

Dear St Matthew's,

As a follower of Jesus, I have two commands I choose to follow:

- i) Love God with everything I have (Deut. 6:5)
- ii) Love my neighbour as myself (Lev 19:18).

There is a profound truth in this freedom to fully obey God. Sometimes these commands seem to be in tension but they are never in conflict.

On Friday, it was reported that I said homosexuality is an abomination. The reporter was misquoting from an article ([Storm Clouds Approaching The Anglican Church](#)) I wrote to you back in Easter.

I am conservative on Christian marriage and believe God ordained this to be between a man and a woman for the gift of life. That is why I won't be following the Anglican church in New Zealand (ACANZP) down the path it has chosen of blessing homosexual marriage. As a Christian pastor, I believe my calling is to teach what God has revealed in his word, the Bible.

My opinion about homosexuality is quite insignificant in the eternal scheme of things. What God thinks and says about homosexuality is of eternal significance.

For my family and friends who identify as homosexual, I have nothing but the love and truth of Jesus Christ to offer you. I know what a hard road it is to walk apart from God. I may be wrong, you may be wrong but we discern God's truth by sharing his life and love with each other- ideally around the dinner table, then we live out our lives to our best (yet imperfect) understanding of that truth.

For those of you who are reading this, I bless you in Jesus name, for God's will is that all people might know his blessing in Christ. But you also need to know that God is clear; if we choose a path of sin, this blessing will be removed. With all my heart I don't want that for you or for me.

Please forgive me if my words or actions have wronged you, but please know that I seek to love you as myself, and I choose to love God with everything I have.

Stu