

STANDPOINT -
A monthly column on Anglican issues

DRAWING A FINE LINE FOR DEBATE

by Bill Lawton

Allan Patterson writes in response:

I have great sympathy for gay and lesbian people. They are discriminated against and vilified in our community, but worse, treated badly by some Christians. Sexual feelings are very strong and coping with these feelings can be difficult and confusing for many reasons.

The problem for Christians, however, is that the bible says that same sex unions are unnatural (Rom 1). And unless we rely on the Bible as God's word to us, how are we to know how to live? What standards do we apply?

The Sydney Diocese is a great frustration to me and Moore College seems to produce theologians rather than good leaders, but that said we do have to listen to God speak to us by His Spirit, confirmed by His written word the Bible.

The Editors write:

The appropriate Christian approach to human sexuality is fast emerging as the issue that almost alone defines orthodoxy. Two issues are raised here. The first is the assumption contained in Allan's letter about what the Bible teaches. This debate is still in progress, despite conservative certainty. The second is the creation of a single touchstone for identifying orthodox Christians. This debate is also still in progress. Anglicans Together always welcomes contributions to these debates.