How would you characterise your views on the Bill in general?

In opposition

I am in opposition to the Scottish Governments proposals to redefine the legal definition of marriage because I am a Christian who very strongly holds to the truth that God has defined marriage in his Holy Word contained in the Bible as being a lifelong

How would you characterise your views on the introduction of same sex marriage, so that same sex couples can marry each other?

In opposition


How would you characterise your views on putting belief celebrants on the same footing as religious celebrants?

In opposition

Christian Ministers must be protected by the law from intimidation, and threat of being sued if they refuse to take part in a same sex marriage ceremony. Christian men and women who are marriage registrars must also be protected by the law if they exercise their freedom of conscience and exercise their right not to take part in a same sex marriage union based on their Christian beliefs that same sex marriage is Unbiblical and wrong in God's eyes. How can the Scottish Government guarantee that Christians will be protected by the law when recent cases like that of Lilian Ladelle the Christian Marriage Registrar who lost her job for refusing to take part in a Civil Partnership show that sexual rights trump religious beliefs? http://www.christian.org.uk/issues/2012/ladelle/ At the moment your promises of protection, based on recent cases such as this one, are at best highly questionable and at worst worthless.
How would you characterise your views on the arrangements for authorising celebrants to solemnise opposite sex and same sex marriage (including the opt-in procedures)?

In opposition

Can you guarantee that these arrangements (including opt-in procedures) will stand up to legal challenge, and will not be overruled by the European Court of Human Rights? Especially when recent cases like Lillian Ladelles (among many others) show that Christians rights are not valued by the European Courts. http://www.christian.org.uk/news/rupert-everett-opposes-gay-marriage-gets-death-threats-2/

How would you characterise your views on civil partnerships changing to marriages?

In opposition

Changing the law so that Civil Partnerships could change to Same Sex Marriages would cost the tax payers of Scotland a fortune! And this in the midst of a recession!

How would you characterise your views on allowing civil marriage ceremonies to take place anywhere, other than religious premises, agreed between the couple and registrar?

In opposition

Same Sex Marriage is wrong full stop. I, and my Christian brethren, are against it becoming legal no matter what premises it would be carried out on.

How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?

In opposition

If this refers to the 'opt in' procedure then I am against it as I said previously. If a church or denomination decides to 'opt- in' to allow same sex marriage within its buildings what happens to the individuals in that church who disagree with same sex

How would you characterise your views on allowing transgender persons to stay married when obtaining a full Gender Recognition Certificate, which provides legal recognition in the acquired gender?

In opposition

If a man or a woman has a 'sex change' operation then it is ridiculous for them to stay married to their spouse and have the new sex on the marriage certificate. What would it say Mr & Mr or Mrs & Mrs?

Would you like to comment on the wider issue of protections for those in society who may have concerns about same sex marriage?
Christians are currently being persecuted in the UK for holding to the Biblical definition of marriage. So far a Christian police chaplain has lost his job for expressing his support for Biblical marriage. Also a primary school teacher was threatened with dismissal for objecting to having to teach from a same sex marriage childrens book and parents wanting to withdraw their own children from a history lesson about gay marriage were refused and told that it is the schools legal duty to promote equality. Also Christian foster carers have their application to foster refused because of their not supporting same sex marriage. Churches have been refused the hire of council owned community centres for holding to a Biblical view of marriage. These are just a handful of the cases of current persecution that Christians in the UK who hold to a Biblical view of Marriage and therefore do not support same sex marriage have faced. REDACTION admitted to me in an email that he does not see how the law can protect Christians from prosecution if they object to same sex marriage based on their freedom of conscience and religious beliefs. I ask you again, how can you promise that Christians will be legally protected when all the current evidence says that Christians are and will be prosecuted for holding to a Biblical view of marriage?

Would you like to comment on the wider issue of freedom of speech?

Freedom of Speech was fought and died for in this country by our fore fathers. As a Christian I support and pray for the Government, I pay my taxes and I try and work hard and be a good citizen of this country. But if the Government brings in a law that is contradictory to what the Bible teaches then I must go with what the Bible says. The Bible teaches that marriage is between one man and one woman for life for the procreation and raising of children (Genesis 1-3, 1 Corinthians 7). Same sex marriage goes against what God says so I oppose it. This does not mean that I do not love men and women who are gay because I do and I would defend any gay person from bullying etc. I am commanded by God to love everyone I come across and I try to by his Grace and mercy. Part of loving someone is telling them the truth. And I as a Christian have a duty to love and tell others that Jesus Christ came to save sinners and that if you 'believe the Lord Jesus you shall be saved.' Acts 16:31.

Over the last 5 years or so there have been a number of cases of Christian evangelists being wrongly arrested for preaching the Good News of the Gospel that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, especially if they have mentioned at all that homosexuality is a sin in Gods eyes. What is the Scottish Government going to do to uphold freedom of Speech in Scotland and ensure that these disgraceful instances of Christians being arrested for preaching never occur again?

Would you like to comment on any other wider issues in relation to the Bill that are not mentioned above?

I pray that you will do what God wants which is to keep the legal definition of marriage in Scotland as the Biblical definition of marriage. May God bless you all and have mercy on your souls in Christ Jesus.
Are you responding as...

A Christian Scottish Man

Alasdair BM Macleod
9 July 2013