

## **Presenting Christ through the Same Sex Marriage Debate**

Same-Sex Marriage has rapidly turned into the 'shibboleth' issue for European and American liberal societies. When Christians are asked about this the question, it is often posed as an accusation rather than a question. In this seminar we will look at how we can connect with this issue and use it as an opportunity to present the Christian Gospel without being perceived as homophobic, irrelevant, and out of touch with modern society. The question of same-sex marriage leads us to deeper questions as to what marriage is, what it means to be human, and how we relate to other human beings. The speaker has engaged with journalists, politicians, educators, and leading LGBT spokespersons in discussing these issues.

David Robertson is the minister of St Peter's Free Church in Dundee, Scotland (a church that is best known for being the church of Robert Murray McCheyne) and the Director of the Solas Centre for Public Christianity. He is the author of *Awakening* (a contemporary account of McCheyne's life), *The Dawkins Letters*, *Magnificent Obsession* and *Quench*. He has been invited to debate and discuss all over the UK and elsewhere in Europe. This has been done in cafes, bars, libraries, universities, pubs, restaurants, village halls, and even occasionally in churches! David is a chaplain at the University of Dundee, columnist, broadcaster and debater. His interests include history, reading, music, politics, theology and football – he supports Dundee FC although his other team is Barcelona! David is married to Annabel and they have three children; Andrew (27), Becky (26) and Emma Jane (16).

### **I. Introduction**

1. How did we get here?
2. Does it really matter?

### **II. Argue from Reason**

1. Nature
2. History
3. Society
4. The Poor

### **III. Ask Questions**

1. What is marriage?
2. What is sex?
3. Why does it matter?
4. Why has the gay rights movement changed its mind on SSM?
5. What's wrong with People being committed to one another?

### **IV. Present the Consequences**

1. Consequences for current marriages.
2. Consequences for future marriages.
3. Consequences for children.
4. Consequences for society.
5. Consequences for the Church.

## **V. Take Back the Language**

1. Use Buzz words.
2. Use 'liberal' concepts.
3. Use non-Christian writers and speakers.

## **VI. Present Christ**

1. In our Manner.
2. In our content.

### ***Suggested Reading***

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield – *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*, Crown and Covenant-2012

Thomas E Schmidt – *Straight and Narrow* - IVP - 1995

### **Other Resources:**

*Edinburgh debate* - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVKadiN0eIU>

*Fleabyte on SSM* - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syyywphfvqQ>

*Solas Submission* - <http://www.solas-cpc.org/SolasResponse.pdf>

*Debate with Peter Tatchell* - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Th2MJWtp6c4>