



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

"Impartial Reporter" editorial critical of Jim Wells MLA and those who share his views of sodomy

A response by Rev Ivan Foster

I have known Mr McDaniel for a long time. Given his background, I am disappointed that he propagates in the editorial of his newspaper on 30th April, the standard abuse of Christians who seek to obey God's Word regarding sodomy and even seeks to endorse his comments by ending with a quote from the Word of God, albeit, not from the Authorised Version.

What Mr McDaniel says about civility one to another is to be endorsed to a limited degree. The Saviour set us all the example to follow. "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously," 1 Peter 2:23.

However, civility does not include an ignoring of sin nor does it mean we act toward those who disregard the law of God so as to give the impression that such action amounts to nothing!

In complete contrast to Mr McDaniel's thesis, the Word of God requires of the Christian a very specific attitude and course of behaviour toward those who trample God's law underfoot. Those whom Mr McDaniel criticises are largely doing what is required of them.

This age is marked by what is deemed a most progressive attitude which may be stated in the idiom in much use today: "Live and let live." Fundamentally, it means that we find it acceptable for everyone to write and live by their own code of conduct.

Now of course, nearly all who preach this doctrine would readily accede to the fact that there is a limit to this freedom! They are not prepared to permit anyone to live ENTIRELY as they like. Murder, the abuse of children, stealing etc would still be deemed unacceptable by even the most fervent advocate of "live and let live"!

While they take to themselves the right to thus limit the freedom to act of others, they do not like to concede to Christians the right to insist that human activity is to be curtailed by what God says in His Holy Law.

Thus Mr McDaniels and his ilk would take the place of God, overthrow His law and impose their arbitrary law of social behaviour on all. Of course the inevitable outcome of this "shifting sands" philosophy is that a short time from now another 'Denzil McDaniel' will arise, labelling the erstwhile acceptable code of conduct outdated and proposing yet a further step from God's Law and the introduction of an even more liberal set of social standards 'ad infinitum'.

The end will be anarchy or as the Saviour depicts it in His parable in Luke 19:14: "But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us."

Mr McDaniels' idea of civility is not that of the Bible.

Here is one example of his philosophy. He writes about what he considers objectionable behaviour by Mr Wells, based upon the dubious witness of former IRA leader and unrepentant terrorist, Martin McGuinness.

"The Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, claimed that Mr. Wells doesn't speak to him and "does everything in his power not to be civilised or cordial." This from a partner in Government, a Minister who sits round the same Executive table.

Tolerate each other? Some can't even speak to their opponents, and apparently Jim Wells isn't alone in the DUP in that regard.



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

There may well be, in fact there definitely are, many people who think this is at least understandable and even acceptable behaviour. And there are those who at least sit and say nothing when robust and harsh attitudes towards the gay community make those folk feel vulnerable and isolated.

Sorry, but it's simply not acceptable in this day and age. Why can we not accept difference and behave graciously towards those with whom we disagree?" (Emphasis ours).

I will make no comment on the incongruity of Christians sharing a position in a government which includes those who obtained their position as a result of their terrorist activities. The "Burning Bush" site abounds with my expressions of disapproval of the present Stormont power-sharing arrangement so I need not repeat myself. (See **this article** as an example)

However, I will contest Mr McDaniels' condemnation of Mr Wells' unwillingness to socialise with Martin McGuinness.

Let me state clearly that I would not be in any agreed political arrangement which included any of the members of Sinn Fein. Doubtless, I shop in stores which are used by Sinn Feiners and their ilk but that is acceptable by Bible standards. But I am not permitted to enter into an political arrangement with them whereby I am 'yoked' together with them in seeking to achieve a common goal. That is forbidden.

But as well as that, I will not act toward Mr McGuinness on a personal or social level in a fashion that might suggest that I accept his role in the affairs of Northern Ireland or that I have no objections to his past and present behaviour.

He was actively engaged in a murder campaign and continues to this day to eulogise and vindicate that campaign of terror. That I will vigorously object to and not moderate for the sake of partaking in polite social exchanges!

The teaching of the Word of God must govern every aspect of the Christian's behaviour not just those matters that take place within church doors! The Word of God is the 'only rule of faith and practice'. Not the social norms propagated by newspaper editors!!!

"What saith the Scriptures?"

It is not enough to reject the false views and improper behaviour of others. We must register our objection and manifest our opposition in a fashion in keeping with God's Word.

Let me begin with what John, commonly known as the 'Apostle of Love' says on this matter.

"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds," 2 John 1:10-11.

I have no doubt that such behaviour would bring another condemnatory editorial from the pen of Mr McDaniel!!

But the Word of God says more.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple," Romans 16:17-18.

"I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person," 1 Corinthians 5:9-13.

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed," Galatians 1:8-9.

"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. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret," Ephesians 5:8-12.

I will not further quote from the Law of God which sets out the strict line of demarcation between the behaviour of the people of God and the unbelievers who reject God's truth and which requires the believer to avoid fellowship with such deviants.

The nation which embraces and tolerates as acceptable behaviour that which God has clearly said will bring down His judgments should remember the proverb: "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" Proverbs 6:27.

Nations will yet learn the truth of this wise counsel.

Ivan Foster.