

PRINCETON PROF TO LCMS:

Support biblical marriage

BY ADRIANE HEINS



Calling on the LCMS to be faithful and bold in its teaching regarding biblical marriage, Princeton law professor Dr. Robert P. George noted, “They [churches] are all we’ve got. In the churches, we need to restore the basic idea of marriage.”

George spoke to 175 pastors, church workers and lay leaders—gathered in Mundelein, Ill., on August 14–15—during a first-of-its-kind conference called, “Speaking the Truth in Love: A Compassionate Response to Same-Sex Attraction and Same-Sex Marriage.”

“Are we willing to say hard things? We have to tell the truth,” said George, the keynote speaker at the event, sponsored by DOXOLOGY, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization that provides spiritual and psychological care for LCMS clergy. “Marriage is the kind of good that can be chosen and meaningfully participated in only by those who have a basic understanding of it, [who understand] that marriage is not just a romantic relationship for as long as it lasts.”

The goal of the conference, DOXOLOGY’s executive director for Spiritual Care Rev. Dr. Harold Senkbeil, said, was “to learn to speak compassionately yet faithfully regarding sexuality and same-sex attraction in our vocations as pastors, educators, parents and grandparents.”

“Our sexual identity is not a mere matter of having different appendages and different plumbing,” he said. “It is our most basic vocation, a holy calling to use our masculinity or femininity in service of the neighbor as a faithful child of God, leading a chaste and decent life whether married or single.”



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Dr. Beverly Yahnke, DOXOLOGY’s executive director for Christian Counsel, professor of Psychology and chair of Social Science at Concordia University Wisconsin, reminded those gathered, “We aren’t anti-gay. We are pro-children, pro-family. The church is not anti-homosexual; it is anti-homosexual behavior. We have the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and for the people in our churches who are living celibate homosexual lives, we want to wrap the Gospel of Jesus Christ around them.”

LCMS President Matthew C. Harrison greeted attendees via video conference, stating, “My dream is that we see a Recognized Service Organization arise to help the church deal with these issues.”

“We have the balm of the Gospel that forgives us,” he said. “Jesus comes only for sinners, those who are struggling, those who are in need. And the beauty of Jesus is that He never turns down any-one who comes to Him for help.”

