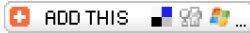


Supreme Court case could affect children's ministry

Bill Bumpas - OneNewsNow - 2/17/2010 5:40:00 AM



Child Evangelism Fellowship is keeping a close eye on a U.S. Supreme court case that the national ministry believes could impede equal-access rights under the First Amendment.

The case involves Christian Legal Society (CLS) and whether a public university -- in this case, Hastings College of Law -- can refuse to recognize a religious student group because of religious requirements for voting members and officers. Hastings has denied student funding of the CLS chapter on campus, arguing that the club's requirements -- which reflect basic Christian principles -- violate the school's policy against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

[Liberty Counsel](#) has filed an amicus brief on behalf of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) in support of Christian Legal Society. Matt Krause with Liberty Counsel says CEF's Good News Clubs could be in jeopardy.



"And if the Supreme Court says that a secular university can discriminate on the basis of religion -- as the law school out in Berkley has done by not allowing funds to go to a Christian Legal Society when it allows all funds to go to all the others -- then that could have far-reaching implications for these Good News Clubs..." he explains.

According to Krause, should the Supreme Court side with Hastings, "public school districts all across America could say [that they know they] can discriminate on the basis of religion, [essentially saying] you either need to come our way or we're not going to let you meet in our school."

The Liberty Counsel attorney says religious groups are still finding themselves fighting for equal rights.

"Time and time again we've seen the hostility to religion and the discrimination based on religion -- and it just is a never-ending cycle," he laments. "Even though we have Supreme Court precedent [and] we have a lot of good case law, secular institutions still don't seem to care."

Krause says the outcome of *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez* could affect all levels of education, from college all the way down to elementary.



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