

# Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Australia

Church & Nation Committee

30<sup>th</sup> March 2012

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Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
P.O. Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Members,

## Marriage (Equality) Amendment Bill 2010

As you would be well familiar, at the beginning of each day when the Senate sits, the President, upon taking the Chair, leads the Senate in the following prayer: *“Almighty God, we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy special blessing upon this Parliament, and that Thou wouldst be pleased to direct and prosper the work of Thy servants to the advancement of Thy glory, and to the true welfare of the people of Australia.”*

In those words, you, as Senators, acknowledge the existence of God, you seek His special blessing upon your work and labour, you acknowledge that you are God’s servants and you seek that He would guide and prosper your work for the advancement of His glory and the true welfare of the citizens of our nation.

As the confessed servants of God, it is incumbent upon you to do the will of God because that is the function of a servant. Therefore, the question for you in respect of whether it ought to be permissible for all people regardless of sex, sexuality or gender identity, to marry is this; what does God have to say on this subject? The answer of God is unambiguous. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman. In Matthew 19:4-6, God, speaking through His Son, says, *“Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them **male and female**, and said ‘for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they two shall be one flesh’? Wherefore they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder”*.

Many in our nation have rejected God’s explicit pronouncements on this subject, but that does not mean that the will of God has changed. It simply highlights the arrogance and sinfulness of our society, including many in the professing Christian church. Society may deny it, you as legislators may refuse to acknowledge it, but the Word of God stands. For the advancement of God’s glory, and the true welfare of the citizens of Australia, I urge you to fulfil your God-given mandate and maintain the Biblical view of marriage.

Yours in the service of Jesus Christ,

Rev. Mark Shand