

Statement on Same Sex Marriage by Pastors Phil and Chris Pringle
24 April 2017

Dear Church,

As you know, there is a postal vote on the issue of same sex marriage coming in September to all Australians registered to vote – forms will start arriving in the mail from September 12 – and we have until November 7 to post them back.

Unlike elections, this is not a compulsory vote, but we should all take part since it is such an important issue and the Australian public have been given the opportunity for their opinions to be expressed directly, not just through their elected members in Parliament.

The Bible gives us standards for living that we teach and follow because we know it's God's best for people. Therefore, our church's position is that marriage is between a man and a woman as **seen in the Bible from the very beginning;**

Genesis 2:22-24 (ESV) says ²² *And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.* ²³ *Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."* ²⁴ *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*

We know that Australia will be blessed by following God's ways so we believe that the current definition of marriage in Australian law should not be changed to include same sex marriage. This means voting NO to the question in the plebiscite.

We also believe in maintaining grace, compassion and understanding for all people. When Jesus was on earth, He loved people from all walks of life. His will is that we do the same. So, we are respectful and civil to those we disagree with. We are courageous in our convictions but also wise in our communication.

We pray for God's will to be done, and for God's kingdom to come.

So:

- **Let us use this opportunity to have our say**
- **Let us maintain our Christian convictions**
- Let us love people and let God's grace shine through us into our community.

Yours in Christ,

Pastors Phil and Chris Pringle