

## ***262 Put it to the test***

One friend has said that the largest church in Norwich is full of young people, and yet they hold to the traditionalist view: 'Gay sex is not God-honouring or in any way acceptable to God.'

It's absolutely brilliant that those young people have discovered how passionately God loves them, but my main concern is for the 99% of their contemporaries who haven't a clue, and who are being led along by the materialistic, image-obsessed, personality-dominated culture that surrounds them.

OK, so why don't we put this to the test? I know it's totally unscientific and anecdotal, but let's find out what some non-churchgoers actually think. I've spoken to the over-55 non-churchgoing husband of a keen Christian, and to an under-55 male member of my family. I told them about what was happening in the church today on this issue, and let's just say they expressed negative sentiments about it, the under-55 being the more outspoken.

'Objection M'lord! The counsel is leading the witness.'

Fair enough, so why don't those of you who want to maintain the traditionalist view ask someone? You could express it something like this (do you think it's a fair way to put it?):

1a) Some churches take the line that the Bible teaching is clear, which is that gay sex is not acceptable to God, and so people in an active gay relationship aren't allowed to take leadership responsibilities in their churches.

1b) Other churches believe that, in the light of our increased understanding of human sexuality, Christians should be allowed to follow their consciences. If they feel that the cultural norms of New Testament times might now be outweighed by the wider principles of love, care, faithfulness etc., then it is OK for them to form a life-long commitment to the one they love and then to consummate that love within a marriage bond.

Let your non-churchgoer tell you what they think about those. Then maybe add this:

2) A few churches are considering withholding funds from their central church organisation and are also talking about splitting their church away from the main church structure.

It will be fascinating to hear what they have to say. Do please let us all know. Thanks.

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