

August 31, 2014

Commission on the Marriage Canon

Anglican Church of Canada

80 Hayden Street Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

Dear Commission Members:

I am unable to reconcile theologically the idea that same sex marriages should be blessed or supported by the Church. The canon should not be changed and in support of this position I comment below.

The prayers, canons, worship and services structures of the Anglican church have been very carefully developed with wisdom, received through the Holy Spirit, and are definitely based on the Word of God as given to us in the New and Old Testament. It is clear that God's intent is that marriage is between a man and a woman, reference to our Lord Jesus Christ's statement in Matthew 1:4-6 and similarly in Mark 10:6-9 demonstrates this. Also, there is reference in the Bible to the unacceptable nature of same sex sexual relationships in God's eyes for example Leviticus 18:22.

The argument that this practice is in fact condoned in the Bible through the new liberal interpretations such as, that love and forgiveness justifies these practices, is flawed, in that our Lord Jesus demonstrated an immense compassion, and willingness to forgive, as demonstrated throughout his ministry, but he loved and accepted the individual but not the behavior. Our Lord Jesus Christ always forgave but instructed the individual to stop the behavior, John 8:7-11 demonstrates this. We should not be judging our neighbours but we should not be blessing spiritual transgression either, in others or within ourselves. We should all be working to eliminate our shortcomings, in a compassionate way, not trying to justify them and thus work around the unacceptability of them.

Our Lord Jesus Christ told us to go out into the world, preach the Gospel according to the Word, and live by the Word. His is a spiritual Kingdom and we should not be drawn into the mistake of trying to impose the Word on the world. However, the essence of forgiveness through Grace is a spiritual choice. Consequently, to demonstrate what our transgressions are, the Church needs to maintain continuity between the Church's teachings through example of His word, and how through the gift of Grace we are made right in the Lord's sight. We should not be adjusting our behavior to the world but encouraging the world to adjust their behavior to what the Lord requires of us. We can only do this by example in following His instructions and accepting His total forgiveness through Grace, which is obtained by the acceptance that our behavior is wrong and that we should be working towards correcting it in God's eyes and not the other way around.

As a Church we should be taking heed of the warnings that our Lord Jesus Christ gave us in the opening chapters of the Book of Revelations about behavior and consequences. I pray that our Church does not approve the blessings of same sex marriages. We have had some dramatic warnings in so far as the flood and Sodom and Gomorrah. I will not be part of a Church that continues down this path.

In His service, our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God bless you all.

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