

The Scottish Christian Party responses to the Scottish Government  
Consultation on Redefining Marriage Nov 2011

These are the questions in the Consultation Document, simplified for easy comparison.

1	Do you agree to change the law to allow Civil Partnerships (CPs) to be registered by religious ceremonies?	No
2	Do you think that Scotland should copy English and Wales in registering premises?	No
3	Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register CPs in religious premises?	No
4	Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register CPs in other agreed premises?	No
5	Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to register CPs?	Yes
6	Do you agree that individuals should not be allowed to register CPs if their religious body does not?	Yes
7	Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to register CPs?	Yes
8	Which option do you favour to ensure celebrants are not required to register CPs against their will?	Neither
9	Do you agree that no new law is needed to prevent the abuse of premises?	Yes
10	Do you agree that the law in Scotland should be changed to allow same sex marriage (SSM)?	No
11	Do you agree that religious bodies and celebrants should not be required to solemnise SSM?	Yes
12	Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex <b>civil</b> marriage only?	No
13	Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex marriage, <b>both</b> religious and civil?	No
14	Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to solemnise SSM?	Yes
15	Do you consider that individuals be not allowed if their religious body decided against SSM?	Yes
16	Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to solemnize SSM?	Yes
17	Which option do you favour to ensure celebrants are not required to solemnize SSMs against their will?	Neither
18	Do you agree that no law is needed to prevent use of premises against the wishes of the religious body?	Yes
19	If Scotland should introduce SSM, do you consider that CPs should remain available?	No
20	Do you have any other comments?	Yes

### Comments to explain the answers:

1. At present, CPs are purely secular, and religious ceremonies are not allowed. The new proposal is a half-way house to SSM.
2. Marriages in England and Wales take place in registered premises; in Scotland the celebrant is registered, not the place.
3. At present CPs are not in religious premises as they are secular.
4. CPs are purely secular, and should remain so.
5. This is to prevent religious coercion.
6. This is to prevent internal differences within religious bodies.
7. If a religious body agrees to CPs, this is to prevent individuals being required or coerced to agree to it.
8. Neither option is satisfactory. Option 2 is a temporary stepping stone to Option 1; each sells out the issue.
9. If civil government gives, it can take away. It is over-reaching itself to legislate about religious activities in religious premises.
10. This changes the definition of marriage and consequently family. It affects children, employment, education and social cohesion.
11. This is to prevent religious coercion.
12. This aims at SSM in Registrar Offices, if not in religious premises (SSM by two stages).
13. This aims at SSM "in one step", both in Registrar Offices and in religious premises.
14. This is to prevent religious coercion.
15. This is to prevent internal differences within religious bodies.
16. If a religious body agrees to SSM, this is to prevent individuals being required or coerced to agree to it.
17. Neither option is satisfactory. Each sells out the issue.
18. If civil government gives, it can take away. It is over-reaching itself to legislate about religious activities in religious premises.
19. This shows that CP is a half-way house to SSM. In their current form CPs are unequal homosexual partnerships, not truly civil.
20. Use this question to express your concerns about the wider implications of SSM.

This consultation is asking how – not if – the legal definition of marriage should be changed to include homosexual partnerships.

The questions aim at SSM and the redefinition of marriage in  
 one (Question 13), or  
 two (allowed in Registrar Office, if not in religious premises – Question 12), or possibly  
 three steps (CPs allowed initially in a Registrar Office and religious premises – Question 1).

Civil partnerships are unequal homosexual partnerships, acting as a Trojan horse to bring in SSM by redefining marriage.

This questionnaire deals *only* with *religious* celebrants and bodies, but these changes affect teachers and schoolchildren, employers and employees, and create new loopholes in the law to be exploited. These subjects **are not discussed** in the Scottish Government's consultation document, which is not fit for purpose. Equalities legislation cannot redefine marriage;

[www.scottishchristianparty.org.uk](http://www.scottishchristianparty.org.uk)

For guidance on finding the forms, etc., look here:

[www.scottishchristianparty.org.uk/news/suggested-answers-and-simplified-questionnaire](http://www.scottishchristianparty.org.uk/news/suggested-answers-and-simplified-questionnaire)