

2nd April, 2012

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a Minister of a Christian Church that is committed to faithful and accurate Bible teaching, and also as a Marriage Celebrant, to voice my disgust, that here in Australia – a nation that has long been known for and fought for by our ANZACS, as a “Christian Nation” with Christian morals and principles – is even considering redefining something so sacred, so central to humanity and so Biblical as marriage, so that it would include homosexual unions – something so clearly shown in the Bible to be not only unnatural, but offensive to God.

I have been greatly frustrated by the media who have reported people such as the Ex- NSW Premier Kristina Keneally, who claim to be speaking with the voice of a Christian (or for that matter Catholic), but who clearly have not read the Bible. The Bible makes very clear that engaging in homosexual behavior is a rejection of God’s rightful rule in our lives and thus “sinful”. It separates us from the Holy God who made us, and who will one day hold us to account for the lives that we’ve lived. If anyone continues in unrepentant homosexual behavior, or for that matter any other rejection of God’s rule in their lives, they will not be welcomed into the eternal Kingdom of God or “Heaven” as we call it.

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, for example, we read:

⁹ *Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes **nor homosexual offenders** ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

It is clear from these verses that homosexuality is certainly not the only sin in the Bible, but it is also clear that God has spoken decisively against it. Likewise, in Romans 1:18-32, God makes it very clear that homosexual activity is not only unnatural, but sinful, and will therefore bring judgment on those who practice it:

¹⁸ *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.*

²⁴ *Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.*

²⁶ ***Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural 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 indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

²⁸ Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

In light of these two passages (and there are others), it is abundantly clear that God is not silent about homosexuality. He has made very clear what He thinks of it. It is sinful and offensive to Him. Those who think it is the loving, and therefore 'Christian' stance to allow homosexual unions to take place, need to go away and read the Bible. Leaving someone living in sin, and worse still encouraging them to worsen their sin, is not loving at all. It separates them from God, and will bring his righteous judgment upon them, with disastrous consequences. Rather, the loving thing to do is to help people to realize that what they are doing is offensive to God and will result in those disastrous eternal consequences, and to help them to know that if they turn away from their sin, and turn back to God, seeking the forgiveness that God's own Son Jesus Christ won for us in his ransoming death on the cross, then they can be right with God.

I'm not denying that some people do have same-sex attractions, and my heart aches for them as they carry that heavy burden. But trying to normalize that to the point of allowing homosexual unions, and for them to be included under the title "Marriage", is certainly not the way to help such people.

I, along with many many other Australians would be deeply ashamed, if in our generation, something as precious, God-ordained and central to humanity as Marriage, is polluted to include homosexual unions – which the Bible so clearly shows, are unnatural, and offensive to our Creator and our Judge.

What's more, the approach that I have heard the advocates of homosexual unions taking, is that it 'won't affect other people anyway'. This is blatantly untrue. A decision to redefine marriage to include homosexual unions will have huge and lasting ramifications for the generations to come. The European Court of Human Rights has just ruled that where a state accepts homosexual unions as 'marriage', they must be given all of the same entitlements as heterosexual marriage, without discrimination. Should this same stance be taken in our own country - which the homosexual activists will be pushing very strongly for - the results would be disastrous. For example:

- Christian Ministers who refuse to perform weddings for homosexual unions, (and we will), will be breaking anti-discrimination laws. You can only imagine the uproar that this will cause. As history has shown, when the law of our land runs contrary to God's law, the result can only be problematic. Committed Christian people will obey God before obeying men.
- Our children today are confused enough about sex as it is ("Sexting" is a prime example), without having to be taught in the school curriculum, that men marrying men, and women marrying women is just as valid as heterosexual marriages. When I studied in Newtown, Sydney, I was horrified to see men passionately kissing one another in the park nearby the local primary school, in mid afternoon, when children were on their way home from school. If homosexual marriage is permitted, such public displays will be normalized, and only add to the confusion of so many of our young people in society today. I'm sure I speak for the majority of Australians, when I say that my wife and I do not want our children being taught

at school that homosexual relationships are just another option alongside heterosexual relationships.

- Children who are seeking adoption should have the right to go to homes and experience the normal and right situation of having both a mum and a dad - a female role-model, and a male role-model. Much research has been done in this area and has shown that children do best with both a mum and a dad. In my own ministry, I have seen the affects of children growing up in families without a mum or a dad. For example, I have observed that girls who grow up in 'absent-father' homes try to fill that 'man-gap' in their life very early, in all the wrong ways. Similarly, boys growing up in homes without a dad, are more likely to be confused about their sexuality and pursue their own homosexual relationships.
- If the existing biblical definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman is redefined to include homosexual unions, what is to stop 'marriage' being further defiled in the future to allow marriages between close relatives? More than one husband or wife? Humans with animals? Pedophiles with children? If we marry men to men, and women to women, where might it stop?

Marriage from the beginning, as our Creator ordained it, is defined as a man and a woman, leaving their family of origin, and becoming 'one flesh' – a new family (Genesis 2:24-25, Matt 19:4-6). We would not redefine 'dog' to include cats, because cats simply aren't dogs – they are another kind of animal all together. Similarly we would not redefine 'red' to include green as well, because green simply isn't red. Likewise, we should not redefine 'Marriage' to include homosexual unions, because they are simply not the joining of a man and a woman.

Thankyou for taking the time to read my letter. I know that similar views are held by many many people across the God-honouring churches in our country, as well as the majority of people in our rural areas in general.

Kind regards,

Rev David Fisher