

I am very concerned about the possible change of the Marriage Canon XXI. Having been worshipping in an Anglican Church for more than 50 years and attending many Bible studies, and living to the best of my ability by the word of God and our Lord Jesus Christ. I cannot see how we can accept Same sex Marriage. Many Churches allow blessings of same sex couples which has already caused many people to leave the Anglican Church. Let us be obedient to God and stop any further trouble.

The Canons of the Anglican Church of Canada are established as a means of church governance. They cover the church constitution, relations between the church and other bodies as well as internal discipline.

The idea that a Canon should have an individual "conscience clause" makes a mockery of any Canon. The conscience clause within a changed Canon XXI which allows that no member of the clergy, bishop, congregation or diocese should be constrained to participate in or authorize such marriages against the dictates of their conscience, will create a schism within the church. Furthermore, bishops who have a proclivity one way or the other may hire and ordain clergy who agree with their position rather than that of any particular congregation.

A Canon with such a clause is not a Canon, it is a hypocrisy. A Canon must be enacted for all members of the body, whether they be clergy, bishop, congregation or diocese. If this causes congregations to leave en masse, clergy to resign, an alternative Anglican church in Canada to be formed, then so be it. The Holy Spirit will guide the 2016 Synod in this matter.

#### Scripture & Homosexuality

Homosexuality is the act of intercourse between people of the same sex. When the Bible speaks of homosexuality, its emphasis is on **behaviours**, not condition. God loves sinners, but condemns sin. The following verses from both the old and new testaments speak to the behaviours of homosexual acts.

**Genesis 19:5:** "And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, where *are* the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them."

**Leviticus 18:22:** "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination."

**Leviticus 20:13:** "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them."

**Deuteronomy 23:17:** "There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel."

**Judges 19:22:** "Now as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, beset the house round about, and beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him."

**1 Kings 14:24:** "And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel."

**1 Kings 15:12:** "And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made."

**1 Kings 22:46:** "And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land."

**2 Kings 23:7:** "And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove."

**Romans 1:26-27:** "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."

**1 Corinthian 6:9:** "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind."

**11 Timothy 1:9:10:** "Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;"

These scripture clearly state that the behavior of homosexuality is a sin.

### The Sacrament of Marriage

In a sacramental marriage, God's love becomes present to both spouses in their total union and flows through them to their family and to their community. By their permanent, faithful and exclusive giving to each other, symbolized by sexual intercourse, the couple reveal some part of God's unconditional love. Their life becomes sacramental to the extent they cooperate with God's action in their life and sees themselves as living "in Christ" and Christ living and acting in their relationship.

Can a same-sex marriage be a sacramental marriage? If we believe the scripture then the act of sexual intercourse between same-sex couples is a sin. Since a sacramental marriage is the total union between spouses and includes sexual intercourse as a way in which that union is symbolized then a same-sex marriage cannot be sacramental and in fact is more likely to be considered sacrilegious. Even though two men or two women may love each other, have a legal civil marriage, they can never have a sacramental marriage.

This argument omits the idea that sexual intercourse is an integral component of God's grace in a sacramental marriage. Sexual intercourse between same sexes is a sin. While celibacy may eliminate the sinful behavior it eliminates sexual intercourse and thus eliminates the symbol of God's unconditional love. Same-sex marriages cannot be sacramental.

Yours in Christ

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