

Our Position Statement¹ on **Marriage and Same Sex Relationships**

The Chinese Methodist Church in Australia

Marriage is an institution for human beings.² It is an institution with spiritual, social, political and personal dimensions.³

Sociologically and politically, the institution of marriage is based on the premise that people associate with each other to form societies, and that, in peaceful and orderly societies, individuals are responsible to society for the consequences of their actions and their examples that impact the community.

Marriage is the logical basis of the family, which is the natural means and best plausible assurance by which the society may continue to exist and develop over time through the procreation of children who may reasonably grow up socially adjusted under the responsibility, protection, providence and guidance of their natural fathers and mothers. Therefore marriage is an institution fundamental to the well-being of all of society, not just religious communities. It is the institution that society rightfully and responsibly maintains to uphold the permanent and faithful union of one man and one woman that creates a peaceful and prosperous family.

The faithful love between a man and a woman cannot be equated with the faithful love between friends or members of the same sex because the bases, motivations and the results are different. While not denigrating the love between people of the same sex, we give special honor to the unique love between husband and wife who rightly occupy the indispensable place of father and mother. We stand for the corresponding right of all children to be brought up knowing who their biological parents are and to be nurtured with love and dignity by the adults closest to them.

Marriage thus defined is a great good in itself, and it also serves the good of others and society in innumerable ways. The preservation of the unique meaning of marriage is not a special or limited interest but serves the good of all. Therefore, we stand all who are of a kin mind in promoting and protecting marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

The practice of homosexuality is unbiblical and is incompatible with the Christian life and teachings. Therefore Christians we who believe in the teachings of the Bible stand oppose to same sex marriage as it is unscriptural and not acceptable. .

¹ As this position statement is meant for a secular public, we will state our position only in sociopolitical terms.

² Animals form faithful unions without having to be married.

³ Although only the personal, social and political dimensions seem currently to be the only concerns for the law, such an important institution as marriage cannot but engage the religious convictions of people of faith.