

A Submission to the Commission on the Marriage Canon

I am not a new Christian, but I am “new” to the Anglican Church of Canada.

I have read many submissions so far included on your website and I get the idea that most of them are from a “feelings” point of view.

Traditional Christianity is not based on “feelings”, but on the Word of God as presented in His most Holy Scripture. Holy men, inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote down what they were told and we have our roadmap for how to live the Christian life.

I have come to see a huge problem in the Anglican church. As a group, we’ve talked ourselves into positions on political matters that will please the public. We are overanxious to show how very modern and politically correct we are. We have not been brave enough to love without changing what the Word says in order to accommodate others. Either the Scripture says what it says, and gives examples by way of illustration, or it doesn’t.

I contend that every Christian needs to examine the Scriptures “to see if these things be so”, not just compare what we feel a to what others feel and decide to reinterpret the Word of God.

I only see in Scripture the sanctity of marriage with one man and one woman. Heterosexuality. The progression is: they produce offspring while nurturing and caring for each other, through thick and thin, and then enjoy the fruit of a job well done with children who “rise up and call (you) blessed”. I speak from 45 years in one marriage, so I’m not a neophyte on the subject.

I also see that there is not **one** instance in God’s Word that approves of the uniting of persons of the same gender. I see many passages that associate that state with rape, murder and violence, but nowhere do I see an example of Gods blessing on such a union. From scripture I **could** see polygamy having a basis, but not homosexuality.

My stance does not exclude homosexuals from associating with Christians,

however. Our expression of our love to God (and for love of Christ) is to love our neighbors “as ourselves”. This doesn’t mean I have to defend my own position or attack another’s. I am commanded to love. By obeying this simple law we include anyone who sincerely wants to associate with us. This does not mean we have to change everything Christianity has accepted as God’s Word to us for two thousand years in order for them to feel good, however!

I have heard the argument that Jesus never condemned homosexuals. I contend that though he never condemned homosexuality explicitly doesn’t mean he accepted the practice or condoned it...He was actually a real Jew and knew the Scriptures (the Law) from a child. He certainly didn’t speak against the Torah’s examples of what God hated people to practice.

Rather than changing core Christian beliefs that have been accepted over the centuries, why don’t we preach Jesus and what he did for us? Anyone from any walk of life is offered the Grace of God, IF he will accept it.

It more than grieved me to see that CANON might be changed. I had read over the entire Prayer Book from cover to cover before entering a local fellowship of Anglicans. I felt it entirely laid out the traditional beliefs that Christianity has stood for for TWO THOUSAND YEARS. Anything that I did not agree with that wasn’t a matter of salvation I could give to God and still worship in Spirit and Truth with Anglicans worldwide.

If the CANON is rewritten to include what God does not approve, however, it fundamentally changes the way the Church sees the Word. To depart that far from Christian beliefs for a political cause is too far and too far reaching. What is written in the Prayer Book is based on the Word of God. The Word of God is the same today, yesterday and **forever**.

I have fervently prayed for this Council. May the eyes of the Spirit help them see what a shambles they will make of the life of the church if indeed they re write the meaning of marriage. I pray God will graciously deal with all those responsible, as they know that to be leaders they are doubly responsible to God for their leading of the flock.

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