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Social isolation

A lesson in Biblical separation!

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty," 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

'Social Isolation' has been defined thus: "Social isolation is a state of complete or near-complete lack of contact between an individual and society."

The true people of God should not, amidst all the distress that the 'Coronavirus' is creating, fail to notice a very clear spiritual lesson which I am sure the Lord would have us learn from this all.

Separation from sin is a very vital element in true religion, though it has been rejected by many in these 'modern times'!

However, 'separation' is taught us from the very commencement of God revealing His Law to His chosen people Israel. The law of separation was to be observed in what they could sow in their fields, what they could eat, what they could wear as well as the company they could keep. I will but give a few references of some portions of God's Word which deal with these issues. Leviticus 11:47, 19:19, 1 Kings 8:53.

In recent times there has 'developed' an 'evangelicalism' which has chosen deliberately to turn its back upon such a truth and advocate a 'mingling' with the ungodly and a breaking down all distinctions between the believer and the unbeliever as a means of 'evangelising' the ungodly.

As a result today we have in looks and in sound a form of 'Christianity' which is basically indistinguishable from the world. We have 'gospel' pop groups and 'evangelists' who appear and who talk in a way that is a mere aping of the worldly man!

Locally, this abandoning of the 'old paths' of behaviour and conduct may be seen in professing Christians remaining in denominations which have openly abandoned all pretence of adhering to God's Word on matters of doctrine. Rather, every man does that which is 'right in his own eyes' as far as faith and practice are concerned. Professing evangelicals are to be found in denominations which have defied God's Word and ordained women as elders and ministers. Such denominations have gone on to embrace sodomy as an acceptable 'Christian' practice, with varying degrees of restrictions imposed by different denominations. However, most denominations tolerate open sodomite relationships. Liberal theology is deeply entrenched within the mainline denominations in which the cardinal truths of the Bible are contemptuously rejected. Yet still professing Christians are to be found fellowshiping within such an environment and defending their defiance of God's truth!

On the other hand, those who call for a literal acceptance and obeying of such portions of God's Word as 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 are labelled as 'unchristian', 'schismatic' and 'unloving'!

Providence has provided us with a stark lesson in the matter of separation as an essential element of true holiness! We are all required by government decree to maintain a degree of physical isolation from one another on a national scale never before known in our history. In places such as China, Italy, Spain and France, to name but a few, fines and imprisonment are the penalties imposed on any failure to adhere to these rules of 'social isolation'!

It is acknowledged by all but the idiotic 'partying and pub devotees' that this separation/isolation is the only



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effective way of stopping the spread of this disease.

We are thus seeing, though I am sure that there are few who will observe this, the wisdom of God's call to separate from sin and the taking of steps to avoid contact with that which will spiritually contaminate and spread death.

Long before today's medical experts were presented on television calling for 'social isolation', the Lord taught His people that separation was the means of avoiding contamination by an earthly plague and that plague which has far more serious consequences than any physical virus - SIN!

"Take heed in the plague of leprosy, that thou observe diligently, and do according to all that the priests the Levites shall teach you: as I commanded them, so ye shall observe to do," Deuteronomy 24:8.

"And thou shalt say to the rebellious, even to the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O ye house of Israel, let it suffice you of all your abominations, in that ye have brought into my sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in my sanctuary, to pollute it, even my house, when ye offer my bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken my covenant because of all your abominations. And ye have not kept the charge of mine holy things: but ye have set keepers of my charge in my sanctuary for yourselves," Ezekiel 44:6-8.

"And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean," Ezekiel 44:23.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are," 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them," Ephesians 5:1-11.

The present plague originated, not in China, as is commonly supposed, but in the rejection of heaven's laws on spiritual hygiene!

Nations of men have chosen to violate God's Law and I have no doubt that 'Coronavirus' is God's response to this rebellion.

Has not the Bible warned us of such a thing? Has not secular history illustrated for us this happening in former times!

What the Lord said of Babylon, He has said of many nations and empires throughout the ages! "This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians," Daniel 5:26-28.

It is absolutely true that "The most High ruleth in the kingdom of men," Daniel 4:32.

Those who engage in profligacy reap a profligate's harvest. If only men would heed Romans 1:21-27.



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"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."

Please note the words: ". . . receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."

There is a physical harvest reaped by those who ignore and defy God's laws of nature. The "Human Immunodeficiency Virus", or HIV, which has ravaged the sodomite community, is today's evidence of that!

Dear Christian, if we disregard God's laws on SPIRITUAL SEPARATION there will be like consequences.

The Free Presbyterian Church must take note of this for there are those within our ranks who openly reject many of the principles which were espoused by our founding fathers nearly 70 years ago. Those stalwarts rejected fellowship with those who embraced Ecumenism and Romanism. They said that such behaviour would bring down God's judgment upon any people who engaged in such defiance of His truth.

What would they now say of those today who are in coalition with terrorists and supporters of the slaughter of the unborn, endorsers of a sodomite local council candidate and also of sodomite marriage?

Yet there are those who hold office within the Free Presbyterian Church and others, who do just that!

Furthermore, it appears that many in our Presbytery and its officers are quite prepared to live with such a situation. Indeed, a majority of Presbytery members have shown themselves ready to vote against any attempts to introduce measures to bring such a situation to an end.

The Presbytery officers recently issued a statement in which its "Executive Committee...decided that services in all Free Presbyterian Churches are to be postponed with immediate effect." This was because of "the coronavirus pandemic."

Thus the Officers of Presbytery were ready expeditiously to obey the Government's call for 'social isolation'.

But what of God's command not to be "unequally yoked together with unbelievers?" 2 Corinthians 6:14. The analogy is taken from two animals of different size and gait (the ox and the ass) being made to work together. It surely must cover Christians entering into a working relationship with terrorists, supporters of terrorism, upholders of abortion and sodomite marriage. This is what Free Presbyterians in membership of the Democratic Unionist Party are guilty of.

Yet such is tolerated and supported by our Presbytery.

Today's defiers of 'social isolation' are rightly condemned from every quarter. BUT what, Christian, are we to think of those who seem to believe that there is some virtue, some scriptural reason, for defying God's Word on spiritual separation from those who carry a virus much more terrifyingly virulent than any earthly plague!

Nothing but the bitterest ill will be the consequences of this folly on the part of those engaged in it

The Free Presbyterian Church must act NOW to avoid bringing upon itself the very harvest it sought to escape in 1951 when it separated from the Ecumenism then infecting the main denominations.



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The wrong of exonerating those who defy the Word of God and walk daily in the company of the most ungodly in our land and work alongside them, must be stopped and the efforts made within Presbytery to rectify this evil must be embraced and our Church cleansed of this error and sin.

May there be a stirring of the ranks of Free Presbyterianism to see that this is done and that speedily.

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtr)

Written on the first Sabbath wherein our churches were officially closed, Lord's Day 22nd March, 2020.