

Commission on the Marriage Canon

August 31, 2014

Anglican Church of Canada

80 Hayden Street Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

Dear Commission Members:

I do not agree with the changing of the Canon to allow same sex marriages.

God's plan for marriage is a spiritual and physical union between a man and a woman, our Lord Jesus Christ's statement in Matthew 1:4-6 and in Mark 10:6-9 make this quite clear. The unacceptable nature of same sex sexual relationships in God's eyes is noted in Leviticus 18:22.

Jesus taught and instructed us to love others as ourselves but this should not be confused with accepting or condoning practices that are clearly in contradiction to His teaching. This is love and acceptance of others as God's children through His Grace. Ours is not to judge but to accept others, this does not mean blessing transgressions. Jesus forgave but in John 8:7-11 tells us to stop the behaviour.

In addition there is an argument that our society has progressed and that we have become aware of, or are now dealing with issues that are unique to our culture and so we should be changing the Church's practice to accommodate this. For example, the Church's efforts to bring about the elimination of discrimination of women within the Church leadership, and other roles, are being successful. However, this is justified in that our Lord Jesus Christ had immense respect for women and their role, Galatians 3:28 clearly states that we are all, man and women, one in Christ Jesus. In addition to this, there is clear evidence of the importance of the critical role women played in His ministry. The attempt to justify the acceptance of same sex relationships using this new cultural awareness is not acceptable due to the numerous and definitive examples of rejection of same sex practice in both the Old and New Testaments.

The argument that not accepting same sex marriages causes hurt is also not valid, as there are many things that we as human beings would like to do, that are often perfectly normal to our carnal nature but succumbing to these issues if they are not acceptable to the Lord, in order to sooth ourselves, does not make it right.

I pray that the Church does not proceed down this way of the world but continues with the Canon as it is currently worded. I will be unable to accept otherwise.

God bless.

Felicity Robinson

Parish of St. Mark, Ocean Park,

Surrey. B.C.,

in the Diocese of New Westminster.