



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Church of Ireland evangelicals seek reforms within church



Evangelicals within the Church of Ireland have launched a reform movement. The following information about it is taken from the organisation's Internet Website.

"REFORM IRELAND is a sister organisation to Reform in England. Reform is a movement of mainstream Evangelicals formed in response to the Church of England's loss of confidence in the truth and power in the gospel. A similar loss of confidence in the gospel can be seen in the Church of Ireland when you consider . . .

- the many clergy who deny basic doctrines of the Christian faith,
- articles and letters dismissive of both the Scriptures and Reformation doctrine appearing in the Church of Ireland Gazette,
- many churchgoers who rarely hear the gospel preached from the pulpit,
- continuing difficulties experienced by Evangelical candidates in the selection process for the ordained ministry and the undermining of the apostolic faith at the Church of Ireland Theological College.

In addition, we find that four Irish bishops have signed a document pledging themselves to work for the full inclusion of practising homosexuals within the church. We are currently asking these bishops what they mean by this.

It is a time for action -prayerful, biblically informed action on the part of those who are willing to pay the price of praying, thinking, working for change and facing criticism for changing. We offer this website as a resource to those committed to the biblical reform of our church."

It is clear that the Church of Ireland is in a mess. The issues about which these evangelicals are concerned constitute full blown apostasy! not god's plan The action they plan therefore falls far short of that which God demands. They say that "it is a time for action - prayerful, biblically informed action." If they were to act according to the Bible, they would be removing themselves from within the Church of Ireland rather than attempting to reform that which God says is irreformable. God does not revive that which is apostate, that which accepts sodomites into its pulpits. No, He judges it. The criticism they should be ready to accept is that mentioned in Hebrews 13:13. It is the criticism that falls on those who go forth . . . unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. Is there not a greater love for church and denomination, displayed in these plans for reforming that which God has given up, than there is for the Lord Jesus and His Word? question I ask these Chris-



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tians: "Were Christ to return and find you in fellowship with ecumenical and apostate Anglicanism, would it be sufficient to say to Him that you were against the trends within your church?" I do not think that it would, any more than Lot's vexation with the filthy conversation of the citizens of Sodom excused his remaining in their midst. Yes, we commend such believers for being vexed with the apostasy of their denomination. All too many don't even show that much response. But it is not enough to be vexed. God would have us separate from apostasy. That has ever been His rule. the price of failure May God help His people indeed to search submissively for the Biblical response to the growing apostasy, before they pay the awful price in a lost gospel heritage and the damnation of future generations.