



FAMILY ACTION COUNCIL OF TENNESSEE

SENATE BILL 562/
HOUSE BILL 233

CONFIDENTIAL

PASTORAL MESSAGING MEMO

MARITAL CONTRACT RECORDING ACT

PASTORS MUST HELP THE CHURCH CONTEND FOR THE
TRUTH OF GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE.

RATIONALE

The U.S Supreme Court's political decision to redefine licensed marriages shouldn't end the discussion about God's design.

- We believe God created marriage, not the government.
- We believe God created marriage for human flourishing...it's His building block for all of human civilization.
- We believe God's design for marriage recognizes the distinct and unique gifts that a man and woman (created in His image) bring to marriage and to family life.

Pastors who solemnize a marital relationship created and licensed by the state should understand that the ruling by the Supreme Court:

- Rests on the assumption that male and female are interchangeable - that male-female differences are irrelevant to human flourishing and the purposeful design of a marital relationship;
- Denies God's design for marriage by reducing it to nothing more than a government-approved (licensed) social contract to include persons other than one man and one woman;
- Denies that marriage is a relationship defined exclusively in terms of male and female by denying the biological boundary that God established for marriage.



FAMILY ACTION COUNCIL OF TENNESSEE

SENATE BILL 562/
HOUSE BILL 233

CONFIDENTIAL

PASTORAL MESSAGING MEMO

MARITAL CONTRACT RECORDING ACT

PASTORS MUST HELP THE CHURCH CONTEND FOR THE TRUTH OF GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE.

TALKING POINTS

A man and a woman shouldn't need a permission slip from the government to be joined in marriage.

- This Act adds provisions to state law that allow a man and woman to record their marriage as a union of "one man and one woman" with their county clerk's office.**
- The Act provides a means by which a man and woman can enter into a marital relationship without first getting the government's permission (a license).**
- The Act allows ministers or pastors to solemnize a marriage without having to sign a state marriage form that expressly indicates that male and female are irrelevant to a lawful marriage.**
- The Act protects ministers and pastors from being forced to choose between solemnizing a marriage the law will not recognize or sign the state's form that contradicts their beliefs.**
- This Act acknowledges what the people of Tennessee overwhelmingly ratified in the state constitution, and have long understood marriage to be, without displacing the right of individuals to marry under the state's licensing statutes.**
- The Marital Contract Recording Act does not change the state's existing marriage licensing statutes.**
- The Act does not eliminate the right of persons to obtain a marriage license.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT FACTN.ORG