

Table discussion on Marriage Canon

(#2 - Friday evening)

Consideration of Proposed Changes to Canon 21

1) What makes you hopeful about the proposed change to the Canon on marriage, Personally? In your parish or Diocese?

2) What makes you anxious about the proposed change to the Canon on marriage, Personally? In your Parish or Diocese?

Group One

The change to the Canon gives me hope.

Some people are still concerned about people being divorced and married again!!

It is easier to discuss when the same language is used for heterosexual or same sex couples.

A video on Respectful Conversations should be seen by all with differing opinions.

The hope is in our conversations.

Group Two

(Hope) Room for both sides in discussion.

(Hope) There is an effort to include everyone. But that effort will bring brokenness (Concern)

Many clergy against it.

(Concern) This change ties us directly to civil law. Anything the civil law says is marriage, we accept by default.

Maybe we **should** give up our licenses.

(Concern) Freedom of clergy to be fully apart of the greater church is doubtful.

(Hope) Things won't change as much as we think.

(Concern) This is no longer about love. It's about "liberal" and "conservative"... words which have no true meaning in human existence.

Group Three

Marriage changes from a union between a man and a woman to a marriage between two people.

A lot of people (same sex) do not feel part of the Church.

The only thing can serve the world is love.

There has to be a way these people can be a part of the church.

Hopeful – we are ALL accepted.

Whatever discussion happens is going to separate us.

Decision will separate us as a Church.

We are going to have people walk away from our Church.

Concern is about how each level – person parish and diocese will accept either vote.

Nobody wants to see our church split.

The process on the Marriage Canon had problems – pressure from both sides of the debate will create concerns.

People get attached to the emotional sides of the debate.

Which are we going to do – what plan will get us all to God?

Can we come together on this issue?

Is the way out of this debate to get out of the marriage business?

How can we stay together as a Church?

Group Four

Hope / Concerns - Will the report of the commission allow for passing of the canon. That we are talking about marriage. We are talking about disciple ship not gender. Will it be inclusive enough? Will 1/3 of the church be alienated? Great disbelief at the level of hatred against gay people at a diocesan discussion. Why is marriage the only sacrament we deny? We are behind the time and trying to catch up. Society does not need us to catch up. If it does not pass. Problems in either case. What happens the day after the vote? There will inevitably be a sense of winners and losers. How big is the tent? Is

the conscience clause enough to include those who dissent? Dioceses are proceeding with same sex marriages already and other may if they feel the process has failed? Couples are getting married in other churches (United, Lutheran). Does the language have to change? Older couples marry now who will not have children.

Group Five

Adam & Eve = fruitful and multiply

Christian Marriage – what is it? Think about what you think it should be. Not a question that all are welcome in our churches.

(Civil Marriage)

- Love one another as Christ to all
- Covert and Sacrament
- How do we keep all together will all feel they are part of the Body
- What is the meaning of Same Sex Marriage – flexibility in the words that are being used

Appeal to Scripture

- Male and female he created us. Only marriage was male and female

Jesus union / no marriage is forever / men and women are all brides of Christ

- Church
- Time to restore to core religion
- Alive in Christ
- We as clergy work by government laws / give up marriage. We can bless marriage
- Canon

No preparation to marriage.

Marriage is a sacrament.

Hard for this to happen in our parish.

Is there an Anglican Communion – this would break us.

Respect the dialogue in the Church.

This motion is very hard to understand. The Canon

Church – do what is right.

Heart is always going to rule over the body.

On Sundays people are there to worship.

How can people react to this Canon?

We don't know how this will work.

Expressions – Come to accept it; accept our children and their friends have to be with love for all. We have to be careful how do we react to the Canon vote.

Is it the way of life. Love.

We will survive.

Group Six (Dream Team)

- 1) Hope: opens the door for a more opening and welcoming community
 - a. Provides opportunity for some to return
 - b. The recent process.... The commission ... more consideration, less divisive, more accommodating, leading the way.
 - c. A more respectful process.
 - d. Have engaged us to look deeper into what is a relationship. What is a holy and sacred relationship?
 - e. That two people in a loving and faithful relationship can have that relationship recognized through making a sacred covenant with God.
- 2) Anxiety: There will be division in the church.
 - a. We are going to keep talking about it.