

After the Postal Survey: Some things Change, Some Stay the Same

The results of the postal survey are in. More than 60% of those who participated have said “Yes” to the question of “Should the law be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry?” The federal government has indicated it will now introduce legislation to make that change. And it has promised to protect the religious freedoms of groups and individuals in any draft bill.

If Parliament passes such legislation, what will that mean for our country, and for Christian witness here in Australia?

The short answer, of course, is “We don’t really know.” As the book of James reminds us, our life is a mist that appears and vanishes; we have no sure knowledge of what tomorrow may bring, on this or any other issue. But prudence still requires us to make some shrewd guesses about the direction things appear to be heading in. And God’s word assures us of some things that won’t be changing, whatever the decisions of our parliament.

Some Things Change

If the proposed government legislation is passed by the Parliament, then we should be under no illusions about its long-term consequences: the shape of our culture really will change. The same-sex marriage debate was never about keeping marriage the same, and simply inviting a new group to participate in it; it was about redefining marriage itself.

To change the law in the way that has been proposed would be to build into the institution of marriage, as it is practised in our society, the assumption that marriage is not even symbolically about procreation or the complementarity of the sexes; that it is, in its essence, about nothing other than the validation of a permanent, romantic relationship between two individuals. That broader cultural change is one that has been a long time in the making, especially in the aftermath of the contraceptive revolution that took place in the 1960s. And now, if the Marriage Act ends up being rewritten, that changed understanding will be imbedded into the symbols and institutions of our society.

This will not be without consequences for churches, Christians and Christian organisations who want to be obedient to the teaching of Scripture. On a question as basic as “what is a marriage?”, the answer we give will be fundamentally different from the legal answer. There will be new and inevitable points of friction between the rules by which we order our common life, and the laws of our land. There will be new costs for Christian faithfulness, and new temptations to face. We will find ourselves confronted with new and painful reminders of how far out of step we are with the mainstream of our culture, holding beliefs that are widely considered not just wrong, but hateful. And, in the short term at least, there will be increasing levels of suspicion directed toward churches and Christians. Especially from those who have felt wounded by the debate leading up to the postal survey.

Furthermore, redefining marriage legally cements a policy that removes children’s rights to be raised by both their biological parents, wherever possible.

Some things really will change.

giving: financial stewardship update

Last Week:	\$4,221.40
Weekly Required:	\$5,500.00
Shortfall:	\$0.00

electronic fund transfer

A/C Name:	SLE Church
Bank:	National Australia Bank
BSB:	084-424
A/C No:	396558544
Description:	Offering

26 November 2017

welcome to sle church

We are delighted to have you join us today! It is our prayer that you will enjoy all aspects of our gathering this morning.

about

The ‘SL’ in ‘SLE’ means St Lucia. The suburb our church is located in. The ‘E’ stands for English. We are a church family made of many migrant families from across South-East Asia, and we are English speaking. The ‘E’ also stands for Evangelical. We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services.

get connected

Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are new to SLE Church, have a prayer request, family news, or change of contact details please email: [info@slechurch.org.au](mailto:info@slechurch.org.au) or call 3371 7589.

Connect with us online: [slechurch.org.au](http://slechurch.org.au) or ‘like’ us for further updates at [facebook.com/slechurch](https://facebook.com/slechurch)

service times

9:00am and 11:00am



# I BELIEVE



Exploring the Apostle's Creed

## current sermons

Last Week: I Believe in the Holy Spirit

This Week: I Believe in the Church [Revelation 7:9-17]

Next Week: I Believe in the return of Jesus  
[1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11]

## serving grace

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Randy	Bryan
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Jansen <i>Alan</i>	Chi <i>Alice</i>
M.Tea	Stephanie Tania	Tania Shelley
Wash Up	SOS Randy	SOS Dan
Welcome	Meng Yin Karilyn Esther <i>Andrew</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Hui Xian</i> <i>Marilyn</i>	Amy Ken Stephanie
Stewards	Alvin Norman Sunny <i>Helen</i> <i>Josh</i> <i>Li Kai</i>	Jeffery Meng Yin Matthew
Piano	Gary	
Bass	Aaron	
Drum	Lucas	
PA	Matt Chris	

## community news

### Church Wide Prayer Meeting for the Future

All are welcome to come for the prayer meeting 3 Dec from 1:15pm-2:15pm, SLE Hall.

### Impact 2018—Living as Citizens of the Gospel (from Philippians) | Jan 10, 10am-7pm | Toong Chai Presbyterian, Singapore

Main speakers: Ivan Chow and Denesh Divyanathan

What to expect: Talks from Philippians and lots of workshops on practical topics.

Who is this for: For Singaporean students studying all over Australia. Join us for a day of talks from God's Word, getting to know other Singaporean Christians studying across Australia, over a BBQ dinner.

### Ignite Training Conference—Dust to Glory | 15 Jan-19 Jan, 2018 | 1 Cross Street, Toowong

Registration: Early bird—by 11:30pm, Thursday 30 November, 2017

For more information head to

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ignite-training-conference-2018-tickets-37867545849>

## prayer points

1. Praise God for the Spirit's work: inspiring Scripture (focusing us on Jesus); regenerating our hearts to give us new life (by faith in Jesus); sanctifying us (to progressively make us more like Jesus); gifting us (to help us build the body of Christ); and, empowering us in evangelism (to proclaim Jesus).

2. Pray that we would grow in a biblically grounded understanding and sensitivity to the work of the Spirit within us. Pray that our lives would honour the work of the Spirit as we allow the Word to saturate and change our lives, as we grow in Christ-likeness, and as we help others to see the work and beauty of Jesus.

3. Praise God for the end of examinations for most of the students among us. Praise God for the privilege of higher education. Pray for the students to trust Jesus and keep moulding their identity around Him rather than their results. Pray for the students among us who are still studying and headed towards exams—for God to sustain them in their studies.

4. Pray for endurance for all of us as the year heads towards a close. Pray that we would grow in love and patience with each other even in our growing tiredness. Pray for physically restful and spiritually renewing holidays.

## date claimers

1. Prayer Meeting for the Future—3 Dec
2. Christmas Program for Sunday School Years 1-6—19 Nov, 26 Nov, 3 Dec
3. Impact 2018—10 January, 2018
4. Ignite Training Conference—15-19 January, 2018

## church contacts

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# I Believe In The Church

## 1. Introduction

## 2. The Church

## 3. The Holy Church

A. Cleansed by the blood of the Lamb

B. Set apart for God

## 4. The Catholic Church

A. 'According to the whole'; universal

B. United in truth

C. United in Relationship

*Denominationalism*

*Meeting together*

*Helping each other stay on track*

*Putting aside all differences that don't matter*

## 5. Conclusion: The Holy Catholic Church