

## **Blessing Same-Sex Unions: a Lay member's perspective**

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I do not seek confrontation, nor to hurt others. This is not about wanting to bind or deny others rights. To me, this is an issue of Christianity. When Christians struggle with worldly issues, or political correctness, it is hard to sometimes clearly see the path before us. For Christians, when we are unsure of what to do, we need to return to scripture to provide us with the direction we must follow. Scripture does not contradict itself, it does not bend to political correctness, or worry about popularity, it simply provides us with direction on how to live, according to God's word. This is what we must do. To follow anything other than God's word may be more popular, less confrontational, and easier, but it is not Christian.

The issue that I would like to draw to the attention of the reader, is the issue of same-sex unions, or blessings. The secular world allows for this, because scripture does not bind it. Civil governments are not required to adhere to Christian doctrine, and therefore are free to base their decision on any number of factors. The Christian church on the other hand needs to formulate its approach to issues, based on the direction provided in the Bible. Christ does not contradict scripture and does not release us from the responsibility of following God's word.

I will not presume to quote scripture to you supporting or denying the validity of this question. The Devil himself is quite capable of quoting scripture for his purpose. I simply ask that you seriously consider the error of moving forward to bless something that is not supported in scripture. This does not mean that we judge others, deny them entrance into our family of faith, or chastise in any way. I love Romans 14 which speaks to the danger of criticism, and judgementalism.

If we were asked to bless a common-law relationship where the partners were separated from, but still married to their primary spouses, would we do this, or would we decline? To scripture this relationship is adulterous, and although the newly formed relationship might be a supportive and loving one, would we bless it before they had resolved the prior marital relationships?

Same-sex relationships are addressed in scripture, just like adulterous relationships are. We cannot ignore this. Would we bless extra-marital sex as something healthy and acceptable? There is a means for marriage, or blessings of unions outside of the Christian setting. Let it be so. The secular world would have us believe that any or all of the above mentioned relationships are acceptable, and healthy. If we say yes to one, why not the others?

WE are all sinners, and I do not believe that distinction is made in regard to little or big sins. Sin is sin, be it whether I smoke, and there by not treat my body as a temple, drink in excess, speed thereby not follow the law, am gluttonous, prideful, or engage in sexual activity which would not be supported by scripture. As a sinner I bring my sins to Christ and seek forgiveness, and am given this time and time again, but I will not bring my sin to church and ask blessings bestowed on them. This would contradict scripture. It impacts my fellow Christians, which is something we are not to do, and challenges the validity of the church.

In closing I would ask that we all prayerfully consider whether this issues which threatens to tear the church apart, is an issue that the church should be dealing with. Is this a secular issue that has somehow worked its way into our view, like so many secular issues, or is it truly something that we are to address? Is this divine direction or something else intended to weaken, change, and

eventually destroy the church? Please be sure that all we do as a Christian body is supported by scripture, because if it is not, it is not of God.