

Dear Members of Parliament,

~~Thank you for your willingness to serve as our MP for Kitchener-Conestoga.~~ Thank you for your willingness to serve as Members of Parliament. Serving the common good in our time and place is a challenging task, and I pray that you will have both wisdom and courage to make good choices about complex issues. One of those, it seems to me, is the challenge to support a principled pluralism in the area of sexual ethics, and Bill C-6 is a current example. The government's explanation of the reason for the bill asserts the imposition of a view of sexual orientation and gender identity that is in fact not affirmed by many of us Canadians. I am a Baptist theologian, but I share the view of the Catechism of the Catholic Church that a homosexual orientation is "intrinsically disordered," and that homosexual practice is sinful. The Roman Catholic view is in fact the catholic (universal) view of the matter in every Christian tradition until the revisionism of the past few decades. That means that any Christian pastor who wants to be faithful to a natural reading of Scripture and the catholic interpretation of those texts will have to counsel persons with same-sex attraction to say no to those desires. In other words, we cannot affirm the rationale for such a law.

I am aware that the proposed law does not criminalize conversion counselling when adults consent to it, and there is no money exchanged. But it does forbid counselling teenagers in the direction of rejecting homosexual desires or affirming their biological sex. I know that the Minister of Justice has said that the expression of personal opinion on these issues in private conversation is allowable, but his comments are not expressed in the law itself, and his comments are stated in terms of "support" for persons with questions about sexual orientation or gender identity. Therefore, I am not confident that his assurances will have any value in the application of the law.

Prime Minister Trudeau is fond of talking about diversity as the strength of Canada, but for him that diversity does not seem to include those of us who still affirm traditional sexual ethics. The fact is that Canadians hold diverse views on sexual ethics, and only a principled pluralism will enable us to live together in peace and mutual respect. So my appeal to you is to recognize this and make the case in caucus for an amendment to the Bill that will limit its application to the coercive tactics that all of us reject.

Respectfully,

Stan Fowler

*Stanley K. Fowler*  
Professor Emeritus of Theology  
Heritage College & Seminary