

Articles Offered to The Church of England for use in its Process of Shared Discussions on LGBTI Matters

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The assessment of gender and sexual difference in the early and modern Christian Church is examined using the results of this neurophysiological and psychological research study. The conclusions of this study show that the traditional teaching of the Christian Church on gender and sexuality cannot be correct. By removing the veil of the theological presumptions on gender and sexuality, which dominated both Church and society for the last two thousand years, new insights are gained, which include previously barred interpretations of biblical texts. It is shown that the teaching of Jesus on gender equality and gender and sexual variance would be completely accepted in the present day, and that all transgendered, transsexual lesbian, gay, heterosexual and bisexual people who attempt to live their lives in ways that fulfil the love of Christ, and who seek to express their own identities in roles that are true to themselves; must be accepted alike. Perhaps the most challenging outcome of this study comes from the conclusion that all sexual behaviour is governed by the purity of intention and there is no automatic condemnation of any same-sex act.

It is demonstrated that the abandonment of these doctrines and their replacement with doctrines that were more representative of those of a gender polarised Greco/Roman society came from the requirement to give respectability to the Church. It is also shown that this has led to the enforcement of a strong heterosexual, gender defined and an exclusive orthodoxy within which every method of expression of gender and sexually variant behaviour is considered to be a mortal sin and a disordered act. These transformations lead to the direct conclusion which states that what today are considered to be the traditional doctrines of the Christian Church on gender equality, and sexual and gender variant behaviour are built on a false foundation. They come from the need to obtain respectability in Greco/Roman society and they do not come from the teaching of Jesus himself.

For as long as the Christian Church was able to dominate the social structures and the moral values of society these doctrines could not be challenged. The changes in present day society mean that this control has now been broken. It is the clashes between what is perceived today as the common sense values, and the fervent reliance on the traditional doctrines is destroying the credibility of Christianity in the eyes of the world. No effective change will be possible until these core issues are properly addressed.

A series of papers have been written which examine the changes that are required. The first of these papers: Gilchrist, S. (2014): "Personality Development and LGB&T People:

A New Approach" considers the neurophysiological and the psychological processes which are involved in the early development of personality and self-identity without making any reference to the teaching and the doctrines of the Christian Church. That aspect is covered in the second document: Gilchrist, S. (2013), "A Reassessment of the Traditional Christian Teaching on Homosexuality and on Gender and Sexual Variation Using a New Neurophysiological and Psychological Approach". This paper examines the Christian doctrines from the neurophysiological and psychological standpoints. The third paper: Gilchrist, S. (2014): "Christianity and Crisis: An Overview of Gender and Sexual Difference in the Early and Modern Christian Church" covers parallel ground to that of the second paper, but instead it investigates these issues through an examination of the history and theology of the Christian Church. A fourth paper: Gilchrist, S. (2014): "Controversy and Crisis: Issues of Gender and Sexuality in the Present Day Christian Church" discusses the present day responses.

A fifth paper: Gilchrist, S. (2013): "Reform and the Christian Church" examines from a historical perspective some of the consequences for the Christian Church in the present day. A personal submission was made to the Church of England working party on Human Sexuality during its consultation phase: Gilchrist, S. (2012). "Submission to the Church of England House of Bishops Sexuality Review", 29 May 2012. This led to the production of the report "The Pilling Report". However the working party subsequently decided to exclude transgender matters from its report.

All of these papers (except the first) have been made available to the Church of England for use in their programme of shared discussions on LGBTI issues.

Use the web address in the footer for access to all of these papers.