



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

When turning from sin means turning yourself in!



Martin McGuinness in IRA uniform, far right.

Some who seek to defend the setting up of a power-sharing coalition between the DUP and Sinn Fein/IRA, have taken to defending Sinn Fein/IRA by claiming they are no longer engaged in terrorism.

If that is so, it is to be welcomed but many remain unconvinced of such a thing being so.

However, even if it were so, it does not qualify them for government.

The demands of God's law are plain and simple.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth

the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil," Romans 13:1-4.

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well," 1 Peter 2:13-14.

Three things are stated here regarding the civil authorities.

They are ordained of God. Their structures, bounds and remit have been appointed by Him.

They are meant to be a terror to evil men. Those that do evil should be punished.

They are meant to praise and commend the good works of good citizens.

How can Sinn Fein/IRA meet the criteria set down by God in these verses?

Many of those who lead Sinn Fein/IRA are acknowledged former IRA activists, of whom some have been guilty of robbery, terror and murder. They have never been charged with all the crimes of which they are guilty because of political constraints upon the law enforcement agencies.

Nevertheless, many books have been published in which the crimes of these members of the IRA have been documented. None of the authors have ever been made to face a libel writ before the courts! It does say something of the weight of evidence these writers have been able to amass against the likes of Martin McGuinness.

The question must then be asked how such people could possibly act as "a terror" against those who engage in the very same crimes committed with impunity by those who now



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

hold government office!

How could Martin McGuinness be part of a government which should punish "dissident" republicans for shooting a policeman in the very fashion in which he and those he led acted and for which he was never punished, nor has he ever uttered one syllable of repentance or remorse?

Conundrum

Despite this political and ethical conundrum, there are those, like Rev David McIlveen of Sandown Free Presbyterian Church, who are ready to endorse the inclusion of Sinn Fein/IRA in government and contend that it is in keeping with the teaching of God's law.

On BBC Northern Ireland's "Sunday Sequence" radio programme on April 1st, 2007, it was stated that Rev. McIlveen was in agreement with the liberal interpretation of Roman 13:4-6 which Church of Ireland rector, Dr Eric Culbertson, had expounded. Dr. Culbertson said that because Sinn Fein/IRA had given their "support" for "the government and the powers that be" they were in obedience to Romans 13.

Since "the government and the powers" which Dr. Culbertson claims Sinn Fein/IRA supports is a "government and the powers that be" of which Sinn Fein/IRA is an integral part, one can hardly imagine a situation where they would not give support to themselves!!

Sinn Fein/IRA has not been tested on its support for the police and the judiciary. Instead, the DUP have agreed to enter government with them on May 8th. It is hardly a test for Sinn Fein/IRA when the DUP has committed itself to entering a power-sharing executive on May 8th. Few are ever told before they enter a test that they have passed the test!!

Rev McIlveen said: "It would be, of course, our view that the government of the country would be a terror to evil and that is something we are waiting to see; and therefore I do view the situation with what I would describe as a cautious optimistic spirit. We have now a situation where the main republican party has accepted, at least verbally, the role of the PSNI; they have accepted the judicial process; they have also, of course, come along to accept the more democratic position of their people in the denunciation, and I hope that it is fulfilled in all its detail, of terrorist activity. So we have come a long way."

Rev. McIlveen makes no reference to remorse or repentance on the part of Sinn Fein/IRA for the heinous crimes they have committed as a prerequisite for government. He claims the support they have offered to the police, which must be seen by any honest person as an equivocating acknowledgement of the police in Northern Ireland, was them "coming a long way"!!

Really!

One prominent Sinn Fein MP and minister in waiting in the new power-sharing government, Michelle Gildernew, indicated on a radio programme that if she saw dissident republicans carrying out terrorist activities she would not tell the police.

So much for Sinn Fein/IRA backing the police! The DUP will be sharing power with this woman who publicly declares that she will withhold evidence of a crime from the police if that crime involves terrorists belonging to a dissident republican group!

This is hardly "coming a long way"!

We wish to commend the stand taken by Rev. David Silversides, a Reformed Presbyterian minister, on the same programme. He gave a faithful exposition of Romans 13:1-4, and made it plain that Sinn Fein/IRA did not meet the requirements for public office as set



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

down by the Lord.

Repentance

Just what would constitute evidence of repentance on the part of men such as Martin McGuinness?

Repentance is defined for us in the Shorter Catechism. "Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavour after, new obedience."

Central to true repentance is a turning from sin.

Were an IRA man to turn genuinely from his murder and other terrorist crimes, he would turn himself in to the police!

Only such an act will prove genuine repentance.

Until such a change, professions of support for the police and the judiciary fall very far short of the fitness required of God for a ruler.

Ivan Foster, April 3rd 2007.