



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Church of England debates sodomy



Paul Collier — self confessed sodomite

The case for a liberal attitude toward sodomy has been heard by the Church of England's governing body. The General Synod has been considering the issue for the first time since the row over the ordination of an openly sodomite bishop in the US. One speaker, "Sister" Rosemary, of the Community of the Holy Name in Nottingham, called the idea of forced celibacy for the clergy "abhorrent". For some sodomite clergy this celibacy was "just misery", she told the synod in London. She went on: "The idea of forced celibacy is as abhorrent as the idea of forced marriage. But what our church no longer requires of heterosexual clergy it still insists on for those who are homosexual." She called on the Church of England to "repent" of the "cruel way" in which the church had treated "gays".

Synod members voted to commend a House of Bishops' guide entitled Some Issues in Human Sexuality.

No change

The document does not change current church policy in which the church says heterosexual marriage is the proper context for sexual activity, but "gay" people in long-term relationships should not be excluded from the church. However it continues to say gay clergy should remain celibate. The Rev Paul Collier, from Southwark diocese in London, told the synod he was a "gay" man who had been in a life-long committed relationship for five years. He said he had been 10 years in ministry. He told the synod a policy of abstinence could only be "sterile and hopeless".

Bible

But the Rev David Banting of Harold Wood, Essex, said the Bible ruled against homosexual practice. He told the synod the sodomite lobby had resulted in a split within the church. "The assertiveness and the urgency of this particular lobby has led to widespread disturbance and schism in the Anglican church around the world," he said. The debate comes as a new Anglican commission, led by Archbishop Eames, decides how to proceed in the light of the row over Bishop Robinson. It is due to report early next year.

Comment.

Reference was made to the Bible during this debate by Rev David Banting of Harold Wood, Essex. However, while there are those within the Church of England who acknowledge what the Bible has to say regarding the sinfulness of sodomy, they do not seem to understand that the Bible condemns any professing Christian who wilfully stays within an organisation which increasingly is showing favour to and acceptance of sodomy! Jewish kings, Asa and Jehoshaphat, removed the sodomites who had been openly tolerated in the kingdom before their ascension. They were but enforcing the law of God under which Israel



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lived when they acted so. While the Christian is not under the ceremonial and civic law that then governed Israel, they are under the moral law of God and it requires the believer to put far away from them any who so defy God as does the sodomite. It is time those who feared God within the Church of England and the Church of Ireland, acted in keeping with their profession of allegiance to God and His law and forsook the uncleanness of this evil assemblage!