

August 3, 2014

Commission on the Marriage Canon  
Anglican Church of Canada  
80 Hayden Street  
Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

Submitted via Upload

Dear Commission Members:

I am opposed to the concept of the Anglican Church of Canada amending Canon XXI so as to provide for same-sex marriages. Marriage is created and defined by God in the Scriptures as the sexual and covenantal union of a man and a woman in life-long allegiance to each other alone, as husband and wife, with a view to displaying Christ's covenant relationship to his blood-bought church. This is supported by the following as contained in the NIV translation:

**Genesis 2 18, 22-24** – The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

**Leviticus 20:22** – Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman, that is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

**Matthew 19 4-6** - "Haven't you read," He (Jesus) replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

**1 Corinthians 6 9** – Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders, not thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

**1 Corinthians 7 1-4** - Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. <sup>3</sup>The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup>The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife.

**Romans 1 25a, 26-27** – They exchanged the truth of God for a lie. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way, the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

**Ephesians 5 25, 31,32** Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy.... For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery but I am talking about Christ and the Church.

**Hebrews 13 4** – Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, or God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

In summary, the Word of God provides numerous instances in which marriage is described as being between a man and a woman, and others which directly condemn homosexuality. Having listed all these scriptures, it is vitally important to recognize that the Bible also directs us as follows:

**Matthew 7 1-2** – Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

**Matthew 22 37-40** – Jesus replied, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

**John 3 16** – For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him, shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**Romans 3 23** – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

**1 Peter 2 24** – He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

**1 Peter 3 18** – For Christ died for sins once and for all, the righteous for the unrighteous to bring you to God.

If we believe that God has spoken to us truthfully in the Bible, we cannot concede that a for-life partnership of two men or two women is marriage. It cannot be marriage because it is not in accordance with the concept of marriage established by God from the very creation of humankind. In Ephesians 5 32, Paul refers to the “profound mystery” of marriage which really means that God made man male and female with their distinctive feminine and masculine natures and their distinctive roles so that in marriage as husband and wife they could display Christ and the church. This means that the basic roles of wife and husband are not interchangeable. The husband displays the sacrificial love of Christ’s headship, and the wife displays the submissive role of Christ’s body. The mystery of marriage is that God had this double (of wife and husband) display in mind when he created man as male and female. Therefore, the profoundest reality in the universe underlies marriage as a covenantal union between a man and a woman.

I pray that the Anglican Church of Canada will adopt a balanced approach and help all of its members love each other and respect each other without discrimination for any reason. However, the Church has a responsibility to govern itself and maintain doctrine that is totally in accordance with the Bible which is the only special revelation from God that we have. The Church cannot and must not take it upon itself to judge which parts of the Bible will be used and which will be rejected, or to use one part of the Bible to overrule another.

Accordingly, the Motion contravenes the Solemn Declaration which states in part that the Anglican Church of Canada “by the help of God to hold and maintain the Doctrine, Sacraments, and Discipline of Christ as the Lord hath commanded in his Holy Word.”

I pray that the Church will quickly dismiss the Motion to allow the marriage of same sex couples and turn its attention to helping its members “live by the Spirit” whose fruit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control” as stated in Galatians 5.

Yours in Christ

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