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## *Obergefell v. Hodges:*

### **Justice Kennedy and the Ascendance of Autonomy/Dignity**

*Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992) (Plurality opinion by Justice Kennedy):

“At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.”

*Lawrence v. Texas*, 539 U.S. 558 (2003) (Majority opinion by Justice Kennedy):

This case “involves liberty of the person both in its spatial and its more transcendent dimensions.”

“Dignity” used 10 times.

*United States v. Windsor*, 570 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2013) (Majority opinion by Justice Kennedy):

Invalidating federal Defense of Marriage Act because it had “the purpose and effect to disparage and to injure those whom the State, by its marriage laws, sought to protect in personhood and dignity.”

*Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2015) (Majority opinion by Justice Kennedy):

“Under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment ... these liberties extend to certain personal choices central to individual dignity and autonomy, including intimate choices that define personal identity and beliefs.”

“Dignity” used 10 times.

“Autonomy” used 5 times.

“Disparage” or “demean” used 10 times.