CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

The registration of civil partnerships

Question 1  (Paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13)

Do you agree that legislation should be changed so that civil partnerships could be registered through religious ceremonies?

Yes ☐
No ☒
Don’t know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer.

Comments
Historically, our law has been founded on scripture. Scripture – the Christian Bible has been around for a lot longer than Scottish Law! For the law to attempt to determine what religion should and should not do is nonsensical. And this proposal, blasphemous. The law does not shape God nor should it try to shape the Body of Christ to fit in with what some people think is now acceptable.

It is our understanding from Scripture that Homosexuality, as recognised by a civil partnership is not promoted and encouraged in Scripture, and indeed that it is described as being an abomination to the Lord. As a Church we seek to uphold the standard of scripture and to raise our lives to live at this standard. We believe that when Scripture talks about marriage it refers to the joining of one man and one woman and that it is the joining of one man and one woman in marriage that should therefore be celebrated in ‘Christian Religious Marriage’. For examples of a scriptural basis for this understanding please see Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:24. This is also a historic understanding of marriage that has been used and reflected in our society and we do not believe that it should be able to be redefined by the Scottish Government. Indeed, how can the Scottish Government then force the Church – the Body of Christ, to deliberately act against its conscience and honour, acknowledge and bless such practices and lifestyles within the framework of Christian religious marriage ceremony?

Question 2  (Paragraphs 2.14 to 2.19)

Do you think that the proposals in England and Wales on registration of civil partnerships in religious premises would be appropriate for Scotland?

Yes ☒
If you have answered no, please explain what elements of the proposals in England and Wales you consider inappropriate for Scotland.

**Comments**
Civil partnerships do not involve the Lord; therefore they should not take place on religious premises. To follow, purely because another country has done so is folly. We have an opportunity to protect and respect the rich Christian heritage of our country.

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**Question 3**  (Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)

Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in religious premises?

Yes  ☒
No  ☐
Don’t know  ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

**Comments**
Allowing the registration of civil partnerships in religious premises by religious celebrants would bring into confusion what the definition of marriage is. By redefining marriage in accordance with what the politically correct current concept is removes it from what is was designed to be. A union between man and woman with God. Marriage is a biblical concept and should have laws in place to protect its Biblical correctness, not its political correctness.

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**Question 4**  (Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)
Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in other places agreed between the celebrant and the couple?

Yes  [ ]
No   [x]
Don’t know  [ ]

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
As a Pastor, I am aware that the Lord will hold me accountable and responsible more than others for my actions and my teachings. The Lord does not teach civil partnerships, he teaches marriage between man and woman. Anything else is not of the Lord and so should not be officiated or registered by His servants.

Question 5  (Paragraph 2.25)

Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to register civil partnerships?

Yes  [x]
No   [ ]
Don’t know  [ ]

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
Scotland encourages religious liberty and freedom – hence we have civil partnerships. To withhold this same religious liberty and freedom from religious establishments – the Church amounts to persecution and discrimination.
Question 6 (Paragraphs 2.26 and 2.27)

Do you consider that religious celebrants should not be allowed to register civil partnerships if their religious body has decided against registering civil partnerships?

- Yes  ☒
- No  
- Don’t know  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

A State run Church has been fought against since records began. The Church belongs to God, it is His and under His authority, not man’s. I would consider this question tantamount to forming a state run Church. This would have disastrous consequences for our country. I would ask that the Scottish Government respect the Church, our values, morals and beliefs and not enforce governmental rules and restrictions upon us.

Question 7 (Paragraphs 2.28 to 2.30)

Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to register civil partnerships?

- Yes  ☒
- No  
- Don’t know  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

It is essential that the state allow the Church freedom to follow the Word of God. To force a person to participate in civil partnerships against their will not only curtails personal freedom but totally removes it!

Question 8 (Paragraphs 2.31 to 2.35)
Which of the options do you favour to ensure that religious bodies and celebrants do not have to register civil partnerships against their will?

Do you favour:

Option 1  
Option 2  
Neither  

If you have another option, please describe it.

Comments
My preference is that this country returns to being the land of the God’s Word that we used to be. When we were at the forefront of sending missionaries to the world and our country was blessed and advanced in many different fields because of this. This would mean that the only recognised partnership is a marriage between man and woman. This is how the Lord designed it to be and there are blessings in being obedient to the Word.

The Equality Act 2010 should be there to preserve equality for religious bodies and religious celebrants as well as minority voices such as the homosexual rights lobby and groups. To persecute the Church as to enforce that they denounce what they believe in to appease people not living in line with the Word of God does not demonstrates equality to these religious bodies.

Question 9  (Paragraphs 2.36 to 2.40)

Religious bodies may not wish their premises to be used to register civil partnerships. Do you agree that no legislative provision is required to ensure religious premises cannot be used against the wishes of the relevant religious body?

Yes  
No  
Don’t know  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
It would be far more beneficial for our country and for it’s development, that a legislative clause is in place stating such premises could not and should not be used against the will of the religious body. This would aid the development of our country because religious bodies would then be afforded the freedom to follow and practice their own beliefs without being State controlled. The legislation should be written with the best intent of the religious bodies in mind as well as those who wish to enter a civil partnership.
Same sex marriage

Question 10  (Paragraphs 3.11 and 3.12)
Do you agree that the law in Scotland should be changed to allow same sex marriage?

Yes  □
No  ❌
Don’t know  □

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
Marriage is a bedrock of our society and originally was not a man-made institution. God designed it when the man left his father and mother and was united as one with the woman.
While there may be those in society who do not agree with this view, why should they force their own opinion onto those who hold a Scripturally correct understanding and view of marriage.
The Government has no mandate to redefine the God designed phenomenon of marriage, rather, they should be supporting marriage.
It is well evidenced that married couples stay together longer than those couples who are in civil partnerships. And this is marriage whether conducted in a religious or secular context.
There are good reasons to uphold the sanctity of marriage for ourselves and for future generations.

I would also ask you to consider the response from Gordon Wilson and Rev. David Robertson of SOLAS to this consultation, available at http://www.solas-cpc.org/SolasResponse.pdf. This powerful and articulate document reflects our views on this issue.

Question 11  (Paragraph 3.13)
Do you agree that religious bodies and celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?

Yes  ❌
No  □
Don’t know  □

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
This would be an appalling persecution of the church if religious bodies and celebrants were required to solemnise same sex marriages. If the Government were to proceed with these unhelpful changes to the Marriage Act, I would expect accompanying legislation to protect religious bodies and celebrants and to have the right to uphold their faith and beliefs in not having to solemnise same sex marriages.

Question 12 (Paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18)

Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex civil marriage only?

Yes ☐
No ☒
Don't know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
Marriage is for one man and one woman as the Lord designed and created it to be. If society so demands that there is the capacity for same sex relationship to be recognised let it be done within civil partnership if it must be done at all.

I would urge the Government not to dilute the Word of God and His plans for our country by watering down the marriage definition and constitution.

Question 13 (Paragraph 3.19)

Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex marriage, both religious and civil?

Yes ☐
No ☒
Don't know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
Presently, the Scottish Government do not hold all legislative powers pertaining to equality legislation and Human Rights, therefore, Westminster
and the European Court would have the ability to interpret an introduction of same sex marriage, both religious and civil in how they saw fit, regardless of what the Scottish Government's intentions with this proposed change are. With such a fundamental proposed change, it is imperative that the long term implications are thoroughly thought through. I believe the best plan for our country is the Lord’s plan and that is all written down in His Word. Same sex marriages, whether you class them as religious or civil are in violation of His word.

Question 14 (Paragraphs 3.23 and 3.24)

Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?

Yes ☒
No ☐
Don't know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

It is essential to any religious body that it is not required by law of the country which was founded on God’s word not act in disobedience to God’s word.

Question 15 (Paragraphs 3.25 and 3.26)

Do you consider that religious celebrants should not be allowed to solemnise same sex marriages if their religious body has decided against solemnising same sex marriage?

Yes ☒
No ☐
Question 16  (Paragraphs 3.27 and 3.28)

Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?

Yes ☒
No ☐
Don’t know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Religious liberty is a redeeming quality of our country. Considering a longer term perspective, answering yes to this question ensures religious liberty for generations to come and a legacy that our children will be proud of.

Question 17  (Paragraphs 3.29 to 3.33)

Which of the options do you favour to ensure that religious bodies and celebrants do not have to solemnise same sex marriage against their will?

Do you favour:
Option 1 ☐
Option 2 ☒
Neither ☐
Don’t know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer and if you have another option, please describe it.

Comments
I object to the options assuming that the same sex marriage will be legalised. As a religious leader I think this is the wrong course of action for the Scottish Government to be taking. It is in direct contradiction to the Word of God and I commend those politicians who are in opposition to this proposal. Option 2 would allow for a 2 system marriage within Scotland. Whilst I still hold that this is totally wrong, it does at the very least, uphold religious liberties in our land. But please be clear – I do not support option 2, it is more favourable than option 1.

Question 18 (Paragraphs 3.34 to 3.39)

Religious bodies may not wish their premises to be used to solemnise same sex marriage. Do you agree that no legislative provision is required to ensure religious premises cannot be used against the wishes of the relevant religious body?

Yes  ☐
No  ☒
Don’t know  ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Surely, the use of the religious premises must be in accordance and in agreement with the relevant religious body?!! Should individual religious celebrants of that body disagree with the decisions of the religious body, that is a matter for that particular religious body to deal with not the State and not legislation. As a religious leader of a religious body, our premises are only used for events and activities that are in accordance with the Word of God, same sex marriage is not in line with the Word of God.

Question 19     (Paragraph 3.41)
If Scotland should introduce same-sex marriage, do you consider that civil partnerships should remain available?

- Yes ☒
- No ☐
- Don’t know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
Again, I find it appalling that the assumption being made is that same-sex marriages will be introduced.

I would prefer to see civil partnerships abolished and the marriage definition kept intact. I understand that not all of society agrees with my beliefs and it is my duty to stand for what I believe in. In light of this, civil partnerships could be maintained and marriage must be maintained as one man and one woman. Otherwise I can foresee having to write responses to questions pertaining to polygamy in the future – where exactly is the line drawn?

Either marriage is upheld to be what it is designed to be – a covenant relationship to procreate and raise children between one man and one woman – or it is whatever the current, en vogue, politically correct thinking is.

Question 20 (Paragraph 4.19)
Do you have any other comments?

- Yes ☒
- No ☐

We are particularly interested in your views on:

- potential implications of the proposals for transgender people (paragraph 3.42)
- possible transitional arrangements (paragraphs 3.43 and 3.44);
- recognition of Scottish same sex marriages elsewhere (paragraphs 3.45 to 3.49);
- any comments on forced marriage (paragraphs 3.51 and 3.52)
- any comments on sham marriage (paragraph 3.53)
- potential financial implications (paragraphs 4.01 to 4.08);
- potential equality implications (paragraphs 4.09 to 4.14).

Comments
Scotland could be a country where it stands for freedom and courage where Christians are free to live out their faith in accordance with the Bible in a
supportive society – not a persecutory one and not forced to adhere to politically correct views and laws that are in defiance of the Word of God. Present day Christians in Scotland do not force society to believe what they believe or expect them to adhere to their beliefs.
I would expect the Government to honour that and not force the religious bodies of our country to adhere to non-religious beliefs. I would expect the Scottish Government to respect marriage - which has been gifted to us by God, whether they believe in Him or not, and not try to amend or alter this.

I value and respect each and every individual, that does not mean I agree with their lifestyle.

In Scotland, the civil partnership arrangements make provision for same sex relationships. If change is required to accommodate transgenders and cohabiting heterosexual couples better to extend the provision within civil partnerships than redefine marriage.