

National Black Church Initiative

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For Immediate Release

NBCI Disagrees with Pope Francis' Approach to The Gospel and Homosexuality *Pope is Peddling a "Gospel-lite" Religious Environment*

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African American churchgoers, strongly disagrees with the Pontiff's recent doctrines and the message they convey. The church has no moral authority to refuse to adhere to Gospel of Jesus Christ, and Pope Francis' approach to pastoral ministry is even more suspicious in light of the Catholic Church's abuse of over 4 million children.

The Catholic Church has a history of selling prayers, and this is your modern version of that tradition. Employing a flashy marketing approach to their gay and their gay friendly members, the church is offering to turn a blind eye to homosexuality and gay marriage in turn for resources. This outreach is a deal the black church refuses to make.

Rev. Anthony Evans, NBCI President says, "What Pope Francis is saying is outrageous, thus trying to undermine the authority of the church, the Word of God and pastoral ministries. We do not preach a Gospel based on cultural trends. As Paul indicated, we preach Christ crucified and those who cannot and will not adhere to the teachings, we can simply offer them Gods mercy. The black church will never, under any circumstances, listen to a Joel Osteen Pope who refuses to stand on the Word of God."

The press is explicit in the new "Gospel-lite" approach of the newly installed Pontiff. How can a church who has abused millions of children be considered the center of our moral and ethical life? Millions of other Christians, millions of non-Christians, consider this an insult to their faith. The Catholic Church will not tell the black church how to approach doctrine. Homosexuality is one sin among others. The difference here is that the homosexuals want to call their lifestyle right and their marriage legitimate.

The reason why there is such great tension around same sex marriage is that they have insulted Biblical marriage by declaring without any moral authority of Biblical tradition their right to marry. This clearly undermines a 2,000 year Biblically centered marriage tradition and it harms marriage, thus impacting families and children. This is why Pope Francis is wrong to try to deemphasize the

Gospel and doctrine of marriage. In addition, the reason why gay marriage will harm traditional marriage, it is not because of the tax breaks. Marriage has nothing to do with tax breaks. What makes a marriage is the blessing of God which He has created and there is no way that God can bless sin. He cannot do anything outside of his nature. He can forgive the sin, but he cannot bless it.

Gay marriage harms and will eventually destroy traditional marriage. It will undermine the notion of Biblical marriage between a couple who can procreate, therefore calling into question the appropriate definition of family and community. The Pope is trying to diffuse this issue because he clearly understands its potential destructiveness to society. On top of all of this, we are supposed to be the vicar of Christ, the protector of the Word, and the Pope has forsaken his job, thus undermining the authority that God has given him. He can no longer be respected as a religious leader.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.