

As a result of eagerness to downplay theology entirely in favour of secular political causes, the Episcopal Church in the United States is quite literally dying, and will likely disappear within the next twenty years. I believe this fate awaits the Anglican Church in Canada, should any amendment of this Canon go ahead.

According to opinion polls, peoples overall belief in God hasn't changed. What HAS changed is people's participation in organized religious worship. With so little spiritual nourishment to offer, it is no wonder that Liberal churches have begun to collapse. Many people are drawn to non-bureaucratic organizations that offer traditional services that focuses on the worship of God and the celebration of the family... such as Islam.

I feel that the Church should offer a peaceful, soul nourishing, soul restoring place where man made issues of the modern world such as gay marriage are kept at bay and not allowed to dramatically alter the word of God. Is the Bible akin to a Canadian Law, open to interpretation and amendment as different bodies see fit?. Or is it the pure word of God?. If it is, as I believe, the latter, then who dares to alter it?.

The argument that if God loves Man than He would be inclusive of all forms of marriage is fatally flawed. God DOES love Man, and wants all men to know him. But He also wants us to work through the challenges and sins He gives us and not just re-write the rulebook if we cannot.

For my family and I it will be one of the saddest days of our lives to leave the Anglican Church, which we will feel forced to do should this Canon change. We now pray for the Church to stop this destructive self-immolation.

Victoria Coakley
Diocese of Ottawa