



Undergraduate

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Seminary & School  
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*Educating  
from a Biblical  
Worldview to  
Impact the Nations  
with the Message  
of Christ.*

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# President's MESSAGE



Dr. William H. Jones

## Standing on Biblical Convictions

September 2015

Dear friend of CIU,

I'm writing to you with a sobering, yet important message. As we all know, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage must be recognized in all 50 states. This concerns us very deeply, not only because it marks a very disturbing societal trend in the United States away from biblical morality, but also because of what it could mean for Christian institutions such as Columbia International University. That's

because those who hold this ideology not only seek to advance it; they also seek to delegitimize any opposition by labeling it as intolerant.

As a non-profit organization whose students benefit from federal grants and loans, could CIU be sued over our biblical position and have our tax-exempt status challenged? That possibility lurks.

Christian universities must decide which is more important – our tax exemption or our biblical convictions. At CIU, that has already been decided. Our first core value is the Authority of Scripture which clearly guides us in all sexual conduct. I Thessalonians 4:3 says:

*It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality ...*

Does our stand for biblical authority mean hard times ahead? Perhaps. But we also hold to the CIU core value of Prayer & Faith. We live in a constant dependence on God – Why? Because the challenge of carrying the love and truth of Christ to all peoples, even to those who oppose us, pushes us beyond our own resources. We cannot do it without Him.

In the meantime, how do we respond to those with a different viewpoint? John 8:1-11 gives clear direction. Verse 7 says *"He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."* Therefore, we don't condemn them for their choices. At the same time, we don't condone their choices either. Verse 11 ends by saying, *"Go and sin no more."* Or as a pastor friend of mine says, *"Neither stone nor condone!"*

At CIU, our purpose is to educate people from a biblical worldview – and that includes areas of sexual conduct – to impact the nations with the message of Christ. For those of you have been faithful supporters of CIU over the years, your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever. Please pray for us as we hold to our convictions, and our purpose, in the days ahead.

Yours for His glory,

William H. Jones  
President