



*Standing for Truth and Defending Your Freedom™*

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**We are thankful for today's 7-2 ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court for Jack Phillips in the *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* case. But we also stop to recognize that it is a very limited victory and a great deal of the battle for religious liberty still lies before us.**

**The Court's ruling, written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, correctly excoriates the Colorado Civil Rights Commission for its unvarnished hostility against religion in dealing with Jack Phillips's argument that baking a cake for a same-sex "wedding" would violate his Christian convictions. The ruling said that the Commission's "treatment of his case has some elements of a clear and impermissible hostility toward the sincere religious beliefs that motivated his objection." The Commission's anti-Christian hostility is unacceptable, and the Court was right to upbraid them for it and to rule against them because of it.**

**But the Supreme Court left open the larger issue—what it called "the confluence of speech and free exercise issues." Because the Colorado Civil Rights Commission was so obviously hostile to Jack Phillips's Christianity, the Court ruled that his rights were violated. But they did not address what might have happened if the same commission had ruled against Jack Phillips without resorting to attacks on his faith. Justice Anthony Kennedy's opinion notes that a case with the**

**same set of facts could have still resulted in penalties against the baker as long as the state did not show obvious hostility to religion in its decision-making.**

**This is not sufficient. Regardless of the Commission's attitude, the First Amendment right to religious free exercise is unambiguous. Whether the commission appeared sympathetic to Christianity or hostile to it in their comments and questions, they simply have no right to punish Jack Phillips (or anyone else) for exercising his Christian conscience and any law that would force him to do so is unjust and unconstitutional.**

**Thus, the fight for religious liberty continues. Today's decision is a victory, to be sure—but a very limited one. The fact that we must wait for future Supreme Court decisions to declare that the First Amendment is still in effect shows that our judicial system is out of control, having compromised clear Constitutional provisions in favor of liberal policy outcomes for decades now. We commend the Supreme Court for ruling in favor of non-hostility toward religion by the government—but we also urge Christians to continue to stand firm and vigilant in acting to protect the First Amendment, through court cases, by our votes, and in our support for judicial nominees who apply the text of the Constitution as clearly written.**

Sincerely,  


**Frank Wright, Ph.D.  
President and CEO  
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