



# The Burning Bush - Online article archive

## Gay conversion ban

I have hastened to write this article in response to the report of today's debate in Stormont on the subject of 'Conversion Therapy'. The position taken by the Free Presbyterian Church on this issue was set forth in an email circulated before the debate.

"At stake is the basic teaching on conversion to Christ. The motion before the Assembly does not define what conversion therapy is. The term conversion therapy is left deliberately broad by LGBT activists. There could be a move to count praying with someone who has asked for prayer on these matters as "conversion therapy"

The BBC report of the debate is most disturbing for it is clear that there is error both on the side of those opposing "conversion therapy". and the DUP who is supposed to be defending gospel liberty.

As I say at the end of the article: "What darkness has descended upon our Province, once seen as a bastion of gospel truth. It is that no more!"

Please pray that this article will be read and do what you can to circulate it abroad.

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## Gay conversion ban: Therapy is a 'humiliating and harmful practice'

**BBC News NI** (April 20th 2021)

The above title is the headline on the BBC report of the debate in the Stormont Assembly today (April 20th) in which a proposal to ban what is called 'Conversion Therapy' in all forms was passed.

I wish to make a brief comment on matters resulting from this debate and the decision by Ulster Unionists, Alliance and nationalist MLAs calling for all forms of 'Conversion Therapy' to be banned.

Let me state clearly that I am not a supporter of 'Conversion Therapy'. What it purports to be is but a counterfeit of the Bible doctrine of 'Conversion'!

What the Bible teaches on the subject of true conversion is set forth in the 'Shorter Catechism'.

*Question 89: How is the Word made effectual to salvation?*

*Answer: The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.*

### Proofs

The following verses are given as proofs of that answer.

*"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple," Psalm 19:7.*

*"And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost," 1Thessalonians 1:6.*

*"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth," Romans 1:16.*

To these verses many more could be added of course.



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## Craftiness

While I oppose the inherent teaching of that which is really a 'Neo-evangelical' innovation' and is not the teaching of God's Word, I see the craftiness of the enemy who under the guise of opposing what is essentially an erroneous doctrine, directly attacks the teaching of Christ.

It is to be noticed that an attempt was made to remove any ban of the preaching of the simple truth of God. "Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV)" leader Jim Allister said he had no difficulty condemning "gruesome practices historically associated with conversion therapies".

Mr Allister added LGBTQ activists wanted to "criminalise preaching in accordance with the sexual ethics that are set forth in Holy Scripture". "They want to criminalise praying. Where there has been legislation, that's exactly what happened," he said. To this end a counter proposal was submitted. But MLAs rejected a DUP amendment that stated "legitimate religious activities" do not constitute conversion therapy. It said those include preaching, prayer and pastoral support, and argued they "must be protected". The amendment, tabled by DUP MLAs Pam Cameron and Robin Newton, called for legislative options to ban the practice of conversion therapy but did not include the 'fix or cure' wording.

It is reported that the DUP's 'Ms Cameron', in introducing the amendment, said the party was 'firmly opposed' to conversion therapy and does not believe that members of the LGBTQ community need a fix or cure.

In that the poor woman and her party, the DUP, is as wrong as was Doug Beattie, whose motion the DUP was supposed to be opposing. The LGBTQ community is at the head of those in today's society who openly defy God and rebel against His truth. They are most certainly in need of 'a fix or cure', not that of the bogus 'Conversion Therapy', but that of God's salvation.

## Broad Brush

The proposal by Beattie and Stewart was a broad brush, which could only sweep away the liberty of preaching God's Word in its fulness.

Christ taught that "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven," Matthew 18:3.

However, the majority of Assembly members followed the lead of UUP MLAs Doug Beattie and John Stewart and included in their prohibition the proclamation of the 'whole counsel of God'!

Please note:

The outcome of this debate illustrates the depths of the apostasy and departure from God within the professing Protestant community.

The ban that is called for is essentially 'anti-Bible and anti-Christ'!

The non-binding motion Mr Beattie and Mr Stewart put forward argued it is "fundamentally wrong" to view the LGBTQ community as needing a "fix or cure". It is they and their ilk who are "fundamentally wrong" on this matter. If there is one section of society that needs a 'cure' it is that sector which glories in its utter rejection of God and His morality as taught in the Bible. They are described in Romans chapter 1 as they:

"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. 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



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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," verses 25-32.

Those so described are in grave need of a 'cure', the only 'cure' for their sinfulness, even the redeeming blood of Christ.

### Paul the Apostle

Paul the apostle sets forth the truth that there is a 'cure' for such perversion of which 'Conversion Therapy' is supposed to be the answer.

Hear his words. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God," 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. There you have God's answer to the sins so loved by the LGBTQ activists. However, their supporters such as Mr Beattie have risen up and have sought to hinder, if not ban, the declaring of God answer!



The main motion was brought forward by UUP MLAs Doug Beattie, pictured, and John Stewart

Mr Beattie is reported as saying that "he was born a straight man and there was no fix or cure for him. There is no therapy that would make me a gay man. So why would we say that a gay man can be fixed or cured? Why would we say that there's a therapy that can change a gay man to a straight man? There isn't. It's ludicrous. Conversion therapy is humiliating."

### Disturbing News

I have disturbing news for Mr Beattie! According to the Bible he, like all mankind, is spiritually as twisted as 'a dog's hind leg!' There is none of us born 'spiritually straight' and we are all in need of a 'fix'!

Listen to the teaching of God's Word on the matter. It is the very foundation of the Protestant faith, which I understand Mr Beattie would associate himself with, at least in some measure.

*"The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9.*

It is for this reason the Saviour taught us that "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," John 3:3.

Yes, Mr Beattie, you, like the rest of us, need God's answer to the wickedness which reigns within every human heart until that supernatural and sovereign work of God is wrought in us by the power of the Holy Spirit through belief in the Word of God. The sinner is then delivered and enters into the blessing of sins forgiven and the joy of new life in Christ.

*"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.*

Mr Beattie's derisory dismissiveness of any need on his part of a 'fix' is standard amongst those who embrace the teaching of the modern 'church' — your baptism and your attendance at the Communion Service and your own efforts at being 'good' are enough to get you to heaven!



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That is the 'faith' of the modern 'Protestant'!

If ever there was a lie of the devil, that is it. How clearly such folly is refuted in the Bible!

*"There is none that doeth good, no, not one . . . Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law [is] the knowledge of sin," Romans 3: 12, 20.*

Conversion Therapy is a fraud and ought to be opposed but there is a 'conversion' work that is of God and all men require it if they are to enter heaven. Sadly, this truth has been 'lumped' together with the sham of 'conversion therapy' and both are to be outlawed if the majority of MLAs get their way.

The non-binding motion was passed by 59 votes to 24.

What darkness has descended upon our Province, once seen as a bastion of gospel truth. It is that no more!

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd)

20th April 2021.