

Rector's Letter

Gay Marriage (and The C of E)

I have been avoiding this "hot potato", but with nearly 600,000 people now signing the Coalition for Marriage petition, it is getting difficult to avoid. So - this is my take on the subject!

First, I need to say that I believe it is not for Christians to judge others or seek to impose our lifestyle upon them. (Our Christian duty is just to tell other people about God's love in Jesus). But similarly, it would be good if the militant homosexual lobby could behave in the same way -- and not seek to force Christians to change their traditional ethic -- which is that practising homosexuality (but not being gay) is wrong for those who follow Christ.

For that is exactly what they are doing in demanding gay marriage when there is already suitable provision with Civil Partnerships.

The argument for gay marriage is based on the assertion that homosexuality is a fixed state of being, like being black or left-handed. If this is indeed true then it would be a gross unfairness if some people who are born gay are denied the right to marry.

But is it true? 10 years ago it seemed there was a strong scientific case for a genetic cause for homosexuality. But that has faded away and nowadays few scientists accept that there is a homosexual gene. Even many homosexuals accept this. For example on his website, Peter Tatchell, who is the leading homosexual campaigner in this country, writes that : --

"Who we are attracted to largely derives from a combination of social experience and ideology." ;

"Of course, there may be biological factors, such as genes and hormones, which also influence sexual orientation. However, the available psychological and anthropological evidence suggests that these biological influences are not as significant as social factors.

Anthropologists have found that in some tribal societies all young men go through a period of homosexuality as part of their rites of passage into manhood. Once completed, most of these men revert to being wholly heterosexual. If sexuality was biologically predetermined, they would never be able to switch from heterosexuality to homosexuality, and then back again, with such apparent ease. This suggests that the decisive factors influencing sexual orientation are social expectations and cultural values."

So if gay activists do not believe among themselves that homosexuality is a fixed condition, then this completely undermines the equality argument for gay marriage. So why are the militant gay groups not admitting this – instead of misleading many caring and thoughtful people in the general public? Because, if this became widely known many would cease to support their cause.