

**Notes from the Parish Meeting of Trinity Parish  
held at 7:00pm., June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Shirley Hall, Camden East**

On the evening of June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 a parish meeting with the announced purpose of discussing the proposed change to the Marriage Canon of the Anglican Church of Canada was held. Prior to the meeting the parish was prepared by the provision of printed copies of *This Holy Estate* to all parish synod delegates, and announcements of where it and the Marriage Canon Kit could be accessed online. The June 12<sup>th</sup> parish meeting to provide feedback to the Diocese had been announced both verbally and in printed announcements in the Sunday bulletin for five consecutive weeks. Turnout was good, with ten members participating, while one, (an alternate delegate to synod), submitted her written report as she was unable to attend personally. Another member submitted his report by email. Parish members had been asked to make their submissions in writing, preferably, and most did bring written versions, from which they read their reports.

The meeting began with prayer, and a reflection on Jesus' teaching on marriage in Mark 10 and Matthew 19.

Each person around the table in order read their report. By the time all had read their reports what had emerged was that there was a very high level of agreement (perhaps surprisingly) about what we believe. The general consensus enabled us to write a summary statement as a parish, which we submit below, for consideration towards our Diocesan Memorial to General Synod, to be written in the fall.

The written reports from individuals are being made available to the Diocese in printed form for the Diocesan records.

*Ian Ritchie* †  
Respectfully submitted by Rev. Dr. Ian Ritchie  
Interim priest in charge, Trinity Parish

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**SUMMARY STATEMENT FROM TRINITY PARISH  
St. Luke's, Camden East and Christ Church, Tamworth**

We respect the authority of God's Word, and reject attempts to misuse the Scriptures to prove notions and directions that are plainly contrary to the most plain and clear teaching of the Word of God. The clear teaching of Jesus is that "from the beginning God created them male and female" and the reference to God's original intention still holds true today. *This Holy Estate* fails to provide any sound supports for either a Scriptural interpretation or an anthropological interpretation that would justify changing the Marriage Canon to allow same-sex marriage.

## **My views on proposed changes to the Marriage Canon – Valerie Lynds**

It is my belief that sexual relations with another person of the same sex is a sin. Leviticus Chapter 18 lists a number of sexual sins and that is included in the list.

It is also my belief that sexual sin is no more or less of a sin than my over-eating or in other words self-indulgence.

Sin is sin – there is no half sin.

I believe that God hates sin but loves the sinner. He hates that I over-eat but I KNOW that my over-eating does not make Him love me any less. In fact he loves me so much that He allowed His Son to die for me. He feels the same way about the person who chooses a same-sex relationship – He loves the person He created. We ALL need God's grace.

I am not saying that I agree that Canon XXI should be changed! Exactly the opposite – I believe that the Anglican Church should not reword any Canon to give permission for any kind of sin and that includes the Marriage Canon to include same-sex marriage.

I have struggled with "This Holy Estate" report and I perfectly fit in on page 20 under section 5.1.1 where it says "The choice ... is between faithfulness to biblical revelation on the one hand and acquiescence to cultural pressure on the other."

I really struggled with the final paragraphs of section 5.3.3 on pages 54 & 55 which say "... it is important to note the centrality of the reconciliation of Jew & Gentile to the redemptive work of Christ, and the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:11-22). ... The church ... need(s) to discern whether it [same-sex marriage] is a consequential development of the same redemptive action of Christ."

Page 33, in the first paragraph (in relation to Deuteronomy 24:1, Mark 10:1-10 and Matthew 19:1-9 and the question of divorce) it says "... Jesus observes this as an accommodation to human brokenness (Mark 10:5)". The scripture passage, of 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20, on Sunday reminds us that there are consequences of accommodation. I do not want to experience what the consequences may be of accommodating same-sex marriages.

Having made my position clear I will say that if Vestry Council directs me to vote against my conscience I will step down as your Alternate delegate to Synod.

Sincerely submitted, June 12, 2018,  
In His Service, Valerie

from *Thais Lawson* :

## **What does the Bible say about homosexuality? Is homosexuality a sin?"**

**Answer: The Bible consistently tells us that homosexual activity is a sin.**

[Leviticus 18:22](#);

**22 "Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.**

[Leviticus 20:13](#);

**"If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads."**

[Romans 1:26-27](#);

**26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.**

[1 Corinthians 6:9 & 10](#)

**9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men<sup>[a]</sup> 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God**

[Romans 1:26-27](#) teaches specifically that homosexuality is a result of denying and disobeying God. When people continue in sin and unbelief, God "gives them over" to even more wicked and depraved sin in order to show them the futility and hopelessness of life apart from God. [1 Corinthians 6:9 & 10](#) proclaims that homosexual "offenders" will not inherit the kingdom of God.

God does not create a person with homosexual desires. The Bible tells us that people become homosexuals because of sin ([Romans 1:24-27](#)) and ultimately because of their own choice. A person may be born with a greater susceptibility to homosexuality, just as some people are born with a tendency to violence and other sins. That does not excuse the person's choosing to sin by giving in to sinful desires. If a person is born with a greater susceptibility to anger/rage, does that make it right for him to give into those desires? Of course not! The same is true with homosexuality.

However, the Bible does not describe homosexuality as a “greater” sin than any other. All sin is offensive to God. [Homosexuality](#) is just one of the many things listed in [1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#) that will keep a person from the kingdom of God. According to the Bible, God’s forgiveness is just as available to a homosexual as it is to an adulterer, idol worshipper, murderer, thief, etc. God also promises the strength for victory over sin, including homosexuality, to all those who will believe in Jesus Christ for their salvation ([1 Corinthians 6:11](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [Philippians 4:13](#)).

### [Jesus explains marriage.](#)

He answered, "Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female' [Genesis 1:27], and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh' [Genesis 2:24]? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." (Matthew 19:4-6, NRSV translation; Mark 10:6-9 is a parallel text)

**Hebrews 13:8 New International Version (NIV)**

**<sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

# God Cannot Lie

Hebrews 6:18 So that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

Titus 1:2

In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began

Numbers 23:19

God does not lie,

God does not change His mind.

Does He speak and then not act?

Does He promise and not fulfill?

James 1:13

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

## 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God<sup>[a]</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

*Thais Lawson  
Christ Church Tamworth Ont.*

This is not an easy thing to put into words, partly because people are so polarized that the moment you say you are not in favour of allowing same-sex marriage by the Anglican Church, you are quickly categorized as an extreme far right Christian, which I don't believe I am.

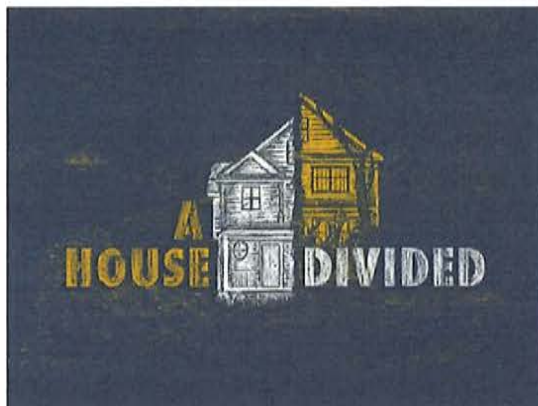
I believe that all people are made and loved by God and should be respected as such. We are all different. By that same token, biologically we are made man and woman with an inbuilt desire to procreate. That is how we humans continue our race. Of course there are many married people who choose not to procreate, but still the fact remains, man and woman create another human being.

With that in mind I feel that sanctioning marriage should be between a man and a woman. There are many other different unions and certainly families are made up of many variations, but I believe that we should be upholding marriage as man and woman.

However this debate goes, one thing I am sure of and that is the Anglican Church will not be what I was baptized and confirmed in. There is division and I can see no way for the Anglican Church to continue after this. We must choose with much prayer which direction to take, but a two-way direction it will be. People will choose different routes.

Submitted by Carol Nacu, June 12, 2018

Member of St. Luke's, Camden East, Trinity Parish



THE HOUSE DIVIDED

**"If a house divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 8:25.**

**I am afraid that is what we see is happening in the Anglican Church in Canada; especially in our corner of Eastern Ontario. This new recommendation to agree to same sex marriages and changing of the canons will split the church as we know it. People will vote with their feet and leave the church for evangelical conservative congregations. Why you may ask. The answer is a simple one that has seen the erosion of the Anglican Church for the last decade. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16 & 17**

**If you do not accept this as a basic tenant of the Bible than you are on a slippery slope leading downwards. All the rest of the trappings of religion will be made useless. Jesus wrote to the seven churches in revelation that they were the seven lampstands that he walked around. He admonished Ephesus saying: " These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: ....Yet I hold this against you. You have forsaken your first love. Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand." Revelation 2:1, 2, 4, 5.**

**In accepting gay marriage and writing it into the canons you are creating a line that many will refuse to cross. The church will split over the next year and the rump of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Ontario and elsewhere, will become irrelevant in the Lord's work.**

Yours sincerely

*Steven Lawson*  
Steven Lawson

Warden/Treasurer

Christ Church, Tamworth.

To the Ontario Diocese

I believe that God made Adam and Eve as man and women to be joined together as one.

We have been taught in the bible about marriage as a unity of man to women.

Not to any other identity.

Jesus taught us about what marriage is supposed to be in the Gospel.

I believe we do not have the right to change Gods will, laws or ways he intended us to live.

We cannot change interpretation of what the bible states.

Only God Almighty can change things at his will.

I believe we should not change the marriage cannon.

Tony Szapira

Christ church