

Part ONE - God's Word, or the Government's

{ This is the first half of this article...see the second half at Part TWO – God's Word, or the Government's }

A couple of weeks ago, a prominent Minister of the Turnbull government was caught out saying that same-sex “marriage” could happen sooner than everyone thinks, even though the government says again and again that their policy is for the issue to be taken to a plebiscite. Now, it has been reported that there is a secret bid among the Liberal Party to legalize same-sex “marriage”. The Opposition had already stated that if it wins government at the next election, same-sex “marriage” will become a reality.

Let's be honest, no matter who governs us, it is almost probable that eventually same-sex “marriage” will be coming to Australia. As citizens and Christians, we must continue to stand up against this abomination. We have just as much right to be heard as the next person, although our voices are quite often drowned out by the merciless cry of those who want to call us bigots, homophobes etc.

One question that has arisen from the debate about same-sex “marriage” is, “Will pastors and registered civil celebrants be forced to conduct same-sex ceremonies?” While this question has so far been answered in the negative, time will tell just what the government here will attempt to force upon churches and celebrants.

Anyhow it has been reported in Sweden, where the Swedes have a national church, which happens to be Lutheran, that the Prime Minister, Stefan Lofven, has told the priests of that church that if they don't want to perform same-sex “marriages”, they should “do something else”. He went on to say that a willingness to participate in a gay wedding “should be a requirement for ordination” and his party “is working to ensure all Church of Sweden priests will ‘marry’ same-sex couples”.

Although the Church of Sweden is quite liberal (for example, they allow gay “marriages” and openly gay and lesbian clergy), they do allow priests to choose whether or not they want to perform a gay “marriage”. Half of the bishops in this denomination signed a letter “condemning the introduction of same-sex “marriage” into the church.

Basically, the government official has decided that, to be a Christian clergy, you must agree with the government, not the Bible, on the issue of same-sex marriage”. He's making himself, not God's Word, the authority for morality. He's basically put himself in the position of God!

Lofven, who claims that he not religious (though everyone is indeed religious), says that “the church must stand up for human equality ...the church binds society together and provides security” especially in turbulent and frightening times, Now, where does he get the idea that the purpose of the church is to “stand up for human equality” and to “bind society together”? Well, that's nothing but his own opinion on what he thinks the purpose of the church is (and what he thinks “human equality” is).

As Christians we are called to defend the helpless, such as orphans and widows (James 1:27), and Christians have been doing that since the time of Christ. Biblical teaching upholds the dignity of every human being and declares we're all made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Although males and females have different roles in the family and the church, in Christ, *there is neither Jew nor Greek, there*

is neither slave nor free, there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ,(Galatians 3:28), and, God shows no partiality, (Romans 2:11).

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