



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Letter in response to articles in *The Belfast Telegraph* on the issue of corporal punishment in Christian schools



NEWTOWNABBEY INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

14th May 2001

Dear Editor,

I wish to make the following observations about the issue of corporal punishment in support of Rev Ivan Foster's comments. I am the minister of a Free Presbyterian Church which also has a Christian School.

The prospect of a law being passed, banning corporal punishment, should certainly fill all lovers of God's truth with concern. If such a thing comes to pass then those who love the Lord will have to display the same spirit as was among the Apostles: we ought to obey God rather than men, Acts 5 v 29.

There is certainly something ironic that such a law should be proposed by the present Minister for Education, one who has now openly admitted, what everyone else has known for years, that he is guilty of murder, destruction and mayhem. Here is a man guilty of vile crimes against humanity and he has the audacity to turn around and accuse other people who seek to obey the Word of God. Then again, Romanism has never been one for having any degree of rationale. She always could condemn that which she only perceived in others yet practised with a vengeance herself.

Those who support the banning of corporal punishment would have us to think that they are more merciful, compassionate, loving and knowledgeable than God is, about what is best for our children. They set themselves up as being wiser than God Himself. They are saying that they know more than God does about the needs of children. God's Word says that the 'rod of correction' is to be used in the disciplining of children. Those who oppose this, say that to do so is inhuman and inconsiderate. It is the very zenith of pride to claim to be wiser than Almighty God.

Mankind is but of yesterday, and we know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow, Job 8 v 9. These so-called experts, who set themselves up as definers of that which is acceptable and permissible in society, have no authority for doing so. They are but the equals of those whom they seek to legislate for. Therefore their opinion has to be taken as such. They are but created beings making observations upon other fellow created beings. Therefore on what basis and on whose authority do these mere creatures claim to be experts? In the Word of God we have the word of the Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. He alone knows all things. He alone is the all wise God.

Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite, Psalm 147 v 5. Being infinite in understanding then He alone knows how best to train up children and therefore His Word should be obeyed and not that of those who 'know nothing'.

The evidence is all around us as to the absurdity of banning corporal punishment. Parallel with this and other departures from God's law has been the total breakdown of law and



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order in society. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than among children and young people. There is no discipline or respect for authority in society. Lawlessness abounds among the young. This is attributed to the failure on the part of parents to discipline their children in accordance with the Word of God. This is undeniable.

As a Christian School we will endeavour to be faithful to the Word of God.

Rev Brian McClung.