



News Release

14 June 2012
10.00am, for immediate release.

Church Society Response to the Church of England Submission on Same-Sex Marriage

Church Society welcomes the Church of England's official submission to the government's 'consultation' on sex-same marriage, which argues strongly in favour of retaining the current definition of marriage as "the voluntary union for life of one man with one woman to the exclusion of all others".

The submission helpfully points out the confusion at the heart of the government's proposals: observing that there is no such thing as "religious marriage" or "civil marriage", but only civil and religious weddings, which provide different doors into an identical legal relationship.

It also highlights the way in which the far-reaching legal and constitutional implications of the proposed redefinition of marriage appear not to have been worked through by the government – with, for example, the worrying possibility of Church of England clergy being exposed to legal challenge in the courts.

The submission restates the Church of England's teaching embodied in Canon B30: "*The Church of England affirms, according to our Lord's teaching, that marriage is in its nature a union, permanent and lifelong, for better for worse, till death them do part, of one man with one woman, to the exclusion of all others on either side....*" Since this is on the basis of "our Lord's teaching" this is not something that can be redefined – whether by the government or by the church.

We, therefore, welcome and commend this clear and bold affirmation of the Bible's teaching and pray that it will receive the hearing it deserves.

Church Society supports the Keep Marriage Special campaign and all other efforts to defend the existing definition of marriage.

Church Society Council

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For further information please contact:

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Church Society exists to uphold biblical teaching and to promote and defend the character of the Church of England as a reformed and national Church. For further information visit www.churchsociety.org

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