

June 27, 2011

A New York State of Blind

People at the Empire State Building said it was a coincidence. Officials explained that it takes hours to change the lights. But there was no mistaking the message Friday night when the highest point in the city lit up like a towering rainbow, its colors blazing across the New York skyline. Like a warning flare, the reds and blues and greens exploded over the city, announcing the arrival of same-sex "marriage" to the world. Overnight, New York had become a beacon in the fight for family--a symbol of people who had lost their way.



The Empire State Building illuminated with rainbow colors

When the law goes into effect next month, New York will be the sixth and largest state to shatter the definition of marriage in America. To understand the devastation of that defeat, consider this. Within hours, the number of people living in jurisdictions with same-sex "marriage" doubled. With one vote, New York forced more Americans to bow to its twisted definition of marriage than the combined population of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Iowa, and the District of Columbia. And none of it would have been possible without the political cowardice of New York Republicans.

The same party who beat back this attack in 2009 not only gave up on marriage in the majority, but actively worked to redefine it two years later. The decision by four Republicans to join 29 Democrats in passing the measure marked the first time in history that a legislative body controlled by the GOP approved either same-sex "marriage" or civil unions. "If a gay marriage bill passes," state Senators Ruben Diaz and Michael Long had [warned](#), "it will be because the GOP caved for no discernible good reason at all, and Republicans across the state will pay the price." In the weeks ahead, our country will learn how deep the coercion runs. This illusion of Republican support for same-sex "marriage" all boils down to two things: money and intimidation. Behind the scenes, liberals found a way to undercut the Republican platform on marriage, and there is no question that those "incentives" (some of them taxpayer-funded) will be exposed. Already, word is trickling out that the one man who could have stopped this bill, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos (R), may have had a financial stake in the outcome. Caithness Energy, a client of Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, where Skelos works, rakes in \$1.7 billion in state funds. Were liberal leaders were threatening his government contract? [It wouldn't surprise the New York Times](#). The pressure on Skelos was strong--but true leadership demands that principle be stronger.

In exchange for their votes, other senators have been promised [billionaire backing](#) in the next election. Unfortunately for them, no amount of campaign financing can protect Republicans from the voters--many of whom will be waiting to unleash their fury on the GOP after this collapse. After all, part of the reason that New York's Senate flipped to Republican control was because of the Democrats' push for same-sex "marriage." In fact, three of the four Republicans who put this bill over the edge had openly campaigned against it. If donors can't get their money back, then they should fight to get their seats back. And FRC Action PAC will help. I think we can all agree that the issue of marriage should be decided by people whose influence can't be bought.

Edmund Burke famously observed that evil triumphs when good men do nothing. But if there's anything worse than good men doing nothing, it's good men *saying* nothing. On Capitol Hill and in districts across America, the Republican Party seems to have lost its voice. Only Michele Bachmann has been bold enough to speak out on behalf of the millions of New Yorkers who still believe in marriage. [Talking to Fox News Sunday](#), the Minnesota Congresswoman said that if she were elected President, she would back an amendment to define marriage as "between a man and a woman." She was clear that the issue should be "up to the people of New York" and put on to the ballot for a vote. While [others in the presidential pool may be scared silent](#), Michele, alongside former [Senator Rick Santorum](#), refuses to be intimidated.

So should the church. This weekend, Bishop Nicholas Dimarzio drew a new line in sand. "In light of these disturbing developments..." he said, "I have asked all Catholic schools to refuse any distinction or honors bestowed upon them this year by the governor or any member of the legislature who voted to support this legislation. Furthermore, I have asked all pastors and principals to not invite any state legislator to speak or be present at any parish or school celebration... [T]he governor and state legislature have demonized people of faith, whether they be Muslims, Jews, or Christians, and identified them as bigots and prejudiced, and voted in favor of same-sex 'marriage.'" But, as the New York Bishops write, "We just as strongly affirm that marriage is the joining of one man and one woman in a lifelong, loving union... This definition cannot change."

Despite all of the disappointment, God is on the move. Regardless of how things appear, never doubt that He is at work behind the scenes. Rainbow colors may cut through the New York night, but shadows are where you and I are called to shine. The world takes advantage of the darkness, but only the church can set it ablaze. "Arise... for your light has come... See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." (Isaiah 60:1-3)