Greetings Fellow Pastor:

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read the latest developments in the ongoing attack on the institution of marriage in our midst and how it is being played out in the City of San Diego. Your consideration in this matter is not only greatly appreciated, it is desperately needed.

Marriage under Attack
Pastor Chris Clark
East Clairemont Southern Baptist Church
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The institution of marriage is in danger in our country. As a result, so is our society.

For nearly sixty years, the homosexual activist movement has been working to completely remake and overhaul what passes as normal behavior in our country. It has been an incremental process that has produced victories for them at every turn. The homosexual activists and related entities have succeeded in attaining universal acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle, discrediting Biblical references that condemn homosexuality, muzzling pastors, ministers, and Christian media, granting homosexual behavior and lifestyles special privileges and rights in the law, indoctrinating children and future generations through public education, and securing all the legal benefits of marriage for any two or more people who claim to have homosexual tendencies.

Quite an impressive list of victories and successes, don’t you think?

What is their goal?

Simply put: the utter destruction of the traditional family unit. And, in what will be viewed as collateral damage, the very moral fiber of our society.

Yet two institutions remain that block victory for this group: the institution of marriage, and the institution of the Church of Jesus Christ.

However, not all the news is so disheartening. In 2000, 61% of California’s voters approved Proposition 22, a measure which changed the California Civil Code to define marriage as being between one man and one woman.

But in the ensuing years, the homosexual activists have been largely successful in gutting the institution of marriage in California, providing virtually all of the benefits heretofore reserved for married couples to any couples under the guise of “domestic partnerships.”

Perhaps the most egregious assault on the institution of marriage in California occurred in 2004, not surprisingly in the city of San Francisco. Mayor Gavin Newsom decided to challenge Proposition 22’s validity when he authorized the city-county clerk to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. That case now rests in the California State Supreme Court for review, where the prospect of Proposition 22 being overturned is a strong reality.

As court papers are being filed in this case, the cities of Long Beach, Los Angeles, Berkeley, Oakland, San Jose, and Santa Cruz have filed an amicus brief, a document submitted as a friend of the court, with the California Supreme Court voicing their respective support for same-sex “marriage.”

On August 29, it was discovered that San Diego City Councilwoman Toni Atkins was prepared to introduce a motion to the City Council on September 4 that would add the name of the city of San Diego to that amicus brief. In essence, that would say that the city of San Diego supports same-sex marriage.

Is that speaking for you? It certainly is not speaking for the majority of California voters. Yet the relentless attack on the institution of marriage continues.
I grieved upon hearing this. I don’t want to fight this fight. I don’t want to have to stand. Yet the Lord continued to lead and direct me to stand. “But Lord, I don’t know that there are enough votes to prevent the City Council from approving this motion. And my representative, Donna Frye, has been on the wrong side of the issue from the onset. I can’t change her mind.”

Then I remembered Proverbs 21:1, which states that the king’s heart is a water channel in the LORD’s hand, and that God directs his heart wherever He chooses. So I said, “Lord, if You can direct a king’s heart, you can direct Donna Frye’s heart. Direct her heart to vote to defeat this motion, if that is Your will. If she does, then I will know it was You who changed her vote, and I will give You all the credit for doing so.”

So yesterday I went to Council chambers for the Tuesday meeting. The Christians present opposing the motion were in the obvious minority; the homosexual activist community was representing in full force. My heart sank a little further, yet I knew that the Lord is the majority maker; I just didn’t know if He wanted to step in and intervene in this matter.

Each side was given an equal amount of time to speak for or against the motion. Then it was the City Council’s turn to speak. The first to speak: Donna Frye. She was bothered because of the lack of time for the public to become aware of the motion. She moved to postpone the hearing for two weeks; the motion was defeated. Then Jim Madaffer surprisingly spoke in support of the motion. Counting the likely votes, I thought to myself, “It will pass 5-3 now that Madaffer supports it.”

The roll was called; chills began to run down my spine. There, behind the light for District 6, was a red light. Donna Frye voted no. The vote was 4-4. The motion to add San Diego’s name to the amicus brief failed. Donna Frye voted the right way. The Lord had turned her head!

The celebration, however sweet, has been brief. It has been announced, even though it had been defeated, that the City Council is going to try again to pass this motion, scheduling it to be heard on Tuesday, September 18.

The Lord is providing yet another opportunity for His church to rise up and fulfill her call to be the moral voice for society through this second attempt to pass this motion. What will we do in response?

As pastors, will we call our church to pray, to seek God’s face, to turn from shirking our responsibility as the salt of the earth and light of the world to live out and call out God’s moral standard and stand for marriage?

Will we contact our council representatives and voice our support for the traditional institution of marriage—one man, one woman, for life? Will we urge others to do the same?

Will we rearrange our schedules in order that we might be able to be physically present on September 18 to demonstrably show our support for traditional marriage and our opposition to any attempt to alter or destroy that institution?

Or do we say, “I’m too busy;” “I’m not called;” “I don’t get involved in politics;” “This isn’t that important;” shrug, and get back to building our churches?

The only things standing in the way of the complete normalization of any type of sexual behavior and lifestyles are the institution of marriage and the Church of Jesus Christ. If the church stands idly by while the divinely created institution of marriage is swept away like dust on the floor, what will the church stand for?

Please, lead your church to pray that the Lord turns the heads of the City Council and of the California Supreme Court on this matter. Please, encourage your people to contact their respective councilmembers and urge them to defeat this motion. And please, would you clear some time on your schedule on September 18 and show your support for traditional marriage in a visible way?