

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have read through several submissions and I am saddened at the discrimination that is evident in our Anglican Society and masked by simply quoting the Bible and stating that marriage is to be between one man and one woman. Are we not all created equal by God? Does God not love all of us regardless of our sexual orientation? Who are we to decide that a man cannot love a man or a woman cannot love a woman and that they cannot be married? Marriage is not a legal matter. Marriage is love.

One person wrote that we need to ignore our "feelings" on the subject and look at what the Church, the Bible and God all say. If our feelings do not come into play with this question, are we just bound then to make all decisions in life based on the ways of the past and not how things have changed and how our feelings on certain subjects have changed? Are we really so cold? I would hope not.

Some say we should stand united and not bend to pressure...to show everyone that the Anglican Church cannot be swayed by what everyone else is doing and to stand by the ways of the past and what is *believed* to be right. I believe what is right is to move forward and show everyone that the Anglican Church is progressive and that its doors are open to everyone. Marriage is acceptance.

My thoughts are simple compared to what many have written. I'm no scholar, no poet and certainly no expert on religion. I am just a mom, wife, daughter, sister who has grown up in a world that is changing all the time and becoming less and less discriminatory each and every decade. So much has changed and for the good but we have a long way to go until we can live in a society where everyone is equal and equality means that everyone can be married. Just asking the question means we realize we need to change.

Simply put, same sex marriage is no different than a man and woman getting married. It is love, acceptance, respect, commitment and most importantly, non judgemental.

Love is Love, God is Love.

Sincerely,

Janet Peabody