion of same sex marriage can not represent this beautiful truth. How can a same sex couple "dwell with his wife according to knowledge" or "honor her as the weaker vessel." Many other passages could be brought to light. We are praying with you! Stand fast!



Peter Vroegindewey

JULY 8, 2015 AT 12:58 PM

Thank you, Dr. White, for your faithfulness in this biblical foundational truth, as you "...continue to affirm that marriage is between one man and one woman in a covenant relationship for life." We have chosen Cedarville University to educate one of our children, and our decision is strongly affirmed by your stand, coupled with humility and graciousness towards all. May our Lord be pleased to use it for true and lasting personal and corporate revival.

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