

It is a great privilege to live in a democracy. Granted it is not heaven, but God has given us a role to play. **As followers of Christ, we must recognize that prayer is our greatest role in shaping the course of a nation.**

In 2013, the country watched as the U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act in its *Windsor* decision. The Court however, did not revoke the right of states such as Nebraska to constitutionally define marriage.

Since the *Windsor* decision, judge after judge, including Nebraska District Judge Joseph Bataillon has redefined marriage. Their rulings have overturned millions of votes cast in favor of marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

On April 28, 2015 the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments and ultimately answer the question - does the Fourteenth Amendment require a state to provide marriage licenses to two people of the same sex? A ruling is expected in June or July, 2015.

NOW, is the time for God's people to unite in prayer because marriage is the fundamental building block for all of human civilization.

Together in Prayer!



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DAILY PRAYER TARGETS

DAY 1: Thank the Lord for the gift of family

"That is why a man shall leave his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh." Exodus 18:21

Heavenly Father, in your infinite wisdom you created men and woman as a complementary, life-giving pair. The family exists by your design and not by human invention. You care about family so much that you even call yourself a Father to the fatherless and defender of the widow (Psalm 68:5). Lord, would you protect and strengthen the role of the family in our society? With thankful hearts we ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 2: Ask for forgiveness on behalf of the Church

"But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers." 1 Timothy 5:8

Father God, the church has failed in many ways to model godly families before our society. We bear much blame for the deterioration of marriage and the family. Forgive us, God, and help us to "care for our relatives" in the way that you intended. Amen.

DAY 3: Pray for God's design for marriage to be honored in our culture

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them.." Genesis 1:27

Lord God, We pray that our marriages reflect God's love to those around us. We ask that you would help us communicate effectively that the union between one man and one woman is timeless, universal, and expresses the reality that men and women bring distinct, irreplaceable gifts to family life. In agreement prayer we ask, Amen.

DAY 4: Pray that we love as Christ loves

"Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, 'Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?' 'No, Lord,' she said. And Jesus said, 'Neither do I. Go and sin no more.'" John 8:10-11

Dear Jesus, you do not see any person's sin as the defining factor of their life. When you look at sinful people you see the plan and purpose that you have for them. Jesus help us to love like you love. Help us to see people the way that you see them—not defined by their sin, but by your great love for them. Give us hearts of love and compassion we pray. Amen

DAY 5: Pray that we speak the truth in love

"Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another." Ephesians 4:25

Lord God, a part of being mature is being able to speak the truth in love. Would you give us practical ways to speak the truth in love according to your Word concerning marriage and the family. In Jesus' righteous name, Amen.

DAY 6: Pray for the U.S. Supreme Court Justices

"The king's heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord; he guides it wherever He pleases." Proverbs 21:1

Awesome God, You rule over history and time and are neither bound nor governed by them. We pray for Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices: Scalia, Thomas, Ginsburg, Breyer, Alito, Sotomayor, Kagan and Kennedy. We pray that they recognize they are accountable to God and uphold God's design for marriage. In Christ's name, Amen.

DAY 7: Pray for laws to uphold traditional marriage

"For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us." Isaiah 33:22

We recognize that You, Oh God, have the final authority. As we pray for our leaders, we ask that they will inspire unity and cooperation between all factions and interests in our nation. We pray that our judges, legislators, and executive branch officials will reach beyond partisanship and use their office to rebuild and restore marriage, not further undermine it. This we ask in your Son's glorious name, Amen.

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Marriage PRAYER Initiative



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