

Commission on the Marriage Canon

I believe that “love” is the most important word in Christianity. Jesus lived a life of love, understanding, tolerance and forgiveness. He teaches us by example how we, as Christians, should be striving to live. Yet love is not always easy and it can be very challenging.

There are two men in my life whom I love deeply, my brother and my son. Both are gay and both are in loving, long term, and committed relationships with men whom I have come to love very much. My brother has been with his partner for 25 years and has been married for 7 years. Their relationship has endured longer than many heterosexual couples I know. My son has been with his partner for 4 years and they are a kind and generous couple to their families and friends. My family is truly blessed to have these men in our family.

My brother and son were both baptized and confirmed in the Anglican Church. They grew up receiving Holy Communion and can still receive it. Three sacraments have been given and received in love. They can also participate in three more sacraments: reconciliation, holy orders and unction. Yet these same men are refused the sacrament of holy matrimony in our church because of whom they love. Gay people are deemed worthy enough for six sacraments only because we judge their relationships and love unworthy. I believe this makes us guilty as a Church of intolerance, lack of mercy and understanding and most importantly, failing in our Christian calling of love.

I believe we are being challenged now by Christ to be Christ-like in our love towards gay couples by allowing same-sex marriage in the Anglican Church and I wholeheartedly support changing the Marriage Canon.

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