



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### **The rule that some would have others keep but which they refuse to keep themselves!!!**

I was recently informed of the criticism of an Officer of Presbytery directed against me in response to my article, **Why This Shameful Silence?** It was alleged by this brother that I had done wrong in writing this article without first contacting those against whom I had written, since, he claimed, Matthew 18:15-17 requires such action.

This is a cowardly, pathetic misuse of God's Word. Please read the article '**Matthew 18 and the public rebuke of sin**'. This article highlights the folly of those who appeal to these verses in response to proper criticism they are unable and unwilling to answer!

Often those who refer to this verse when attempting to fault those who rightly condemn sin are heard condemning the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland ministers for their public utterances which are contrary to God's Word. The question must be asked: "Do they first contact those they criticise before issuing their condemnations?"

I am confident they do not. Why then do they require me to contact them when they sin against the Lord by doing wrong in a public fashion before I point out their wrong?

Is not that which is sauce for the goose also sauce for the gander!!!

It has to be noted that they feel free to criticise me behind my back and seem to feel no obligation to keep the rule they would have me to keep! They can freely criticise me without informing me in the manner they would have me inform them before I speak or write.

Of course, it has to be stressed, and this we have repeatedly stated in many of our articles. **I have on many occasions expressed my concerns to Officers of Presbytery without any reply or even an acknowledgement of having received my communication!**

I wrote in my article, Why This Shameful Silence? The following:

*"I have written and preached tens of thousands of words against these sinful Free Presbyterian Church links with gross sin by reason of elders being in membership of a sodomite-embracing political party, the DUP, and in coalition with Sinn Fein/IRA. Never once has an officer of the Presbytery or any member of it sought to refute what I have said and written. I have emailed Presbytery officers personally on these issues but never once was I extended the courtesy of a response!"*

Does not this 'behind my back' criticism smack a little of hypocrisy, not to mention spinelessness, on the part of those who would seek to hide behind a misapplying of Matthew 18:15-17?

Ivan Foster.

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