



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### The sad ignorance that abounds in the ranks of professing Protestants!!

*"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness," Ephesians 4:17-19.*

Just a few days ago, I received an email from a lady who had taken umbrage at my criticism of an Irish Presbyterian minister in an article I wrote back in February 2016.

The brief exchange (2nd - 3rd April) that followed will, I am sure, prove of interest and also helpful to those of God's people who have faced similar satanic 'blasts'!

I have no wish to embarrass the lady in question so I have removed everything that may identify her.

Christian, please pray for her and the many like her, deceived by the lies of ecumenical false prophets in the mainline churches.

The article which stirred her ire was entitled:

**Election of the new moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland** - An insight into the moral state of that denomination (Read it [here](#))

Sincere regards,

Ivan Foster.

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### The email exchange

Hello,

I stumbled across your article about our very good friend, Frank Sellar.

I am stunned that you feel it appropriate to place such judgement of an absolute gentleman online. I am not going to waste my time going into details but perhaps I can say that only God has the position to judge. We should show Christian love at all times, to all people, just as Jesus taught us.

Thank you.

God bless,

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Dear \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*,

I would have preferred to address you with greater propriety as either Miss or Mrs. I do not like presuming to use a person's first name when I do not know them. It is a sad mark of this modern age!

Regarding my article, may I say that the Saviour certainly told us to show Christian love but He also taught us to not set our affections upon that which is contrary to His will!

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father



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is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever;" 1 John 2:15-17.

Furthermore, I have the example of the Saviour to guide me when dealing with those whose actions and words are contrary to the teaching of God's Word. Here is a sample: "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in," Matthew 23:13. If you care anything for truth, you will read the whole chapter just to get a flavour of the Saviour's forthright condemnation of fraud and deniers of God's truth.

The man you consider "an absolute gentleman" is reported as saying (and I record this in my article) "The new Moderator of the Presbyterian Church has said some of the Christian ministers he admires and has most respect for are gay."

'Gays', an euphemism for a sodomite, a perverted person who has embraced a lifestyle hated of God! That is evident in many place in the Holy Scriptures and demonstrated clearly in the words of Jude. "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire," Jude verse 7.

Romans chapter 1 in like manner gives us God's view of sodomy.

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them," Romans 1:26-32.

The context of the portion clearly indicates that sodomy is the final departure of men from the truth of God before God's judgment falls.

The Saviour tells that sodomy's acceptance will mark society before His return in judgment!

"For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day. But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed," Luke 17:24-30.

This being so, your "absolute gentleman" is part of that great apostasy which is to overtake 'Christendom' before the Saviour's return.

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

Oops!!



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Unfortunately I pressed the send button before I had completed the email or even had a chance to read it and check it for typos!!!!

However, I will conclude with a few more words.

I referred to I Timothy 4:1-2. I would like also to refer you to 2 Timothy 3 and ask you to note the character of the great departure from the faith which Paul prophesied would take place at the end of this age. Please note how the apostasy will end and those who will engage in its ways.

I do not set out to write articles in contradiction of God's precious Word. Rather, I am moved to stand against those who preach another gospel, such as your "absolute gentleman"!

I sincerely hope that you will give proper attention to what I say!

Sincerely in Christ's cause,

Ivan Foster.

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Thank you for your reply. It seems we have differing viewpoints. I am so thankful to be part of a congregation which welcomes everyone from our community and shows God's love without judgement.

If we cast judgement on someone before they even come through the door of the church, then how will they be enabled and encouraged to learn about God's love for them. We must provide a welcome into our church family.

I could quote any number of verses but a couple that come to mind are:

1 Peter 3:8-9 "Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing."

I would sincerely hope that no matter what background I come from, or what things I have done in my life, that any church my family and I would go into, would give me a great welcome - that's the church that would encourage me to stay, to have fellowship, to learn, and to grow in relationships to become part of the church family.

First and foremost, above everything, God teaches me to show His love to others.

God bless,

\*\*\*\* \*~~~~~\*, (Mrs, but more than happy to be called by my Christian name, again it's part of a personable welcome.)

PS In connection with a small point that was made about our friend Frank, you seem keen to discuss people who are gay. It's important to note that those to whom Frank refers do not practise a gay lifestyle and have chosen celibacy. However, that aside, we have two little boys (ages 6 and 3). My husband and I are parenting them in faith, we pray as a family on a daily basis, we teach our children God's truths, we are bringing them up as part of God's family. I have to acknowledge that I do not know what choices they will make as they grow older but, I can certainly tell you that no matter what happens in the future, I will always show unconditional love to our boys.

Also, I would NEVER refer to anyone who is gay as "a sodomite" or "a perverted person"! Where is the love in that?! If we speak of people in these ways, how will we bring them to faith? In Northern Ireland, we are



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extremely caught up with sin of a sexual nature however, what about the other sins we are surrounded by and that we live with. Sin is sin, no matter what, there is no hierarchy! I'll leave this with you.

Regards,

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Dear Mrs \*\*\*\*\*,

I address you so for I cannot cast aside my upbringing when I was taught to address married woman so.

Thank you for your response. However, I am afraid I cannot call it a reply for you utterly avoid addressing what I said to you in my answer to your initial email.

Especially, I must take note of the fact that you totally ignored the Scripture I quoted. That I find strange since you would doubtless profess to be a Christian and as such your feelings for the Word of God should be those of the Psalmist who said: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path," Psalm 119:105.

Everything I seek to say is based upon the Word of God and I would tremble to say anything contrary to it. So, while you have ignored what I said, I will carefully examine and address the one Scripture you have quoted (1 Peter 3:8-9) and the the teaching you claim it sets forth.

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing."

When reading a letter it is always important to note to whom the letter was written. In this case the addressees were: " Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time," 1:1-5.

From the terms Peter employs here we may learn that he is writing to believers, those who are termed 'elect', 'sanctified of the Spirit', sprinkled by 'the blood of Jesus Christ', 'begotten . . . again unto to a lively hope', 'to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.' Peter is calling such to love one another as brethren.

He is not calling upon them to love and embrace everyone, irrespective of their beliefs or lifestyle! We are not to treat all men the way we would true believers!

DO I REALLY NEED TO CONFIRM THIS TO YOU FROM GOD'S WORD???

I did quote a relevant portion in my last email but you make no reference to it in your reply. It is most foolish to build a case for a belief by ignoring those Scriptures which contradict us!

I am retired but was a pastor for over 40 years and all were welcome into our meetings. However, we preached the gospel and by it we clearly sought to indicate that all men were " . . . dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the



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power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others," (Ephesians 2:1-3) and that all "must be born again," (John 3:7), to quote the Saviour.

The Lord Jesus said: "But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate," Revelation 2:6 and also 2:15.

Do these words not teach us that there are things and practices which we must hate if we are to please the Lord?

It is clear from your words that sodomy is not an offence to you. The statement you make regarding those loved by 'the gentleman' you have chosen to extol, is anything but Scriptural. ' . . . those to whom Frank refers do not practise a gay lifestyle and have chosen celibacy.'

When a thief is converted he no longer is termed a thief nor would for a moment wish to be known as a 'thief who has stopped stealing'! We could say the same of all who engaged in open wickedness before their conversion to Christ. They would not deny their former wickedness but they would not, as your minister's friend would do, align themselves with their former wickedness! His friends claim to be 'gay but celibate'!

That is the same as someone saying 'I am an adulterer but I just don't fornicate'!

Such a statement is an abominable caricature of the true Christian confession! Hear Paul's testimony. "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief," 1 Timothy 1:12-13. His wicked behaviour is put in the past tense. He does not say that he is still "a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious" but has set aside those practices.

For the Christian, our former lifestyle and activities are done to death! "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: for which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: in the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him," Colossians 3:5-10. There has been a complete change. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Your 'gay' friends, by holding on to that title for themselves, are saying that 'inwardly' they are still what they were and practised. That is not something a true Christian would say! The old Christian saying: 'I am not not what I once was and I am not what I shall be', is a true summary of the Scriptural truth of this matter.

In closing I would like to consider your statement 'I would NEVER refer to anyone who is gay as "a sodomite" or "a perverted person"! Where is the love in that?!' in the light of Holy Scripture.

Is sodomy a perversion and are sodomites perverts? 'What saith the Scriptures?

I actually gave you the answer to this question in my last email but you obviously did not read it. I quoted Romans 1:26-32. There God refers to the 'vile affections' of those men and women who abandon His order of marriage between a man and a women. Verse 24-25 state: "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."



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These people have so perverted their ways before God for Him to give "them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts." You chastise me for calling them 'perverts'! Just what do you say to God who has 'given them up?'

Of course, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Genesis 18:25. Is not God thoroughly justified in acting so against those who have perverted their ways and have sought to change His truth? They are guilty of changing "the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things" and "the truth of God into a lie," Romans 1:23, 25.

They are both 'perverters' and 'perverts'!

May I ask, should you decide to answer me, to give me what the Bible teaches and not your opinions and notions.

Kind regards,

Ivan Foster.

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Thank you for your response. I think it's best to end this communication here. I've scrolled through your website and also the so-called Protestant revival website and it made me very sad that Christian people are spending their time creating posts which strongly and bitterly criticise other Christian people. I am absolutely sure there are much better ways to spend time.

Regards,

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Dear Mrs \*\*\*\*\*,

In reply to this your concluding email, I can only say that your closing remarks indicate your abysmal ignorance of the Holy Scriptures and the Christian's duty to "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage," Galatians 5:1.

In not one of your emails do you make any real attempt to answer the case I present from the Bible. Rather all you do is level baseless accusations against me without a shred of Scriptural support.

Surely that must trouble you!

Your church, which I presume is the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, long ago surrendered the Truth of God to Ecumenism and Popery and sold out Christ's cause. You show every sign of one brought up in the atmosphere of apostasy, believing and speaking its lies as if they were truth.

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ," Jude 3-4.

These are days when once again the true people of God are required to answer the call heard in former



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times in Ulster, the call of Dr. Henry Cooke in the face of the Arian controversy, W P Nicholson and others in the face of Professor's Davey's blasphemous assault upon the person and truth of Christ as he taught in the Irish Presbyterian College in the 1920s.

The call is that of Moses of old: "Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him," Exodus 32:26.

You, Mrs \*\*\*\*\* , have sadly chosen the side of the enemies of God. I can only pray that you and those like you awaken to your sin and error before the consequences of your folly come to your door.

Most sincerely in the cause of Christ,

IF.