

Bob Akers BA Theol (Hons) PGCE Local Preacher North of Scotland Mission Circuit.

Dear brother in Christ.

Could you please distribute the enclosed copies of this submission to the members of the Task Group of which you are chairing.

Thank you.

I understand that you have been considering the possible changes to the present understanding of marriage given the mandate from the Conference of 2016.

In your Biblical and Theological considerations of such changes I would ask that you consider the following:

- The procedural method of evaluation, biblically and doctrinally, must not be dictated by observations of what is happening in society. That would be to impute our weaknesses onto the character of God and shape God in our likeness.
- To take note of the consequences during another time when the people of God were persuaded to follow the practises of the people around them. Expulsion from the Promised Land was the consequence. "By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept" Psalm 137.
- That event in the life of the people of Judah was precipitated by their adoption of three seriously wrong approaches to learning about the methods of God, affecting God's character and purposes for people.
 1. The most serious of these three approaches was the worship (learning from in opposition to God's revelation) of the heavenly bodies. Ezekiel 8v 15-18
 2. The second most serious was the emphasis on learning from the geological processes and cycles of the earth and its fecundity, again in opposition to God's word Ezekiel 8v13,14
 3. The third of these foundationally wrong approaches was the learning from biological forms about the nature and course of human life, particularly when they felt that God was remote in these matters. Ezekiel 8v 5-12
- These three wrong approaches to the understandings, of who they were and what their purpose was, led God's people to a place of displeasure to God as detailed in Jeremiah's and Ezekiel's prophecies.

These three approaches are critical to our education system which is formed from a naturalist approach to life. That is; nothing is considered in the cosmological, geological and biological disciplines from a design point of view indicating a Creator. By definition a theistic, intelligent designing God's methods and purposes are ruled out.

Same sex marriage advocates take biological evolutionary history with resulting controlling genetic information, as foundational to their situation. Such an understanding is widely accepted in our society because of the reasons given in the preceding paragraph, but strangely without needing confirming proofs. See the Scottish Episcopal Church paper listed on the Methodist Website for a clear admission of this.

The history and conclusions generated by academic and professional disciplines denying the existence and influence of God in creation and salvation, not surprisingly, are contrary to those derived from a 'one book' revelation!

We have been trained in the disciplines of an atheist methodology/religion which ultimately will produce alternative life styles from those declared in Scripture, rather than accept that our Creator God has designed parameters for his creation which our sin has corrupted.

It would be dangerously wrong for the Church which declares Christ's name and holiness, to obscure the teaching of the new birth and the power to uphold design parameters (overcoming sin). Even more dangerous, given our Methodist heritage, if we obscure it based on the foundation of Lucretius' teaching (*Epicurean/Evolutionary poem serialised by the Guardian newspaper January 2013 to affirm a long heritage of atheistic humanism*) of whom John Wesley in his notes on Romans declared, "What a terrible instance have we of this in the writings of Lucretius! What vain reasonings, and how dark a heart, amidst so pompous professions of wisdom!"

The heart of what Lucretius taught, consistent with the teaching in Deuteronomy 4 identifying the process of idolatry, accurately describing the methodology of current biological investigation into the origin and nature of humans is found in v23 of Romans 1

"They refused to give thanks to the Designer/Maker and became darkened in their thinking.

They exchanged the beauty of the immortal Creator (who created without death) for ideas and theories (idols) shaped from humans, birds, animals and reptiles who die.

Therefore God gave them up to sexual impurity as they followed their lusts and disgraced their bodies with one another." Romans 1v21-24

Death is crucial to the present understanding of biological evolution. It is a system of death.

I enclose quotes which point to the tendentiousness of the current unchallenged teaching in cosmology, the most serious of the errors identified by God to Ezekiel, regarding information on the position of the earth in the universe and its movement.

This bias is the foundation for the ridiculing of God's ability to communicate a basic understanding of the universe which is accurate. It leads to Jesus' statement to Nicodemus regarding the wind and new birth and why he is not believed in our society, and in this context, to effectively ignoring our Lord's statement on marriage, "In the beginning God created them male and female....." .

I trust that the biblical, doctrinal and tradition material in this short submission you will be able to consider as beautiful.