

Accepting Evangelicals - Newsletter

March/April 2012

Dear Friends

Same-sex Marriage – we need your views...

Thank you to everyone who has commented on the [AE Blog last week](#) following positive comments about same-sex marriage by the new Dean of St Paul's Cathedral.

The Trustees of Accepting Evangelicals have been discussing what our position should be in relation to same-sex marriage and have produced the following statement. It recognizes the wide spectrum of opinions which members of Accepting Evangelicals hold, while also advocating active engagement in open discussion and prayerful reflection among Christians.

So now we want your views. Have we got the balance right? Are there things we have missed out or got wrong?

Let us know what you think by email – [follow this link](#).

Accepting Evangelicals – Position Statement on Same-sex Marriage

Recognising the variety of opinion on same-sex marriage which exists among members of Accepting Evangelicals and the lack of theological reflection in the Church on this issue:

- Accepting Evangelicals is committed to encouraging theological discussion and prayerful reflection on the nature and historical development of marriage in relation to growing calls for marriage to be extended to include same-sex couples.
- We believe there needs to be a broader understanding of the importance to society and of the Biblical roots of covenant commitments of many kinds.
- We observe that to society in general, where two people who love each other make a commitment, that is “marriage” (whatever name we give it) and that the positive nature of that commitment should be acknowledged in our discussion.
- We will seek to promote this discussion in a way which will enable mutual growth and understanding among all Christians, initially with those who take an affirming or accepting view of same-sex relationships.
- We also call on the wider church to engage in this process of theological reflection and express deep concern about some of the claims that have been made by those opposed to such a change.
- We believe that there needs to be a time of reconciliation, stepping back from polarised debate and listening to each other with mutual respect.

God Bless and Keep You

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