

Some Thoughts & Questions re: Marriage Canon

What is “marriage”?

- The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) calls it “Holy Matrimony” – signifying the mystical union between Christ & His Church
- Our understanding is that marriage is a Holy estate – set apart as sacred, a sacramental act, for the hallowing of the union between a man and a woman, and for the procreation of children
- In the forward to the service titled “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage”, the BAS states that those who seek marriage in a church should receive the education that will help them to “attain a **Christian understanding of its purpose**”.

Our question is: If the Marriage Canon is to be changed, what will that **Christian understanding** be?

We have some deep concerns about any proposed changes.

- If we, as a society, don’t hold on high regard the sacredness of the marriage of a man and woman, will our whole social infrastructure become insecure?
- If pastoral concerns are deemed to be more important than Scripture, over what aspects of Christian lives should Scripture have authority?
- What is Jesus’ stance on moral & spiritual compromise?
- Is the Anglican Church of Canada contemplating something that lies outside of God’s plan for humanity? St. Paul urged us to “***be not conformed to the world, but be transformed***” (Romans 12:2)
- Is the Anglican Church of Canada considering how changes to the marriage canon may affect our relationship with world-wide Anglicanism and our indigenous peoples? Does that matter?
- If changes to the Marriage Canon are rejected by General Synod, is there some other form of ministry in the planning for those who may feel alienated? If changes are affirmed, is there some other form of ministry in the planning for those who feel alienated?

Thank you for the consideration given to these questions.

Submitted by: Julia & John Davies, St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, Diocese of Saskatoon