

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

PERSONAL EMAIL TO ALL SENATORS REPRESENTING SA

21 March 2015

Dear Senator

I write in reference to your forthcoming vote on the Freedom to Marry Bill.

First of all, thank you for standing for Parliament and for working hard to help make Australia a strong and better place, and to maintain its role as a bastion for democracy and free speech. Your efforts are valued.

As you will gather from the comments below I am not in favour of the Bill. As my representative, I trust you will do me the courtesy of at least reading this email and considering the debating points contained.

I appreciate that by now you have probably made up your mind.

If you have decided to support the Bill I have only 6 points to make, some of which have not had much currency so far in the debate:

1. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD - in conformance with God's word and the UN Covenant a child has a right to natural parents. This means a father and mother - the traditional family. This is also an historical fact. If you vote yes, you will be saying that these rights do not matter and that our present "rights" to innovate with alternative lifestyles are more important than the rights of children. This will be a triumph for self over the public interest. Who will stand up for the unborn? Who cares?

2. SOCIAL CAPITAL - A YES vote will not be a value-add to the "sustainability" of our social capital. It will be just just the opposite - big time. It will erode social capital - which is frail enough as is. If you are intending or leaning to vote yes then you at least should do the risk-analysis of the likely social impact. There is a huge downside and no-one on the Yes side has provided any comfort about social impact. You will have voted for failure. We want you to be a success, not a failure. We don't want you to look back in years to come, weighing up your contribution to society, and realise you made a huge mistake - and carry the guilt of that to the grave. Or being remembered by future generations in a disparaging way.

3. RIGHTS VS RESPONSIBILITY - it's time to look at the big picture - and take a strategic view. We have all been long on self-indulgence, joining

in the clamour for personal rights and entitlement. How often have we stopped to think about the other side to the equation - responsibility. We have a responsibility to think of what's best for the nation at large, rather than our own personal satisfaction - to think about the heritage we will leave for unborn generations and for what is foundational and essential for building effective, functional communities.

4. NEED FOR A NARRATIVE - it's about culture. Culture can drive strategy. Weaken the culture and you'll weaken the strategy. Help rebuild the culture and we'll get there together. We have had many thought bubbles about "my vision for the future" from recent leaders. Yet there has been no narrative to outlast one days' newspaper that has had enough "oomph" to galvanise the nation and guide strategy and culture. As a result there's no "let's go" attitude. No "where", no "how", no "why", no hope. There's no "our vision".

And what about civics, national identity and patriotism. There little that is held of value from our past. Our children aren't encouraged to be proud of Australia and being Australian. They're told about all the wrongs Australia has done and little about what we are willing to fight for to defend.

Come on guys - why don't you start at the top with an empowering narrative that can win the hearts and minds of the majority. You won't get there with building blocks like the marriage bill - that's a side-show and no substitute for true nation-building. Where's the return on investment for that proposal? Go for value-adding strategies. Time spent on those is a better investment on your time than "bread and circuses".

When will politicians learn that the most important game in town is "community development". The family as we know it is the foundation for healthy communities. Where's the narrative for building sustainable, innovative, daring and caring communities. Where are the policies for de-centralisation and community empowerment - policies that will deliver more value at the local community level - more bang for our bucks. Stick \$1 dollar in one end of the pipe in Canberra and out pops one cent at the local community level - and it's called "one size fits all". Support for the Freedom to Marry Bill is like saying "I can't think of anything nation-building to offer you - how 'bout a lolly".

5. BLESSING FOR AUSTRALIA - as our Constitution says, we humbly rely on the blessing of Almighty God. That's part of our heritage. That blessing is dependent on being law-abiding. A vote for this Bill is breaking THE LAW and there will be consequences. Like the old saying says, "the road

to Hell is paved with good intentions".

How can you serve your country, which has a clearly and prominently stated value about relying on God's blessing, by ignoring consideration of that value in any piece of legislation?

6. ETHICS & MORALITY - our personal opinion is not the arbiter of what is right and what is wrong. It is of no value, has no authority and is impossible to justify objectively. There is only one truth. Our suppositions about "truth" originate in our seething hearts and have no authority or "business case" whatsoever. We have been clearly told already (for thousands of years) what is right and wrong from the original source, from the one who has absolute authority and sovereignty in the realm of ethics, morality and the growth and well-being of humanity. We can defend the right, stand against the wrong, make laws that align with absolute authority, but never should assume God's role - that's out of bounds. How arrogant that would be - even if we had the crowd to support us. Hitler had a crowd and he led them all the wrong way. He tried to define right and wrong, got hopelessly confused in the process, and the crowd cheered him on as they clung to the new world order of what was supposed to be right and wrong. Even some churches sang louder to avoid confronting the truth evident by the noise of the trains going past on the way to the concentration camps. It's not about being popular, it's about doing what has already been defined as the right way to think, feel and do. If you say something is right and God says its wrong then you are on the wrong side of His word and on the wrong side of history. No sense being "pragmatic", better to be wise.

SUMMARY

If you believe in the God of the Bible then you MUST vote against the Bill, because it is plainly offensive to Him and His law. It's black and white - no room for grey. No time for equivocation. No time for having a bet each way.

If you don't believe in God, that doesn't change reality one little bit. Though you don't or won't acknowledge Him, He's still there. You'll get a chance to meet Him one day when you have to account for your actions before His judgment seat - from which there is no escape. It won't be pleasant - and all alone without crowd support.

Your job is not to define truth, only to apply it diligently, lovingly and justly, in accordance with God's law, love and justice.

Stick to the highway and forget about the side tracks, which will only

take us the wrong way to the wrong place. We need to look at the direction we are going strategically.

The picture I always have in my mind is of an Anzac coming home from World War 2, sits down to breakfast at the kitchen table in his usual way, picks up a 2015 newspaper (he's trapped in a time-warp) reads page after page about about the wholesale social change (with all its drugs, sex, pornography, permissiveness, dis-respect and lack of care), takes a deep breath and says "is this what we fought for?"

You all know the illustration of the frog in the water - put a frog in a saucepan of cold water and turn up the heat. Even though he has the ability to jump out at any time he will get boiled alive - because he won't react to the gradual change in temperature. So it is with social change when it's going in the wrong direction - like in Germany in the 1930's.

Why let our great country be conquered by stealth. The sum total of all the incremental change at the community level since World War 2 has been huge - and left the community dislocated, paralysed, dis-empowered and with little hope. No wonder we have little respect for self-serving politicians. They might care - but they fiddle while Rome burns. They might have some great ideas but they aren't strong enough to swim against the tide of party culture and minority opinion as good pioneering leaders are often called to do.

If you intend to vote NO (against the Bill), praise God.

If you intend to vote YES (for the Bill), you have been warned. There will be unavoidable consequences for you personally and we will all suffer through the collateral damage you will have caused. Not even the best social engineers can anticipate or manage what's to come from passage of this Bill.

It's not about you, your ambition, your prestige in the party, your claim to fame in the daily news, your climb to the top or your future . It's about public service for the good of the nation, for the silent majority as well as the noisy special-interest minority. Get that right and everybody wins - especially politicians - men and women of integrity, honesty and dedication. There will always be self-servers, but let them be led by someone who knows better.

Please make a courageous stand. Better to fear God than to fear man.

If you fear being embarrassed about being seen as a Christian, or being

a turncoat, at least make a refreshing, bold stand on the basis of equal rights for children, social responsibility, social capital and strategic priorities.

This is a seminal Bill. It's time to stand up and be counted. A time for a strategic view rather than a time to be popular. A time for leading, not following.

Voting YES might make you feel good and secure for the moment, but it won't secure your future.

If you've got this far in my email, congratulations - it's a win for listening, for consultation and respect for your constituency. May God bless you in your deliberations and actions.

If you haven't got this far, then who will ever know. It will be just another bit of paper "blowing in the wind". Perhaps someone else will read it and say "yep, that makes sense".

Yours respectfully
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