



Christian Voices for Life

Wednesday Word

Education

Prayer

Action

Changing the Law is Not Enough



Education: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting **the free exercise thereof**;..” The First Amendment has been under attack for some time as practices seen as immoral by many are accepted under the law. Those who serve weddings with flowers or cakes or web sites are accused of illegal discrimination if they decline to serve a same-sex “wedding”. And unfortunately, even when a law does protect religious freedom, the law can be broken and require legal action to remedy the harm caused. Our culture needs to change as well as the law.

Emilee Carpenter is a Christian wedding photographer based in New York. The human rights law in NY prohibits discriminatory practices in “any place of public accommodation,” including “establishments dealing with goods and services of any kind.” Public accommodation laws are intended to ensure access to services, not to compel speech that violates the beliefs of a person or organization. (1) Freedom of religion includes freedom to practice your faith, and freedom of speech includes the right to refuse to express views contrary to your beliefs. Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) has filed lawsuits all over the country to defend the rights of artists to express only messages consistent with their beliefs.(2) If Emilee refused to celebrate a same-sex wedding, she faced the possibility of being forced to pay limitless damages, a \$100,000 fine, possible jail time, and revocation of her business license. The federal district court dismissed case presented by ADF on Emilee’s behalf, so ADF appealed. (1) In June 2023, the Supreme Court had upheld (in 303 Creative vs. Elenis) the free speech rights of another ADF client, Lorie Smith, a graphic artist in Colorado. (3) After continuing delays, New York was eventually given an injunction against forcing Emilee to express messages contrary to her faith. In July 2025, New York officials agreed to a settlement that they would not violate Emilee’s rights and would pay \$225,000 in attorney’s fees.(1)

1. [Emilee Carpenter’s Story – Alliance Defending Freedom](#)
2. [Create Freely: The Story Behind the Artists Who Fought for Free Speech – Alliance Defending Freedom](#)
3. [Lorie Smith’s Story – Alliance Defending Freedom](#)



Prayer: Please, Lord, help our nation to re-affirm freedom of religion as a top priority in our society, protected by law. Please protect those who stand up for their faith in their workplace from extreme financial burdens due to job loss or legal costs, and give them strength and peace as they face pressure to participate in actions they know are wrong. Help our culture to change to respect freedom of religion and freedom of speech. Help all citizens to be wise both in voting for government representatives who will protect religious freedom, as well as talking to their friends and co-workers about the need to preserve that freedom.



Action: Understand that while abortion is no longer legal in Texas, there is still much work to be done to not only protect the preborn from abortion in other states, but to protect religious freedom, and to work toward changing our culture as well as the law. Educate yourself on life issues, and how to reply to pro-abortion arguments. See our website for a wealth of information, and be sure to subscribe and read the *Wednesday Word* weekly email.