



New Church

Dear Friends,

I write to share a message with you, primarily in video form, in response to the extensive feedback I have received on the article I published in New Church Life in January titled “Standing for Marriage in Today’s World.” Please view the video [here](#). My written comments aim to share how I am holding this intense conversation and to provide perspective on where it might lead.

I have appreciated the opportunity to connect with so many of you, even when we have disagreed. It has been incredibly meaningful for me to hear how you hold this challenging subject and why. Based on it all, I am finding myself called to be more mindful of people’s individual journeys, to continue honoring the beautiful teachings about marriage, and to pray in ongoing ways for the Lord’s guidance.

As for where from here, I welcome ongoing communication that looks for solutions. I have a growing conviction that we can be a church that presents the Lord’s vision of marriage between one man and one woman and a church that welcomes all to engage. I will be working with pastors and institutional leaders to build approaches that spring from this conviction. The solutions may not look exactly the same in every case, and they may not work for all people. However, to the extent that they are grounded in the Word and work to articulate the Lord’s love, I believe He can lead us.

In that regard, I note that we are striving to rally around a vision of “living a heavenly life” as a church. As we continue this challenging conversation, my prayer is that we can continue living that life, including worship, learning, personal spiritual growth through repentance, and serving others. To the extent that we do, I believe that the Lord will be able to bless us with a greater sense of harmony and peace.

Let me end by thanking you for being a part of this church and inviting you once again to watch the video.

Best wishes,
Peter

