

On Marriage in the Church.

In the New Testament Gospels, we have many examples of the element of forgiveness. The familiar story of the adulteress who approaches Jesus; the throngs of people who want her stoned; however Jesus draws a line in the sand and answers them: “Let he who has no sin, cast the first stone.”

There are so many unhappy marriages today in heterosexual relationships, divorce, and separation is common. This canon is merely suggesting that we open our minds to the possibility of same-sex couples being allowed to have the Sacrament of Marriage in the Church, as heterosexual couples presently enjoy. The priests who conscientiously object to these unions are not obligated to participate in marrying same-sex couples, and I think they should have this right. However, we need to consider that Marriage in the Church, as a sacrament, cannot be regarded as something to be denied anyone who asks. Would the objection to the marriage of same-sex couples extend to refusal to baptize someone, to give First Communion, to present someone for Confirmation, simply on the basis of one’s personal preferences? When someone becomes a priest, he/she takes on a different role, a role where they should be an example of God’s Love and Grace.

Same-sex couples are humans, after all. As priests who are called to minister to all, I believe it is paramount to respect people in whatever station of life they might find themselves. Many times, when I read objections to the Church recognizing same-sex couples, the Apostle Paul is quoted; however, we must be cognizant of when these New Testament books were written, where, and why. This is 2014, and we have the Risen Christ to guide us as we strive to listen to the Holy Spirit. Let us truly hear, what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

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