

# A License to Love

*Editor's Pick. Written by Butler Shaffer.*

If we were more focused in our social/political thinking, we might be more inclined to think through the consequences of our actions. What are some of the costs associated with a judicial declaration that gay marriage is a constitutionally protected right and, secondly, who is to bear such costs? The answer to such questions has already begun to emerge in cases in which bakers have been subjected to fines and/or civil damages for refusing to bake wedding cakes for gay/lesbian couples. In a world in which the rights of owners to control their property is no longer respected; a world in which trespasses upon the rights of others are permitted as long as one's intentions are good, the peaceful and harmonizing nature of private property is replaced by wars of "all against all." Is there anyone so naïve as to be unaware of the likelihood of gay or lesbian couples bringing damage – or, perhaps, even criminal – actions against priests, rabbis, or ministers who refuse to perform their weddings? *These* are the kinds of questions upon which intelligent minds should focus i.e., ought private persons – be they bakeries, hospitals, churches, or other businesses – be required to serve anyone not of their choosing?

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