

# What's at Stake?

## Religious Liberty in the Military

Under the guise of equality, a small-but-influential group of homosexual activists is pushing Congress to change longstanding law and normalize homosexual behavior in the military. While there are many problems with this self-serving agenda—one of the most severe would be the threat to religious liberty.

Put most simply, if the government normalizes homosexual behavior in the armed forces, most Christian chaplains will confront a profoundly difficult moral choice: whether they are to obey God or to obey men. If they refuse to obey men and don't hide their religious beliefs on moral sexual conduct, then they will be punished by censorship, discrimination complaints, and destroyed careers. And if chaplains are kept from teaching and counseling on their beliefs, then the men and women in uniform who share their faith and rely on their instruction will consequently lose the ability to freely exercise their faith. Similarly, when chaplains with beliefs that contradict the proposed policy are removed from roles that generate conflict, then they, the faith groups they represent, and the service members whose religious beliefs they serve will all be marginalized. The armed forces would effectively establish preferred religions or religious beliefs.

### What's at stake for our Armed Forces?

- Whether chaplains could preach on their religious doctrines about homosexual behavior when those tenets contradict the military's affirmation of homosexual behavior.
- Whether chaplains should provide counseling regarding homosexual behavior according to the dictates of military policy or the tenets of their faith.
  - If the former, whether chaplains can decline to provide counsel in such situations without being disciplined or otherwise sanctioned.
- Whether chaplains must allow service members openly engaged in homosexual behavior to lead worship services or serve in other lay leadership roles.
- Whether chaplains must administer sacraments, like Communion, to service members who openly engage in homosexual behavior.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

**PRAY** - This battle, like all battles, is won on our knees. Ask our Father to protect the ability of His ministers to serve service members who are protecting our constitutional rights and way of life.

**GET INVOLVED** - Contact those in authority to express your belief that homosexual conduct shouldn't trump the First Amendment right to free exercise of religion.

**LEARN MORE** - Join the conversation online at [facebook.com/SpeakUpChurch](https://facebook.com/SpeakUpChurch) to learn more about efforts to protect religious liberty in the military.

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