

We wish to add our voice to the issue concerning Canon XXI.

We believe in the authority of scripture, that the principals and truths found there apply today just as they have from the beginning. Cultures change. God does not.

We believe that God has spoken out against homosexuality in His Word, showing clearly his love for all sinners but not their sins.

We believe scripture is declaring the marriage union as being between one man and one woman and we oppose any change in the Canon laws that would try to alter this in any way.

It is not our desire to change His Word to suit our own personal circumstances. When we face tough issues in our own lives, we desire to seek what His perfect plan is for us. It has been said many times that "We are all equal at the foot of the cross." That is the best and only place to start our journey in finding out who we really are and by doing that we cannot help but believe we will be more willing to set aside all our personal desires, dreams and aspirations to know His perfect plan for us.

Serving others with no selfish gain in mind should be every Christian's challenge for each and every day. Many homosexuals believe they are born this way. But God clearly condemns this life style in His Word. We all face different temptations in our lives and it is our responsibility to take these areas of weakness to the Lord and allow Him to forgive and bring healing to us. By changing the definition of marriage, are we not altering His Word (plan) or perhaps throwing it aside to find a way that we find more palatable? God will not be mocked and we will certainly not fool him with our wordy and/or lengthy arguments.

As the Church, we can all line up at the altar and have our Pastor pat us on the back, tell us we are all OK and we can carry on with our day (for the most part deceiving only ourselves). The church is in a very unhealthy place right now and adding the sin of changing God's word to suit our/your needs regarding any part of our lives will never help. We are to be like Paul and try to be all things to all people, but Paul never altered God's word by not telling the truth in love. We feel the General Confession in the morning prayer service effectively sums up the state of the church and its desire to fit into the world around it.

Almighty and most merciful Father,
We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
We have offended against thy holy laws,
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
And we have done those things which we ought not to have done,
And there is no health in us.....

We urge you, please do not alter Canon XXI to allow same sex marriage.

Bill and Marilyn Conley