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Latest Anglican News *Vol. 8, No. 1, 30 March, 2014*

“The weakness of liberal theology was that it conceded to the world the right to determine Christ's place in the world.” --- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Freedom to disagree with the Bible is an illusory freedom; in reality it is bondage to falsehood.” --- John R.W. Stott

2 Peter 2:1 “There will also be false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will introduce destructive heresies and even deny the Master who ransomed them, bringing swift destruction on themselves.” --- New American Bible

“Today I will live in the moment unless it’s unpleasant in which case I will eat a cookie!”
--- The Muppets

The Church of England, whither thou goest?

In a March 27 article in the Guardian U.K. newspaper, titled “Archbishop of Canterbury (ABC) signals end of the Church of England’s (COE) resistance to gay marriage”, Archbishop Justin Welby is quoted as saying, “I think the church has reacted by fully accepting that it's the law, and should react on Saturday by continuing to demonstrate in word and action, the love of Christ for every human being.” Has he thus totally caved in to the homosexual lobby?

From the Daily Mail came these words, “Changing the law has caused bitter divisions within the church. Globally, the Anglican Church remains deeply split on the issue and Archbishop Welby is trying to prevent the divide from spreading to the UK. Some conservative evangelical congregations are threatening to leave the Church of England if it compromises its opposition to gay sex by blessing civil partnerships.”

From 29 March, Gay marriage is legalized in England, with dozens of civil ceremonies planned around England for one minute past midnight. It is further reported that at least seven clergy couples are preparing to marry in defiance of their bishops, though none are known to be planning a public ceremony. Defiance because the COE has still maintained that in accordance with the teaching of Scripture, the holy Traditions of the ancient and undivided Church, and the historic Prayer Book the covenant of marriage be between a man and a woman.

Will the Church of England (COE) follow The Episcopal Church (TEC) down the road to apostasy, or is it already there? Will the COE split wide open as TEC did 30 years ago? Will this

step force a complete break with the Global South Anglican churches and GAFCON, in which CHC, the REC and ACNA are charter members?

Of course, this has set the blogosphere aflame:

From 'The hermeneutic of continuity' a blog written Father Tim Finigan, a Roman Catholic Priest in London, "Just recently the Government stripped familiar words like husband, wife and widow from a raft of our laws simply because these words don't line up with the Government's new definition of marriage. Lord Wilson, in a speech he gave supporting gay marriage, suggested that marriage to the dead was an option. He said "if it really helps the broken-hearted, we have at least to ask: why not?"

From Joan Francis, a regular commentator on our Anglican world came, "It would be sufficient if the story's title said only 'the ABC signals the end of the C of E----- go for it GAFCON!!! We knew we didn't need the C of E'."

To which Bishop Terry Kelshaw responded, "Here is one sticking point to 'established church' life? The ABC. has no other direction so you are right Joan.....go for it and call for a new Province of Anglicanism (GAFCON)."

From the noted Theologian and Former Dean of Nashotah House, an Anglo-Catholic Seminary, Robert S. Munday, "With the ACNA and GAFCON I, and now II, it is time to recognize that a major and lasting realignment in Anglicanism has already begun and is the most significant development in Anglicanism since the Reformation, in the 16th century."

From blogger Christopher Johnson comes, "Church of England? Before you die your well-deserved death, could you do me a favor? Take an actual stand about something. Tick somebody off. This splitting-the-difference crap is getting really old."

From Justin Ashforth, "One of the things I have always loved about the Anglican Communion is the tolerance that has been embraced, however as a communicant on the conservative end of the spectrum I find my views are no longer tolerated, and I am labeled, a bigot, a homophobe, or a self-righteous hypocrite, these epithets being slung at me from my supposed brothers and sisters in Christ. Now the church that has been part of my heritage for hundreds of years excludes me on the basis of inclusion. Who is the real hypocrite?"

From retired British clergyman, the Rev Dr Peter Mullen, "Marriage is a Christian Sacrament instituted of God in the time of man's innocency for, among other things, the procreation of children and the avoidance of fornication. Neither of these two things is possible in same-sex "marriage."

Blessings,

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Sources: theguardian.com, the-hermeneutic-of-continuity.blogspot.com, kimgrams.org, virtueonline.org