

Quotes on Sexuality in the Church of England

Identity –

"homos and lesbos will not enter the kingdom of heaven" – *quoted to a senior priest recently*

Priest, to me: "you scrub up well. You usually look either mumsy or dykey".

"You are not a lesbian! That is a lie from the pit of hell and you are being deceived! Repent!" *A church leader, flanked by 4 others, whilst shaking my head and touching private areas of my body.*

'You are doing the devil's work' *from a church member, regarding our support of our transgender son. She kept referring to our girls. We have 2 daughter's and a son. Vicar did very little.*

'That the homosexual feeling, like the heterosexual... needs a strict self-control; and that much teaching and instruction on the subject is needed; we of course do not deny,' *wrote former C of E curate **Edward Carpenter in 1908***

"I only truly understand what it means to be a human by my role as a man in relationship to a woman, being defined by what I am not." Also "But some people believe they can be both genders -*scoff*" - *from a Bishop.*

Ministry

"We've had a board meeting and decided that you can no longer serve or volunteer in any capacity at all, but especially not with the children. This decision is final. It's from higher up so don't shoot the messenger." *Leader of a ministry I served voluntarily for 5 years before coming out. Even a promise of celibacy was not enough for them. I was not invited to said board meeting of straight men.*

'You're a false shepherd' – *from senior evangelical woman to well known gay priest with 30 years dedicated service to the Church of England.*

Priest replying to a parent, asking why their LGBT+ child (aged 16 to 18, who wanted to be a young leader), would have to sign that "sex is only appropriate between man and woman in marriage." Reply was: Jesus did not accept everyone. You need right behaviour. Think of incest, bestiality and homosexuality" I joke you not ...

Taint

You are too immoral to be under our roof (Christian shared house), you are going to hell.

'Molested your first child yet?'

When talking to colleagues about why the conversation in the CofE about LGBT people is so much trickier than the debate about the ordination of women, one of them replied: being a woman won't keep you out of heaven, but being gay will.

Bisexual people in opposite gender marriages bring dishonour to their relationships.

When wrestling with my faith and sexuality, decided to confide in my parish priest who then banished me from the church and told me never to come back as I was going straight to hell and because of my choices, I was beyond redemption. He also suggested that I talk to my GP about treatment, and he would take further advice on how the church could "cure" me.

I have several but what did the most spiritual harm to me personally was when a leader in our regional church would not sit beside me at a visioning gathering. The only remaining seat in a large circle and he walked passed it and chose to stand near by.

Timing/being sensible

'Why can't you wait, like the women did?' from Anglo-Catholic Bishop to one of his clergy planning their marriage. The priest responded that the women had had to wait 40 years and that he was 50 and would be dead in 40 years.

'What is needed is unpressurised time for prayerful study and reflection, pursued within congregations in whatever ways that are most helpful and acceptable and with readiness to listen to those who can speak relevantly from personal experience'

Issues in Human Sexuality 1991

'We are planning to produce a range of resources in a variety of formats that we hope will be accessible, helpful and attractive to a wide range of people.' ***Living in Love and Faith. Goals. 2019***