

Other articles by Tony

PREPARE FOR THE RETURN OF CHRIST - BEWARE MATERIALISM (1 Tim 3:6-21). Paul warns against the longing of riches and urges instead a longing for holiness in preparation for the Return of Jesus. See <https://christianteaching.org.uk/materialism-1-timothy-63-21/> .

WHAT IS CELTIC CHRISTIANITY? This short article outlines the history of Celtic Christianity in the UK and the main differences between Celtic Christianity and Roman Christianity which is dominant in both Catholicism and Protestantism. See <https://christianteaching.org.uk/what-is-celtic-spirituality/> .

THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD. Many churches and Christians soft-pedal or ignore the fear of God. So they don't remember they are accountable to God and will stand before him as Judge one day. Worse still, they don't (gently and lovingly) warn unbelievers about this accountability, which is profoundly unloving. See <https://christianteaching.org.uk/there-is-no-fear-of-god/> .

THE ORIGIN OF LIFE Some biologists draw illogical conclusions about God from their research. They understand science but not theology. Their research does not, in fact, disprove the existence of God. To say it does is a leap of faith on their part! See <https://christianteaching.org.uk/the-origin-of-life/> .

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE LOVE OF MONEY: It is idolatrous, causes evil, arrogant presumption, anxiety, discontentment, and disqualifies from Christian leadership. See <https://christianteaching.org.uk/the-love-of-money/> .

HOW TO DEAL WITH CREATIONISM Some Christians believe Genesis 1-3 is a literal description of creation. Others believe it is symbolical theology and that God used evolution as a method of creation. How should we relate to this difference of opinion? See <https://christianteaching.org.uk/how-to-deal-with-creationism/> .

WHY HAVE ATHEISTS STARTED THEIR OWN CHURCH? It has songs, readings, 'sermon'. Atheist churches a hundred years ago all petered out. The real church has lasted 2000 years. How sad that people think they can have the benefits of religion without having the heart of religion: Jesus.

WHO ARE THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES? They do not believe in the Trinity, the deity of Jesus and his bodily resurrection. They believe only 144,000 will go to heaven and that Jesus returned in 1914. See <https://christianteaching.org.uk/who-are-the-jehovahs-witnesses/> .

A CRITIQUE OF CHRISTIAN SONGS. Singing and making music is important in worship. Revivals of the Christian faith have always been marked by singing. However, worship is not a sing-along, but the expression of a heightened consciousness of and response to the Lord. See <https://christianteaching.org.uk/a-critique-of-christian-songs/>

DO WE REALLY BELIEVE IT? – A GOOD FRIDAY MESSAGE. Are we prepared to be truly dedicated and self-sacrificing because of Good Friday? A short meditation. <https://christianteaching.org.uk/do-we-really-believe-it-a-good-friday-message/> .

HE IS RISEN This short article gives my reasons for believing that the BODILY resurrection of Jesus is absolutely essential for our salvation. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! See <https://christianteaching.org.uk/he-is-risen/>

JESUS IS VICTOR: He overcame all human sin, the military power of Rome, the compromising religious leaders of Israel, death and Hell. See <https://christianteaching.org.uk/jesus-is-victor/>

THE CHURCH AND HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE

The Church of England and other churches are currently discussing this. Here are my comments:

MY ATTITUDE TO HOMOSEXUALS

God commands us to love our neighbour whatever his/her sexuality, race, religion, nationality social standing. We are called to love all our neighbours equally. The Bible is clear that not to do so is a serious sin. In fact, God says that if we don't love them, we don't love him. We must love and respect our homosexual neighbour as ourselves.

I have always sought to show love and respect for homosexuals. I have had extensive dialogue with them and two experiences confirm my respect.

I once spoke at a meeting at Birmingham University about the biblical teaching on homosexual practice. There was a demonstration against me outside the venue. I spoke and answered questions in my normal respectful way. Some of the questions were from demonstrators who had come into the meeting (wearing their campaign badges). I was very encouraged when, towards the end of the evening, one of them (whose questions I had answered) said publicly “You’re not such a bad bloke are you.” I took that as a clear approval of my respectful approach.

On another occasion I was involved in a TV debate in Norwich with a number of homosexuals. I caught the train back to London and sat with a number of them. We chatted at length and eventually one of them, who had a leading role in a gay church in London, invited me to take a Communion service at that church. I didn’t feel able to accept but that is another approval of my respectful approach to homosexuals.

However, loving someone doesn’t mean we have to agree with them. So, loving our homosexual neighbour does not mean that we have to agree with him/her. Love is consistent with respectful disagreement. I believe in the biblical teaching that sex is a wonderful gift of God to be fully enjoyed within the context of heterosexual marriage. Nevertheless, I believe homosexuals should be given strong support to face the emotional pressures on them (including facing hateful reactions from some people).

COMMENTS ON THE C OF E REPORT “LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH”

I believe the report is weak and misleading in its approach to the biblical teaching. I wrote the following comment in the report:

“I understand people wanting to make the Bible accept homosexual practice. But it doesn’t. This may sound like naïve dogmatism. But, for 35 years, I have been carefully weighing up the arguments used to try to make out that the Bible accepts homosexual practice. I have talked with many pro-gay people. The idea that the Bible approves homosexual practice is simply incorrect. People may want to justify homosexual practice in other ways, but they shouldn’t try to make the Bible agree with them.” See my full paper:

<https://christianteaching.org.uk/comments-on-the-c-of-e-report-living-in-love-and-faith/>

I have also written comments on the Methodist report and study guide on homosexual marriage, which suffers from the same weaknesses. See

CRITIQUE OF THE METHODIST REPORT AND HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

<https://christianteaching.org.uk/critique-of-methodist-report-on-homosexual-relationships/> and

CRITIQUE OF METHODIST STUDY GUIDE ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE REPORT

<https://christianteaching.org.uk/critique-of-methodist-study-guide-on-same-sex-marriage-report/>

In addition, I have written:

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ON HOMOSEXUAL PRACTICE?

<https://christianteaching.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/biblehomosexualpractice.pdf>

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE CHURCH: A STUDY GUIDE

<https://christianteaching.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/homosexualityandthechurch.pdf>

ARE ARGUMENTS THAT THE BIBLE ACCEPTS HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT IT APPROVES WOMEN CHURCH LEADERS?

<https://christianteaching.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Are-arguments-that-the-Bible-accepts-homosexual-relationships-similar-to-those-that-it-approves-women-church-leaders.pdf>

WHAT ABOUT GAY MARRIAGE? <https://christianteaching.org.uk/what-about-gay-marriage/>