

08/2012

Re: Happily Ever After

Dear Editor,

Conservatives and liberals of all stripes agree that the constitution guarantees free speech for all Americans, even for the owners of Chick-Fil-A. We may not always like it, but in these United States, just as racists can freely declare their dislike of blacks and other races, so Chick-Fil-A owners can trumpet their dislike of gays. That is their right, no matter how ignorant or odious those unchristian declarations of hate may be to many of us.

However, just as those same racists cannot deny constitutional rights to blacks and other groups, Chick-Fil-A owners cannot deny similar rights to gays. There used to be laws in many states against mixed marriages and even today, polls in 2011 find some 46% of Republicans in Mississippi against mixed marriages. But though they have the right to express their opinions, they may not infringe the rights of other Americans to marry. Our constitution is clear in its declaration of our right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness..." and it seems to me that includes the right of all Americans to being happily married if they so desire.

John Donovan
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