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The abortion referendum in the republic of Ireland: 'INFANTICIDE ENDORSED'

A 'Belfast Newsletter' editorial on May 26th, the day following the "YES" vote in the referendum on the repeal of the eighth amendment of the Irish Constitution which limits the circumstances under which an abortion may take place, contained the following statements.

"We are going to have to give the matter a lot of thought in Northern Ireland too. As with many issues, from hospital rationalisation to public sector reform to social matters, Stormont fears hard choices.

The limited push for abortion reform in the last assembly struck me as one that ducked the point: the emphasis was on victims of rape or families dealing with fatal foetal abnormality. But these tragic cases are a tiny fraction of abortions.

The real debate is over abortion on demand, which has barely been discussed at Stormont.

On all such topics we act as if Northern Ireland opinions are utterly removed from the rest of Britain and Ireland, but my sense is that is only by a small margin the most conservative part of the five-part UK and Ireland.

This is not to say that abortion on demand is a good thing but to acknowledge that it is facilitated almost everywhere in the western world early in a pregnancy.

In other words, the settled position in most countries is that a woman, not the state, decides in the first stages of a pregnancy.

It is the position in Germany and France and America, and might soon be so in Ireland too, yet it has barely been discussed here in NI. This has led to things such as the sudden decisions to fund abortions for Northern Ireland women in other parts of the UK."

The sentence I wish to home in on since it contains a sentiment which lies at the heart of the whole discussion and debate, is this:

"In other words, the settled position in most countries is that a woman, not the state, decides in the first stages of a pregnancy."

Is it true that the expectant woman has the right to decide on the issue of abortion? Does any human being have the right to decide to end the life of an innocent unborn child?

I. LET ME FIRST STATE THAT THE WORD OF GOD, THE 'ONLY RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE' FOR THE PROFESSING CHRISTIAN, CLEARLY STATES THAT THE UNBORN CHILD FROM ITS CONCEPTION, IS A TRUE HUMAN BEING.

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me," Psalm 51:5.

It was David who was conceived by his mother, not a 'thing', a mere collection of human cells which at some later stage would metamorphose into a human being!

Mary, the mother of our Lord, was greeted by her cousin, Elisabeth, only days after Mary had been informed by the angel : "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God," Luke 1:30-35.



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Here is what Elisabeth said to Mary. "And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord," Luke 1:42-45.

Elisabeth called Mary 'the mother of my Lord'. She used the present tense. Mary was already the mother of Elisabeth's Lord, even though it would be nearly nine months before Christ was born. In "the mystery of godliness", the tiny embryo miraculously conceived within Mary's womb, upon His birth, was declared by Paul to be "God manifest in the flesh," 1 Timothy 3:16.

Believing as I do that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," 2 Timothy 3:16, and that this inspiration is 'plenary', that is, it includes every word. Christ said: "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled," Matthew 5:18. The 'jot' is the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet and 'tittle' is a tiny mark used by Grammarians to indicate an accent.

Thus Christ indicates that we can rely upon every word in the Bible. This He did when He used the tense of a word spoken by His Father to Moses to prove the doctrine of the resurrection. "But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine," Matthew 22:31-33.

Thus I believe that the Bible teaches the 'humanity' of the unborn from the moment of conception.

II. THIS BEING SO, NOT EVEN THE EXPECTANT MOTHER HAS THE 'RIGHT' TO END THE LIFE OF THAT LITTLE ONE.

The thinking that puts the woman in charge of the decision to end the life of the unborn is unbiblical, anti-God and where accepted, makes all those who support such a notion guilty of premeditated murder or at least complicit in murder!

Any nation that endorses such a philosophy as the Irish Republic has just done, becomes guilty of colluding in mass infanticide! That is a most solemn charge to make yet it is all too true.

If this decision by Ireland is translated into legislation and the sodomite who is the political leader of the Irish Republic, Leo Varadkar, has promised that it will, then the nation will become as Herod the King of the Jews, a slaughterer of infants.

What of Northern Ireland?

Doubtless, there will be an increased campaign by the pro-abortion camp, made up of Sinn Fein, the party which endorses murder as part of its political philosophy, the Ulster Unionist Party which has proved to be vacillating on this, and indeed, most moral questions. They have now been joined by the SDLP which has abandoned its anti-abortion stance.

That just leaves the DUP since the Alliance and Green parties are long established in the liberalising camp on just about everything that has its roots in Bible morality

A few years ago, the DUP was pretty solid on the question of the wrongs of sodomy and abortion. That is no longer the case as is evident by the opinions of some within its ranks.

I wrote an article on 1st August 2016 ([read it here](#)) in which I highlighted the new attitude toward sodomy that was emerging within the DUP. In that article there was a picture of the then DUP Belfast Lord Mayor, Brian Kingston, alongside 'gay' members of the PSNI who were taking part in the 'Gay Pride' activities.



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Here is that picture.

The article continued: "In a statement regarding the City Hall gathering of sodomites, Mr Kingston sought to distance himself from the affair. In a statement, issued on the Lord's Day, he said: "For clarity, I did not 'launch the festival' but did give a welcome address at a pre-event drinks reception at City Hall. " "I welcomed the attendees to City Hall and wished them an enjoyable evening. "

The PSNI had posted a picture of the Lord Mayor with the following message: "Members of PSNI Gay Police at a function to mark the beginning of 'Gay Pride' Association & Lord Mayor Alderman Brian Kingston at the launch of @belfastpride Festival."



From "Saving Ulster from sodomy" to welcoming the participants in a 'Gay Pride' festival to the City Hall is quite a step. From saying that "homosexuality and its proposed legalisation, is in direct defiance of the law and Word of God and cannot be justified from any Christian, moral, religious or ethical perspective" and that legalising sodomy is "a scandalous surrender to a tiny minority campaign for homosexuality to be treated as a normal way of life, instead of a harmful deviance" to wishing an enjoyable evening to sodomites in the City Hall is quite a step indeed!

But it is one that the DUP has taken and that in search of votes and a desire to maintain its 'top of the heap' political position. Of course, this is not the first participation with a "Gay Pride" event for the DUP. In 2012, the then DUP Lord Mayor, Gavin Robinson (now DUP MP for East Belfast) agreed to be part of a panel discussion as part of the gay pride festival. It was believed to have been the first time a politician from the DUP had attended such an event.

This downward slide by the DUP from a position in which the Word of God governed its view of sodomy to the present position, obviously dictated by public opinion, has taken place without a murmur, publicly at least, from any of those who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ within the DUP's elected representatives. There may have been voices raised against sodomy here and there but none challenging their party's departure from its former stance."

To this may be added some other pointers to the DUP's liberalising stance.

1. The decision by Arlene Foster to push through a retrospective pardon for homosexual men who had been convicted of gross indecency.
2. The agreement of all DUP Executive Ministers to the lifting of the ban on blood donations by homosexual men.
3. The commissioning of a review of abortion legislation by Simon Hamilton and Arlene Foster which led to a recommendation recently presented for consideration to the Stormont Executive that a disabled unborn child could be killed in the womb.
4. A goodwill message to the LGBT community by Emma Pengelly, MP, on the day of the last Gay Pride march through Belfast.
5. A photograph on Facebook of Gavin Robinson MP accepting a petition in support of gay marriage. This presentation took place on February 14th 2017 and Gavin added the comment - 'next time you come, bring flowers and chocolates'.



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Jim Wells MLA

Recently, the long-serving DUP MLA, Jim Wells, was in dispute with the leadership of his party. He gave his opinion to the media. He said the party wanted to get rid of him because of his "old-fashioned, traditional" views on matters such as same-sex marriage and abortion. In an interview for BBC News NI, he said: "I suspect I was an embarrassment to them. I'm very extreme on protecting the unborn child and very extreme on protecting traditional marriage and I got the impression the party wants to move on, to become more inclusive and more modern." BBC NI, April 9th, 2018.

The matter will doubtlessly divide the DUP but I have but little expectation that there will be many who will put the teaching of God's Word and loyalty to it before their political career. Rather, as was the case with power-sharing with IRA murderers, there will always be a reason found for abandoning the "Never, never, never" declarations of the past!

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtr).

May 26th, 2018.