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“Are Free Presbyterians wrong when they support a party which fields a sodomite candidate?”

OR

“Is political activity exempt from the rule of God’s Law?”

An earnest appeal to all ministers, elders and members of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster.

No sin, of itself, goes away, nor is spiritual wholeness restored by natural volition!

Like a disease, untreated sin will only become worse until spiritual, even physical death ensues. There is evidence of this in the church at Corinth which had departed from uprightness and propriety to indulge in sinful practices. “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep,” 1 Corinthians 11:28-30.

The prophet Isaiah uses the metaphor of physical sickness to describe the spiritual state of Judah in his day.

“Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment,” Isaiah 1:4-6.

This is what happens when ‘sin’ goes untreated in a person’s life or in the body of the church or in the nation!

1. I think we may observe that God expects us to treat any outbreak of sin amongst us.

That goes for the individual and the church fellowship. “If I send pestilence among my people; if my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land,” 2 Chronicles 7:13-14.

John the Apostle states the same truth. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us,” 1 John 1:8-10.

Sin must not be ignored by us as individuals or by church officers whose task it is to correct the church. “Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear,” 1 Timothy 5:20.

Failure to deal with personal sin leads on to backsliding. Failure to deal with church sin leads on to apostasy.

2. God stipulates very clearly the treatment to be meted out for sin.

There are very clear procedures to be followed. The book of Leviticus is filled with the procedures to be followed if a person contracted a disease in Old Testament days. Leviticus 13 is an example of this. With regards spiritual disease, namely sin, in like manner there are clear instructions in the Bible for both the individual and the officers of a congregation.

Here is the path of individual cleansing from sin. “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be



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as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it," Isaiah 1:18-20.

Obedience brings healing and cleansing and recovery. Disobedience will bring God's judgment.

In a similar fashion, those charged with discipline in the church must act against sin. They must rule and keep order and deal with breaches of that order and discipline.

"A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself," Titus 3:10-11.

But it is not only doctrinal matters that must be kept in check by the elders, there is the matter of behaviour as well.

"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. . . . Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 13.

As I have stated, the matter of church discipline is in the hands of the elders.

"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop (or overseer) , he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)" 1 Timothy 3:1-5.

There is health and soundness when these procedures instituted by God are observed.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones," Proverbs 3:5-8.

3. When there is a failure by the individual or the church officers to deal with sin, there you have rebellion!

The church at Laodicea was a church in rebellion. It was backslidden and riddled with pride!

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent," Revelation 3:15-19.

How different was their true state from that which they saw themselves to be! "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Sin deceives and blinds us to our condition.

The Church at Ephesus was warned of the consequences of defiance of Christ's commands.



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"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent," Revelation 2:5.

John Calvin said of this verse: "And will remove thy candlestick, take away my ordinances, remove your ministers, and send you a famine of the word. As there is here an allusion to the candlestick in the tabernacle and temple, which could not be removed without suspending the whole Levitical service, so the threatening here intimates that, if they did not repent, unchurch them; they should no longer have a pastor, no longer have the word and sacraments, and no longer have the presence of the Lord Jesus."

That is a solemn and sobering threat which was sadly ignored by all seven of the churches in Asia referred to in the Book of the Revelation!

We must ask the question: "Has sin been treated as God requires it to be treated within the Free Presbyterian Church?"

I do not think that it can honestly said that the answer to that question is 'YES!'

As a Church, it was deemed that there was nothing wrong in some ministers and elders and members becoming partners of SinnFein/IRA murderers and terrorists back in 2007.

Some twelve years have passed since that event so I can hardly be accused of seeking a swift redress when I say that my efforts to warn Dr Paisley and those who supported his decision to enter power-sharing with Sinn Fein/IRA were mocked and very obviously resented. Many, many church doors, open to me for over 40 years, were shut to me and remain so today.

There was total inactivity when the funding of sodomites and their agencies was handled by Dr Paisley and by Mr Mervyn Storey.

I was publicly called a liar and my articles denied, without my name being mentioned, though there could be no mistake about who was being referred to, since the matter called lies were being published by me only!

An attempt to have me silenced in Presbytery was made and almost succeeded. I was called a traitor and divider of the brethren by men who may well now have revised their opinions since the events of 2006 and 2007, though they have never mentioned any change of mind to me when they meet me and speak to me at church functions!

A charge of rebellion was duly laid against me in Presbytery, but it was surreptitiously ignored by Dr Paisley, who was in the Chair of the Presbytery, since such a trial would open a proverbial 'can of worms'!

But through it all NO ANSWER WAS EVER ATTEMPTED AGAINST WHAT I WAS SAYING!

Here are just some of the links to articles on "The Burning Bush" website dealing with the DUP's involvement in the funding of sodomites. (Click to read)

- **Power-sharing with murderers - Right or Wrong**
- **The scandal of government funding for sodomites**
- **The funding of sodomite organisations could have been stopped by the OFMDFM, says Peter Robinson**
- **Northern Ireland Housing Executive (which presently comes under Nelson McCausland's remit as Social Development minister) pays out £9000 to sodomite organisations**

From these 'beginnings' the DUP's rebellion has accelerated and deepened until within the last few days we have seen it throw aside the holy Word of God, cast over its founding principles and despise the views of Bible-believers, once its key support base, by selecting an open sodomite as a candidate for the local council



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election. Prominent Free Presbyterians within the DUP have laboured to deflect criticism by various devious methods. By doing so they but increase their guilt and culpability!

My recent articles set forth irrefutable facts on this matter.

- **Rev. Foster responds to DUP's endorsement of a sodomite candidate for Council election**
- **The day Ulster changed unutterably!**

Sadly, during the recent election, even after the terrible news broke of the DUP fielding a sodomite, there was no direct and particular condemnation of the actions of the DUP from our church. Some ministers may have spoken against the sin in their pulpits but there was no public counsel offered to the flock of God or warning issued against assisting in the awful rebellion that the DUP was engaged in!

How unlike the Free Presbyterian Church in the days when our witness counted for something! If our crying out against the sins of churches and political parties brought God's favour, just what does this shameful silence now bring!

Of course our church still maintains a voice of protest. It speaks against abortion, against ecumenism, against liberal and modernistic theology, against sodomy, against modern translations of the Scriptures, against Sabbath-breaking, all of which is commendable and good BUT why does it not speak out against the dreadful sin the DUP is engaged in and in which some Free Presbyterian office-bearers and members are complicit?

Two quotes from Martin Luther sum the matter up.

"Though we be active in the battle, if we are not fighting where the battle is the hottest, we are traitors to the cause."

"If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ.

Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved to be steady. It is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point."

As we rightly condemn the sins of other denominations and organisations, but remain silent on our own failings and sins, are we not in danger of falling under the condemnation of the Lord Jesus Who railed against the Pharisees when He said: "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye," Matthew 7:3-5.

The ministers of the apostate churches teach and do the most wicked things. BUT, they are "blind leaders of the blind," Matthew 15:14.

Brethren, that is not so with the Free Presbyterian Church! God has granted to us in these latter-days, a measure of understanding of the apostasy of today. Therefore we need to take great heed to this matter.

"And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more," Luke 12:47-48.

I have loved the Free Presbyterian Church since that evening I sat down in Dr Paisley's church on the Ravenhill Road on April 12th, 1964, some 55 years ago. I have rejoiced to share in its witness and reproach and



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protest against the wickedness of this age. It has been my life entirely. I have the fondest memories of the sweetest fellowship with godly stalwarts, the most of whom are in heaven, in the midst of street protests, court rooms, police 'paddy wagons' and prison cells.

My whole family circle owes everything of eternal value, under God, to the witness of the Free Presbyterian Church.

It is for these reasons that to see the erosion of the faithful, fearless allegiance to God and His Truth manifested in former days, is a source of great grief and heart-break to me.

That love for the Free Presbyterian Church and the grief over the decline that I, and many others see, have moved me to lift up my "voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins," Isaiah 58:1.

Old Mrs Isobel Paisley, Dr Paisley's mother, once said to me when I was a student for the ministry, "Ivan, don't ever be a 'stickit' minister"!

What she meant by that use of an old Scots word was that I was not to give up but to finish the task that God had called me to do.

I have never forgotten her words, nor indeed, those that her husband, Pastor James Kyle Paisley, proffered to me on my first or second day as a student. "It is not how you start that matters but how you finish."

Well, the end cannot be far away for me and I am all the more conscious of their advice.

I confess, in recent years I have often said to my wife, Ann, a faithful companion and fellow labourer: "That's it. I will not write another word!" Then back to my mind comes the word I read in Crumlin Road jail in the autumn of 1966: "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay," Jeremiah 20:9.

So here I am once more, seeking to stir a response from my brethren in the Free Presbyterian Church.

Some thirty one years ago, on 28th February 1988, in commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the signing of the National Covenant of Scotland, all members of the Free Presbyterian Church had opportunity to sign a covenant drawn up and authorised by the Presbytery.

Copies of that Covenant hang in most if not all Free Presbyterian Churches, a silent witness to where the Free Presbyterian Church once desired to stand.

The introduction to that covenant reads:

"As God providentially raised up Elijah, we believe He is now calling out a faithful remnant to maintain a testimony, free from compromise against every opposition of the enemy.

As a separated Church of God, sinners saved by grace and born again of the Holy Spirit, conscious of the violations of God's commandments so rampant in this evil age, and conscious also that we could have a name to live and be dead, we humble ourselves before God and solemnly covenant together, by His grace, to stand with Christ in this evil day, for all that He is for, and against all that He is against."

That was signed most solemnly in the presence of God. We as a church are bound by its terms. We swore to 'stand with Christ in this evil day, for all that He is for, and against all that He is against.'

Can we truly do that and remain silent and inactive in the face of the terrible actions of the DUP and those of our number who support its policies and practices?



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I think not.

As a minister said to me recently: "Anyone who suggests having Presbytery Days of Prayer whilst ignoring this Achan in the camp needs to be told not to waste their time and breath. It is time to get serious about standing up for God and His Word, or else shut the doors!"

We cannot, must not go on pretending that sin has not happened and has not been excused and covered over. We must humble ourselves before the Lord and acknowledge the sins of past years.

David had to do that in the case of Saul's sin against the Gibeonites (2 Samuel 21:1). Only then did the famine God had sent end.

Surely there is in that event instruction for us in these days.

Let us recover our integrity, our independent voice and be free of obligations to any man or organisation and be submissive only to Christ and be for all that He is for, and against all that He is against.'

Ivan Foster.

6th May 2019.