

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

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 must not be dictated by observations of what is happening in society around. That would be to impute our weaknesses onto the character of God and shape him 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, thus 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. Ezekiel 8v13,14
  3. The third of these foundationally wrong approaches was the learning from biological forms about the nature of human life, particularly when they felt that God was remote in these matters.
- These three wrong approaches to the understandings, of who they were and what their purpose was, led to the excesses of behaviour of God’s people in all manner of ways listed in the detail of 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 is 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 above paragraph, but strangely without confirming proofs. See the Scottish Episcopal Church paper listed on the Methodist Website for a clear declaration 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 religion which ultimately will derive alternative life styles from those declared in Scripture. 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 new life 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 to affirm a long heritage of atheistic humanism*) of whom John Wesley in his commentary 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!"

Consider that statement by Paul given by revelation from God and consistent with the teaching in Deuteronomy 4 of avoiding idolatry but accurately describes the method of current biological investigation into the origin and nature of humans.

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

*They exchanged the beauty of the immortal Creator for ideas and theories (gods) 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 regarding 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 would not be believed, 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 there is sufficient biblical, doctrinal, intellectual consideration in this short submission and 2000 years of tradition in **mainstream** Christian theology and practise of marriage for your consideration in this very important matter.