

Recently Father Patrick wrote to the Tablet newsletter in response to an article concerning sexual ethics and adoption.

You can read the article by clicking on the link below.

[\(Martin Reynolds; A Love Found Wanting; 27 January 2007\)](#)

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With regard to the article “A Love found wanting” I thank God for the way Martin Reynolds and his partner have looked after their son. They clearly do love him.

I also agree that the language used by some quarters of the Catholic Church with regard to homosexuality is perhaps insensitive and unhelpful. I would, though, like to make three comments about the article.

First, it seems to me that there is a tendency in the article to equate judging a moral action with judging personally those carrying out the action. The Church recognises the difference between the objective and the subjective, “hate the sin love the sinner.” Martin seems to uphold the principle, now very popular, that this distinction does not exist and that if you hate the sin, you must hate the sinner and this is the position of the Church which it is not.

Also Martin says that his partner is Catholic. Surely he knew what the Church’s position was with regard to homosexuality. Therefore, he must have known that he was putting the local Catholic Adoption Agency in a very difficult position by approaching it. It seems to me that far from accepting any responsibility at all he has chosen to interpret the response as yet another example of an insensitive Church acting unreasonably i.e. It is **all** the Church’s fault.

Finally I feel that this issue impacts on the very nature of the Church itself. It is the Church’s conviction that the Lord at Pentecost gave the Church the authority and duty to teach and uphold those teachings which are regarded as belonging to the Revealed Deposit of Faith, which by their very nature, are immutable and true. One of these, I believe, is the nature of the family which homosexual sexual behaviour contradicts no matter how subjectively authentic it may be. Therefore, for the Church to recognise homosexual sexual relationships as constituting a family would be to compromise its position which would have serious implications beyond the issue itself. Basically it is a case of “this who we are, here we stand we can do no other.

Yours sincerely

Fr. Patrick Broun.