

San Francisco Chronicle

Marry me

Posted By: Erin Allday
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The City Hall rotunda is once again covered with brides and brides and grooms and grooms.

City Hall is indeed teeming with same-sex couples planning to marry today -- good thing there were 75 members of the clergy on hand this morning.

OK, they weren't there to actually marry anyone (although no doubt many of them would've been happy to). The religious leaders staged a press conference on the steps of City Hall to announce their opposition to Proposition 8.

In other words, while the major financial backers of Prop. 8 might be churches, not all religious folk have a problem with same-sex marriages.

"We should be clear, this is not an issue of religious believes, it's an issue of civil rights," said Episcopal Bishop Marc Andrus. "I urge all people of faith to be courageous -- just as the person I follow, Christ, was courageous -- and vote against Proposition 8."

The clergypeople, representing a wide variety of religions, quoted the Bible and Martin Luther King, arguing that opposing same-sex marriage is both amoral and undemocratic.

"If you want to quote Scripture, we will," said Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan, senior educator at Temple Emanu-El. "From Deuteronomy, 'Justice justice, we must pursue.' First pursue justice for all, then you will have justice for yourself."