LETTERS FROM INDIVIDUALS

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Jesus was a revolutionary. He was counter culture. He taught women. He ate with those proclaimed to be sinners. He talked with sinners. He argued with both civilian and religious authorities. In short, he was not afraid to take on taboo issues. Yet he never spoke of homosexuality. He did speak of sexual acts but in the context of "go and sin no more". He never spoke about same sex marriage but did repeatedly embrace marriage – marriage between a man and a woman – nothing more, nothing less.

A ship at sea is often tossed by wind and waves. So it is with the Anglican Church. The winds of atheism, nationalism, liberalism, feminism, capitalism, even relativism. There have been some in the past as well, notably fascism and communism. All have sought to influence and even control the 'catholic' church, including the Anglican Church. In turbulent times steady hands and a strong rudder are required to hold the course. Once we succumb to the 'isms' and attempt to survive by accommodating ourselves to every passing wave, or wind, the ship is lost. A ship adrift. A church adrift.

I see a church drifting with the times. Afraid of what it is, and was, and desperately trying to be something else. Of trying to fit in, of trying to be one of the cool kids by showing how modern we are, how progressive we are. In doing so we want to forget the church's 2000 year old history on the issue of marriage. We want to forget or at least ignore what most of the rest of the universal church is saying to us. Do we really think we are more enlightened than all those who went before us? Do we really think we are more enlightened than the rest of the world wide Anglican community? Is our vanity that large that we think we have it right and the rest will eventually realize it and just catch up?

In the discussion about same sex marriage, for some reason there is this notion that marriage needs to remain an institution between two people, regardless of the respective sexes. Why? Why can't a marriage be between three people of whatever sexual orientation? Why this focus on the number two? Certainly from a biblical perspective there is far greater authority for polygamous marriages than there is for same sex marriages. If we want to show how progressive we are lets be really daring and propose polygamous marriage. But of course society and the state don't want that and we wouldn't want to be offside with them. From a church that use to set the course for society we now have a church that merely copies whatever is fashionable and politically correct.

These are difficult times for the Anglican Church. These are difficult times for homosexual people and those who want homosexual unions in the Anglican Church. These are particularly difficult times for those who remain committed to the notion of

marriage between a man and a woman. Those who desire homosexual marriages are entitled to them before the courts and in some other 'Christian' denominations. They have options. But of course what is acceptable to the state is not what is acceptable to God and by extension his institution on earth – the universal church.

We keep telling ourselves that we are a biblical based church yet Leviticus 18:22 and Romans 1:26, 27 clearly state that the act of homosexuality before God is an abomination. We chose to ignore these passages. We keep telling ourselves that we are a traditions based church, yet clearly the tradition has been for marriage solely between a man and a woman. We chose to ignore the tradition. Simple logic tells us that same sex relations cannot be part of God's plan for us. If it were the human race would cease to exist. We chose to ignore logic.

The Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Ontario must not be afraid to proclaim the word of God as laid down in the Bible. We shouldn't be afraid of what it says and we most certainly shouldn't try to add to it or spin it into something to suit our needs. The Bible clearly endorses marriage between man and a woman. It say nothing about same sex marriage. We should leave it at that.

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