



# BAPTISTS *for* BIBLICAL VALUES

*"Restoring Our Liberty One Legislator at a Time"*

Greetings in the name of our Saviour!

**In a massive win for religious liberty, the US Supreme Court handed a 6-3 victory on June 30th to Lorie Smith, a Colorado graphic website designer.**

**The first paragraph of the opinion lays out the facts of the case:** "Lorie Smith wants to expand her graphic design business, 303 Creative LLC, to include services for couples seeking wedding websites. But Ms. Smith worries that Colorado will use the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA) to compel her - in violation of the First Amendment - to create websites celebrating marriages she does not endorse. To clarify her rights, Ms. Smith filed a lawsuit seeking an injunction to prevent the State from forcing her to create websites celebrating marriages that defy her belief that marriage should be reserved to unions between one man and one woman."

**The opinion then explains the ramifications of CADA:** "CADA prohibits all "public accommodations" from denying "the full and equal enjoyment" of its goods and services to any customer based on his race, creed, disability, **sexual orientation, or other statutorily enumerated trait.** The law defines "public accommodation" broadly to include almost every public-facing business in the State. Either state officials or private citizens may bring actions to enforce the law. And a variety of penalties can follow any violation."

**The case was determined based on the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment, not the Establishment Clause or the Free Exercise Clause.** The Court determined that because Ms. Smith plans to **custom-design** each website to celebrate a particular wedding, as compared to selling generic wedding websites, her work will **express a "message** celebrating and promoting her view of marriage." **Therefore her work is the equivalent of her speech.**

**The Majority wrote,** "Under Colorado's logic, the government may compel anyone who speaks for pay on a given topic to accept all commissions on that same topic - no matter the message - if the topic somehow implicates a customer's statutorily protected trait. Taken seriously, that principle would allow the government to force all manner of artists, speechwriters, and others whose services involve speech to speak what they do not believe on pain of penalty. **The Court's precedents recognize the First Amendment tolerates none of that."**

**The Court concluded,** "Consistent with the First Amendment, the Nation's answer is tolerance, not coercion. **The First Amendment envisions the United States as a rich and complex place where all persons are free to think and speak as they wish, not as the government demands.** Colorado cannot deny that promise consistent with the First Amendment."

**Some may wonder about the difference in this case compared to the 2018 Masterpiece Cakeshop decision,** which involved similar circumstances when Colorado attempted to punish owner Jack Phillips for refusing to create a cake for a same-sex couple in 2012 due to his religious opposition to same-sex marriage. In that case, unfortunately, the Supreme Court took the easy way out, focusing solely on the documented hostility of the CO Civil Rights Commission toward Mr. Phillips. **The Court gave him a victory in that particular instance but left the question of the free speech and religious liberty implications unanswered.** In fact, Mr. Phillips has since been charged with another violation of CADA in 2021 for refusing to bake a cake to celebrate a person's gender transition. He lost his appeal to a Colorado court in that case on January 26th. Friday's ruling in the 303 Creative case should ultimately provide him with permanent relief in his 11-year battle for religious liberty.

**Friday's decision was a 6-3 split along ideological lines, with all three liberal justices dissenting.** They claimed that "any burden on petitioners' speech is **incidental** to CADA's neutral regulation of commercial conduct." Furthermore, they said that Ms. Smith could freely accept or reject her clients based on whatever standard she chooses **as long as she does not offer them to the public at large.** Of course, that would likely put her out of business, for which the Liberal justices would undoubtedly be happy.

**In summary, one thing is clear. Given the opportunity, the Left would punish and seek to silence every voice opposing their godless, immoral, secular-humanist view of the world, including yours and mine.**

Let us spend this 4th of July thanking God for this victory, celebrating our liberty, and determining to do all within our power with God's help to secure freedom for our children and grandchildren.

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Personal Support Received:

\$100.00  
Thank You!