



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

Was what Jim Wells said wrong??

Unscriptural home environments are a threat to the wellbeing of children

By Rev Ivan Foster



DUP MLA Jim Wells

In the wake of the storm over the comments made by Mr Jim Wells, the DUP former Minister of Health who was forced out of office by the concerted campaign of opposition to his comments on sodomite unions and the danger posed to children by such unions, a few comments are required.

It is clear that it was not just what Mr Wells had said at a political gathering in Downpatrick last week that aroused the opposition of the sodomite lobby. No, it was his long-held views of sodomy and sodomite marriage that caused these critics to seize upon what he said in Downpatrick and make it the basis of a vigorous and vicious crusade

against him with the objective of having him removed from office.

That has been achieved by them. That in itself should sound an alarm in the ears of Christians everywhere.

Incident in Rathfriland

His resignation followed developments subsequent to his Downpatrick statements. The police were required to investigate the Downpatrick statements because a complaint had been made. Following a further complaint to them, they were also investigating an incident in Rathfriland during door to door election canvassing by Mr Wells. The matter was reported by the BBC as follows:

"Police have confirmed they are investigating after an incident during an election canvas in County Down was reported to them. It is understood it involved the DUP candidate Jim Wells and a lesbian couple. It is believed the PSNI are trying to establish if an offence has been committed.

The PSNI said they had received three complaints regarding the conduct of an individual in Rathfriland on Saturday evening. It is alleged that Jim Wells, who was doing door-to-door canvassing, called at a lesbian couple's house, and during a conversation was critical of their lifestyle. The daughter of one of the women said her mother was upset. She said Mr Wells had gone back to the house twice saying he wanted to apologise. But the couple would not accept the apology, because, they claimed, Mr Wells said he did not agree with their lifestyle choice.

"Jim Wells was trying to get in, trying to see mum and her partner said 'no she's not coming out to see you, she doesn't want to see you,'" the woman, who wanted to remain anonymous, said.

"He really wanted to try and get in to apologise to her, but she didn't want it.

"He kept saying about lifestyle choices and how it was wrong, how his party didn't believe in lifestyle choices.

"My mum's partner actually told him she'd voted DUP all her life and he's now lost her vote."

The PSNI have said they are currently investigating and it would be inappropriate to comment further."

That which has sparked this latest incident, if the BBC report is correct, is, to quote a witness, Jim Wells being critical of a woman's lesbian lifestyle.



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

In that he was correct. Every Christian should utterly condemn lesbianism!!

Result

Sadly, what has been the result of all this media furore has been a repudiation of the Biblical view of sodomy by the DUP and Mr Wells! All the other parties in the United Kingdom had already done this long ago but now, doubtless for fear of losing votes, the DUP have distanced themselves from the position they once held when they campaigned under the slogan, "Save Ulster from Sodomy."

Initial statement

The statement that initially drew so much abuse down upon Mr Wells' head was widely reported as:

"You don't bring a child up in a homosexual relationship. That a child is far more likely to be abused and neglected...."

In response to the criticisms that followed this comment, Mr Wells is reported as saying: "I accept that one line of what I said caused offence and deep concern." He went on to say: "I regret having wrongly made that remark about abuse and I'm sorry those words were uttered. The comment did not reflect my view nor that of my party."

The DUP leader, Peter Robinson declared that such comments do not represent the views of the DUP.

Sad

This is a sad development. Robinson's declaration is not surprising given his willingness to go back on his declared position on Sinn Fein/IRA and unite with them in a power-sharing government.

However, I am saddened to see Jim Wells make that statement of repudiation, doubtless as a result of pressure from various quarters and at a time of vulnerability due to his wife's severe illness.

Were his words in Downpatrick so dreadful, so wrong? In the light of God's Word I don't believe they were.

Look again at what he said. "You don't bring a child up in a homosexual relationship. That a child is far more likely to be abused and neglected...."

God says

Without a shadow of doubt, the teaching of the Word of God is that no child should be brought up within a sodomite relationship. Sodomy is in God's eyes an abomination.

"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination," Leviticus 18:22.

God showed His utter displeasure and wrath toward sodomy in the judgment He poured out upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The angels sent of God to warn Lot of the coming judgment spoke to him of God's displeasure. "Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: for we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it, Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; and he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: and he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace," Genesis 19:12-3, 24-28.



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

A lasting memorial

The devastation of that region in Israel remains to this day as a testimony of God's wrath against this vile sin. In the light of God's Word, no Christian could ever sanction the raising of children within a sodomite relationship nor ought they to hesitate saying so and most certainly ought not to apologise for such sentiments, irrespective of party rules, public opinion or the impact of such views upon an election result.

God teaches us clearly the character of the environment within which a child should be raised.

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," Ephesians 6:4. The words "nurture and admonition of the Lord" simply mean that a child is to be raised under the instruction and discipline of the Word of God.

What Paul said to the fathers in the church at Ephesus, The Lord had already said to Israel long ago.

"And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates," Deuteronomy 6:5-9.

Would a sodomite 'home' obey those words? Could a sodomite 'home' obey those words?

The answer is an emphatic no.

That being so, any child raised outside the environment of a home where the Word of God is obeyed will suffer the 'abuse and neglect' of being deprived of the Word of Life. There is no abuse more terrible or which results in such lasting harm!

Modern Society

Of course, modern society would see such a deprivation as a wonderful deliverance, but there is a day coming when the true significance of the words of the Lord Jesus in John 6:63 will be understood by an unbelieving and lost world. "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

The words of Christ are the ONLY words of life. Those deprived of them will be lost forever.

That is why we believe that the greatest of all abuse of a child is that which deprives it of peace with God, of forgiveness of sin, of heaven.

Of course, it not just within a sodomite environment that such abuse is suffered by children! Every home where the Word of God is rejected, regardless of how moral it may otherwise appear, is committing this same dreadful abuse of the children within its confines. There are many, many parents, who would totally repudiate the sodomite lifestyle but who are nevertheless guilty of abusing their children by neglecting to teach them the truth of the gospel of Christ.

May the Lord awaken Ulster to this dreadful abuse that is taking place even though it never reaches the headlines

No, what Mr Wells said was not deserving of an apology for it was but the essence of the teaching of the Word of God.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," John 14:6.



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe," 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

Rev Ivan Foster.

27th April, 2015.