

# A Decision Affecting Generations

By Al Riskowski

The Supreme Court will decide whether a California law school violated the constitutional rights of a Christian group by denying it recognition as an official campus organization because it excludes gays and lesbians. The justices agreed to intervene in a case that pits anti-discrimination policies common to many college campuses against freedom of religion and association.

The decision made by the Supreme Court on this issue will have a long term and chilling effect on religious freedoms.

In 1988 the Supreme Court determined it was constitutional to have State laws stating that the practice of homosexuality was illegal. Then in a stunning decision, the US Supreme Court struck down laws against homosexual practices. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2003, the court reversed an earlier decision by declaring that a Texas law forbidding homosexual sex was unconstitutional. It is amazing that in six years we have gone from debating the legality of practicing homosexuality to making same-sex marriage legal.

Under the leadership of Chuck Colson the Manhattan Declaration was written to give clarity to the 2000-year tradition of proclaiming God's word. In the document there is a very well written section clarifying the Christian stance against the sin of homosexuality and all sexual immorality. The document states, "We call on the entire Christian community to resist sexual immorality, and at the same time refrain from disdainful condemnation of those who yield to it. Our rejection of sin, though resolute, must never become the rejection of sinners. For every sinner, regardless of the sin, is loved by God, who seeks not our destruction but rather the conversion of our hearts." How can we truly love sinners if we do not warn them about the consequences of living in sin?

In a positive note, the New York Senate, by a vote of 38 to 24, stopped a bill that would have legalized homosexual marriage in the State.

The bill was supported by New York Governor David Paterson and passed the state Assembly several times. Democrats control the Senate by a single vote but had long recognized that they could not pass the bill without picking up a few Republican votes. Not only did all the Republicans vote against it, but significantly more Democrats opposed it than had been expected.

In 2009, New Jersey failed to schedule long-expected votes on bills to legalize gay marriage, Maine voters rejected a measure and California voters rescinded their law. Supporters, however, point to Vermont and New Hampshire, where lawmakers adopted gay marriage bills this year, while the city council in Washington, D.C., is expected to legalize gay marriage.

Iowa's Supreme Court also redefined marriage in their State. Same-sex marriage was already legal in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont.

One way all Christians can respond to these issues is sincere prayer. To receive monthly updates on issues that effect Nebraska you can become part of Nebraska Family Council's Intercessory Prayer Network, simply call toll free at 1-888-777-5188 or go to our web site at [www.NebFC.org](http://www.NebFC.org),