

I wish to express my concern about the possible inclusion of same sex marriage blessing within the sacrament of the Anglican Church of Canada. I believe there are many reasons to object to choosing such an option, and I will attempt to present just a few.

The first is a political and social problem. The Church does not need to align itself in any way with the current mores or beliefs of either the prevailing social or political systems. The Church should hold strong against the prevailing currents of the age. Any joy at being more closely aligned to government policy is ill placed for one as a Christian. Christ very clearly stated that what belongs to Caesar is not what belongs to God. He was essentially murdered by the state. To trust in prevailing societal beliefs for decisions taken as Christians is folly; for increasing secularization will only lead, I believe, to our future distress. It seems to me it is our duty to live Christian lives, according to what has been written in the Bible, even though we may be at odds with current values and ways of thinking.

The next reason is from a textual standpoint. I think that when we align ourselves with beliefs that are contrary to those stated in the Bible (and I'm sure that you are well acquainted with the many references in both the Old and New Testaments), even though we may feel that we are being prophetic, we are actually picking from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil- we are deciding issues apart from the word of God. A commission to alter something clearly stated by Christ; that a man leaves his family to become one with his wife, they become one flesh; is not really needed. May I say that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. His words and actions are written in the New Testament, and form our beliefs as Christians. Never once did he say, "What do you think, fellas?". So why do we need a commission to tell us what a marriage is when Jesus has already told us?

At this time, the final objection which I wish to raise with respect to same sex marriage blessings is the judgemental aspect. "Judge not, or you may be judged", is a very serious statement and one which all Christians remember in many different circumstances. Are we judging when we refuse to bless these marriages? Are we judging if we say such relationships may be blessed as marriages? Both are judgements, and though I may not judge that such relationships are wrong; neither can I judge that such relationships are right. Both are judgements, and both judgements cannot be made by the Church, but by Christ alone. Definitively, the gospels, the words of Paul, and many instances in the Old Testament point unyieldingly in one direction.

If this resolution is adopted, then the issues that I and many others have raised must be answered squarely without skirting the questions, or one is merely turning a blind eye to the legitimate concerns of many people in the Anglican Communion.

"They become one flesh," is how Jesus described marriage. May I suggest that becoming one flesh is realized in all senses of the word, both in spirit and body, and through children, if the union is blessed with such. This, I believe, is the Christian description of marriage.

This letter is not meant to detract from the words of Christ that we love one-another. I have friends and even relations who are homosexual. They are clever, inventive, humorous, nice people, whose fellowship has enriched my life. I will continue to seek their fellowship, just as I will continue to oppose any change in the Church Sacraments to alter the true status of marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Blessed be God Forever!

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