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

In opposition

Marriage is a creation ordinance and, by definition, cannot be between two men or two women. The second chapter of Genesis makes that plain.

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

In opposition

It is not for the state to try and re-define an ordinance laid down by the Creator in His word. Once the state starts interfering with basic creation mandates, it opens a Pandora’s box, with all kinds of disorders resulting. In Canada, for example, where marriage has been redefined, attempts have been made to legalise polygamy.

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

In opposition

It appears to me to be trivialising that which is a basic building block of society, something which is not a social construct but a creation ordinance.

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

As, by definition, persons of the same sex cannot be married, I strongly disapprove.

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

In opposition

God’s word, in passages such as Romans chapter 1, makes it plain that such behaviour is evidence of a society being in moral decline. I was not in favour of civil partnerships. Furthermore, it is not clear what new legal rights, if any, same-sex couples will receive which they do not already have through civil partnerships.

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

It will simply serve to trivialise what is a very serious undertaking.

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

In opposition

**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

**Would you like to comment on the wider issue of protections for those in society who may have concerns about same sex marriage?**

Several cases in the European Court of Human Rights show that the Article 9 right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion does not provide protection when there is conflict between Article 9 and other rights. As a celebrant, if these proposals become law, I leave myself open to being taken to court by two vindictive homosexuals for refusing to marry them. Any attempted protections in Scottish law could be overturned in the European Court of Human Rights.

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

It is clear from some of the cases involving registrars and bed and breakfast owners, that equality laws trump issues of religious liberty in the eyes of judges. Individuals who contented for freedom of speech in past generations, such as John Milton, the author of Areopatigica, must be spinning in their graves.

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

No.

**Are you responding as...**

a celebrant

David Martin
22 August 2013