



# First United Methodist Church

## Points to Ponder

# Cherry Picking

It is puzzling to me why the interpretation of same sex marriage is singled out and upheld amongst a whole host of Biblical stories and teachings that have long since lost their legal binding.

For instance:

- We believe it is fair and good to have women preaching from the pulpit, but there are Bible verses that clearly say this is not OK.
- The Bible contains language that is complicit with the practice of slavery, but any follower of Christ would condemn that practice ...no gray area here!
- The Bible lists a whole host of things it considers "Abominations"
  1. To sow a field with two different kinds of seeds
  2. To weave cloth from two different kinds of fiber
  3. There is a long list of forbidden foods, including shrimp, crab, pork, rabbit and many kinds of birds.
- Most mainline Christian denominations no longer follow these prescriptions

When did it become OK to overlook these teachings and rules, but instead place a more singular focus on the "wrongs" of same sex relationships? It seems that the opponents of same sex relationships ground their beliefs in a strict adherence to Biblical rules and teachings, but it looks more like "cherry picking" to me.

- *Allan Hanlon*