

24th August, 2009

Parliament of Australia Senate
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

To whom it may concern,

Regarding the proposed Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009

According to the proposed Amendment Bill “The Australian Greens believe that discrimination such as that espoused by the Marriage Act 1961 must be overturned to ensure that freedom of sexuality and gender identity are recognised as fundamental human rights, and that acceptance and celebration of diversity are essential components for genuine social justice and equality to exist.”

The Australian Greens are correct that the freedom of sexuality and gender identity are a human right – God has given us freewill to choose what kind of lifestyle we want to live but what does this have to do with marriage?. Marriage is a covenant – a solemn oath or bond instituted by God and under God for a Man and a Woman who He created in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:27) and He 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' (Matthew 19:4-5).

You may think it is arrogant to suggest that marriage is a Judeo-Christian idea, but the very first record of marriage was in the Garden of Eden between Adam and Eve. A solemn bond was formed under God where they became one flesh and were not separated until death. Marriage is sacred and holy and not something entered into lightly when you look at the original design for such a union.... the standard wedding vow used to read “In sickness and in health, till death do us part” but today our word is no longer our bond! We have become such a fast-food society that we chop and change partners like changing a pair of socks and we can too easily get out of a marriage agreement when we've lost interest in it. Divorce rates are increasing and it's the children that are suffering not to mention the increased strain on social services due to single parent homes and the increase of crime amongst teenagers.

The Bible says that God's law is written on the heart of man and that his conscience bears witness of this (Romans 2:15) so I appeal to your conscience to consider the effect this decision will have on Australia's future generation. A child needs a stable, loving and nurturing environment of a Father and Mother to flourish – there are just things that women can do that a man can't and vice versa!

Please keep marriage sacred and holy between a Man and a Woman as God originally designed it to be.

Thank you and God bless,
Lynn Tuivasa