

In what way could gay emancipation be promoted within the church?

Gay emancipation in the Church can perhaps be promoted by making it discussable as much as possible, in the media and especially in the Church itself. Also seek affiliation and support with groups abroad, e.g. Germany. Also publish in Samen Kerk. Show how Jesus of Nazareth would view these questions. With Jesus, all people count, regardless of man, woman, race or orientation. In the daily newspaper Trouw, the series: The State of Catholic Netherlands, also unleashes many tongues. In a survey on homosexuality, this matter has already been accepted in society. Now the practice. The Church herself makes this a problem and through denial she herself makes this problem worse.

What do you (did) enjoy in the church?

In addition to much sorrow, the Church also brought and brings much joy. I think of mourning and wedding services. In funeral services, the church gives great comfort and support in the celebrations. I also think of the festivals with their beautiful symbolism in the celebrations and drinking coffee after the services. The latter creates a bond with people. You belong to a community and when you are sick and sick you are not forgotten. In previous centuries, the Church led the way in education and care for the sick. These subjects were later adopted by society.

What bothers you in the church?

The Church is not a democracy, it is still led too centrally. In the West people limp on 2 legs, with one leg you stand in a democratic society and with the other leg you are still half in a dictatorship. People are heard too little in the Church. The Church is not really concerned with people's problems, such as justice, abortion and euthanasia and the use of contraceptives. The Faith is too introverted with an emphasis on commandments and prohibitions. Young people don't care about that. Translate faith more into actuality. Believing equals trust and Believing also parallels believing in people. The institute is a rigid block, people sometimes pretend that it moves with the times, but in reality nothing changes. But people keep hoping, maybe that is also a piece of faith. Take, for example, the abolition of celibacy, admitting women to the priesthood, ordaining gay relationships, all of this is completely sealed. Even Pope John Paul 2nd came to a conclusion; the priesthood for women remains closed for eternity, that is a terrible statement. That rigid holding is not good and our bishops are scared. The Church finds the word, secularization, a dangerous word, but that is not necessary at all. The French theologian Lenoir wrote: The secularization is not a breaking away from Christianity, but a return to the Original Message; Love and Justice.

What advice would you like to give to Synod 2023 in Rome?

Bring more democracy into the Church and decentralize authority more. Those reading pieces in newspaper Trouw should be read carefully, because the Church is missing an opportunity here. Our bishops have just chosen 3 points from the Synod list that are far from the people. If only you had picked the trouble spots of the people. Offer your help and guidance with this and be close to people. The problems are largely in the office. Go with the times; abolish celibacy, open the priesthood to women and make room for gay pastors. This of course takes time, but make an opening. We sincerely hope that the people's findings about the synod and in particular the opinions of Gay emancipation are really taken into account. We continue to hope, trust and pray.