



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

"WHAT NOW FOR THE FRIENDS OF JOEL BEEKE?"

Which path will the Free Presbyterian Church choose? Disowning Dr. Joel Beeke's compromises or Displeasing the Lord of Glory?

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them," Ephesians 5:11.

Throughout my ministry I have preached to the best of my ability the Word of God and applied it to those who were caught up in the errors of the ecumenical denominations, in order that they might be aware of what God would have them do in the face of the deceptions and delusions propagated by the devil and his agents. That is the duty of a servant of God.

Now, at the close of my pulpit ministry, I find myself addressing my fellow Free Presbyterians and that with a trembling heart.

Just before my retirement from the pastorate, I sought to offer counsel and a warning to Dr Paisley and those other Free Presbyterians who seemed determined to embrace power-sharing with Sinn Fein/IRA terrorists.

For seeking to do that I was belittled and my advice derided.

However, 10 years down the road from the first mention of a DUP-Sinn Fein/IRA coalition, I challenge anyone to say that what took place in 2007 was to the honour of God, the betterment of the Free Presbyterian Church or the advance of Christ's gospel!

In the last 10 years I have had many, who doubted the wisdom of my stand on power-sharing when it was first mooted, come to me and say that what I said and did was correct.

Tonight I come to the climax of another issue, my position on which has gained me no friends! I have been involved in an ongoing attempt to warn Christians against the activities of Dr Joel Beeke. In many ways it is a case of *deja vu*! I can well remember the campaign, led by Dr Paisley and Dr Job Jones Jr, against the compromises and errors of Dr Billy Graham. The Free Presbyterian Church was united to a man on the issue and it was evangelicals within the ecumenical churches who bitterly opposed the stand against Billy Graham and who hurled all sorts of unkind and untrue accusations against Dr Paisley and Dr Jones.

I find myself in exactly the same arena in which those men battled some 50 years ago.

Back in 2010, Pastor Ralph Ovadal of Pilgrims Coveant Church and Rev Stephen Hamilton of the Free Presbyterian Church of North America did a radio talk on the "New Calvinist" movement and showed that those involved were no Calvinists at all. They also pointed out that Dr Joel Beeke was harming his testimony by mingling with such who could not be called "Fundamentalists."

Shortly after, I became involved, in company with Pastor Ovadal, in highlighting the sliding of Dr Beeke into ever increasing compromise because of his refusal to break company with those who embraced error.

The issue of the corrupt nature of an organisation called "Refo500", allegedly set up to commemorate the start of the Reformation in 1517, with which Dr Beeke had been involved since its inception, became the focus of radio broadcasts and articles by Pastor Ovadal with some assistance from me.

Following those exposures, Dr Beeke was confronted by those who supported him but who were alarmed by the involvement of Roman Catholic organisations and institutions within "Refo500." Some of them were Free Presbyterians.

As a result, Dr Beeke told his concerned friends that he had not known these things and that he would totally withdraw from "Refo500" and that immediately. His assurance was accepted by Pastor Ovadal and myself.



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However, it soon became clear that Dr Beeke had not broken fellowship with "Refo500." Proof of that was seen no longer ago than the beginning of September of this year when Dr Beeke preached at a "Refo500" event in Holland!

We have found Dr Beeke to be given to dissimulation! He has not been honest in his handling of this and other matters.

Sadly, when his supporters, who had been alarmed at Dr Beeke's involvement with "Refo500", were faced with the new evidence of his deceit and with further evidence of his compromise with error, some turned on us and charged us with being jealous of him!!??

Those same supporters now must face up to the fact that Dr Beeke deceived them about "Refo500" and that he is still involved with that wicked organisation which has within its ranks various Roman Catholic institutions and clerics.

I am happy to say tonight that the North American Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church has this week broken fellowship with Dr Beeke until there is a public addressing of the issues highlighted in our recent article, an article I might say that is chiefly the work of my son, Andy, minister of Penticton FPC.

[Note from Editor: "I have since been informed that the decision of the North American Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church did not include a breaking of fellowship with Dr Beeke but simply a request for an explanation of his actions in Holland. My sermon recording has been edited accordingly to prevent further spread of this mistake. For that error I apologise. There was no intentional desire to mislead or misinform"]

What must be noticed is that not one of Joel Beeke's supporters, nor indeed, he himself, have taken upon themselves to answer and refute the evidence that has been set forth in quite a number of our articles. Instead, they have resorted to a whispering campaign, seeking to discredit Pastor Ovadal and myself.

That is not how God's work is done nor His truth served. That is how the enemies of the Lord Jesus acted and that says a lot about the whole Joel Beeke camp. I have no doubt that many who have heard these whispers were made to say to themselves: "Why not answer Ovadal and Foster, rather than making snide remarks about them?"

Such would be the honest and honourable thing to do

But matters have now come to a head and Joel Beeke's disobedience has taken on new and dreadful dimensions.

At the beginning of September, Dr Beeke spoke in a church in Holland which has amongst its pastors a man who openly preaches that a Christian can be a sodomite and is to be welcomed into membership of the church. The minister's name is Pastor J. Kommerie. His fellow pastors in that particular denomination obviously must agree with this wicked position since the man was challenged about his views while yet a student and he openly acknowledged them but was nevertheless ordained to the ministry of the Hersteld Hervormde Kerken or the "Restored Reformed Church", as the English rendering is.

Dr Beeke declared openly that his church in the USA, Heritage Netherlands Reformed Congregation, wished to have closer links to this sodomy-condoning denomination. Here is what he said in the course of his remarks in Kralingseveer, Rotterdam on Sunday morning September 4th, when explaining the pursuit of formal relations between his denomination and the "Restored Reformed Church".

"Our denomination has recently sent a letter to the Hersteld Hervormde Kerke that we might enter into some kind of contact, because we feel one with you and one with the reformed, Christ-centred, experiential emphasis that you adhere to as we do."

Such a statement cannot be made by someone who has not researched to some degree at least, the standards and conduct of the "Restored Reformed Church"!



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To call a denomination that condones sodomy 'Christ-centred' is nothing short of blasphemy. In doing so, Joel Beeke has crossed a line and it is my concern that no one in the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster joins him 'across that line'!

I. IT IS CLEAR THAT JOEL BEEKE HAS A VERY WRONG ATTITUDE TO SODOMY.

1. He cannot claim ignorance of the state of affairs in this Dutch church. You do not seek closer ties with a denomination whose doctrines you are not aware of. This excuse will not work this time and surely his stoutest supporters must see this.

2. I can hardly believe that he personally has sympathy with such wickedness but I see it as another instance of him believing he can play with fire and not get burned. Dr Beeke has in the past shared platforms with sodomy-promoting speakers and writers. He has also advertised books by sodomy-promoting authors, Charismatics and Romanists in his 'Reformation Heritage Books' store which claims to seek to 'equip the saints to serve Christ and His church through biblical, experiential, and practical ministry, via books, tracts, and other resources.' This has continued right up until the most recent times and may easily be verified on Ralph Ovadal's website or on my own.

This recklessness is utterly reprehensible and inexplicable on the part of a Christian minister!

3. The attitude he displays toward sodomy is in keeping with the utter disregard he has displayed to the Word of God when repeatedly pressed upon him. Numerous attempts have been made to correct Dr Beeke but he will have none of it! My own experience in 2013 when I exchanged some emails with him demonstrates this (**See here**).

II. HE HAS CROSSED A LINE ON THIS OCCASION BECAUSE THE SIN HE ALLIES HIMSELF WITH IS ONE GOD WILL NOT TOLERATE.

"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination," Leviticus 18:22.

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God," 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. Note specifically, "effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind." The first refers to those inclined to a perverted lifestyle, those men who act as women and are termed 'celibate homosexuals' by apologists of this shameful perversion. The second term refers to those who abandon themselves to this vile wickedness. These are the sodomites which abound in society today and bring their corrupting influences to bear everywhere.

Those referred to as effeminate" are those that are welcomed as Christians in the "Hersteld Hervormde Kerken", where Joel Beeke preached. Such an acceptance is but the first step to the admission of the openly confessing sodomite. This the church with which Joel Beeke, and the membership of his home denomination in the USA, wishes to establish stronger ties.

That being so, no Free Presbyterian minister or member should be numbered amongst his associates but all should come out and solemnly denounce his wickedness and separate themselves from his company.

To do otherwise is to defy God and incur His wrath and judgment and shamefully renounce all that the Free Presbyterian Church was founded to uphold some 65 years ago!

1. There is no place in God's heaven for such as Joel Beeke seeks stronger ties with. These "shall not inherit the kingdom of God." This how serious the matter is. It comes to the very heart of the gospel. Joel Beeke is seeking even closer links with those who defy God, deny His Word and who are declared by God as unacceptable in heaven!

2. God's wrath has been often displayed most terribly against this sin. Sodom and its destruction is



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an example of His wrath displayed. The ruins of Sodom stand as a monument to God's wrath against this wickedness. So said Peter. "Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly," 2 Peter 2:6.

Romans chapter 1 tells of God's abhorrence of this abominable wickedness. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness . . . 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," Romans 1:18, 24-27.

3. It is this sin which will bring down God's wrath on sinners at the end of this age. "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed," Luke 17:29-30.

The sinful attitudes of Sodom will be seen again, indeed, we have abundant evidence of that the plague has broken out in our nation. The same swift and terrible judgment will be visited upon those who give themselves over to this wickedness at the return of Christ.

How can Joel Beeke in any way condone and endorse that which makes the blessed Saviour so angry?

III. JOEL BEEKE'S ACTIONS DEMAND A VERY CLEAR RESPONSE FROM HIS SUPPORTERS AND FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ULSTER.

1. The response is not open for debate. God has stipulated what action must be taken. "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them," Romans 16:17.

This is what Joel Beeke has done. He has acted contrary to God's Word and caused divisions. He must therefore be avoided.

The word 'avoid' is employed by Peter when speaking of our avoidance of sin. "Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it," 1 Peter 3:11. 'Eschew' is the same Greek word as is translated "avoid" in Romans 16:17.

2. Failure to take this action by his friends will require fellow members of the FPC to act in a certain way toward them. Again it is not open for debate. God has spoken.

Those who persist in fellowshiping with one who has defied God's Word must be separated from and avoided by believers who wish to remain faithful to God's Word. If a gospel minister knowingly, wilfully and actively cooperates with false teachers we should have no fellowship with him. C H Spurgeon said: 'That I might not stultify my testimony I have cut myself clear of those who err from the faith, and even from those who associate with them,' (Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit 1888, No. 2047).

Paul taught that a disobedient Christian must be avoided. "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother," 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15.

In the light of those final words I have sought throughout this controversy to avoid employing derogatory terms when referring to Dr Beeke, even though his actions are most disgraceful and blameworthy.

3. It is at such times we learn what the Saviour meant when He said we were to seek the well-being of the Kingdom of God first. "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and



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he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me," Matthew 10:37.

We are called upon to put Christ first and above all earthly relationships, friendships and ties.

It was the attitude that moved Moses to act as he did when he turned his back on Egypt. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward," Hebrews 11:24-26.

Likewise, it was the attitude behind the memorable words of Joshua, in Joshua 24:15. "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

I solemnly charge the Officers of our Presbytery, every minister and student, every elder and deacon and every communicant member of our denomination to gravely and soberly see the decision that must be made and to publicly, fervently and courageously declare themselves for the Lord Jesus Christ on this matter and to act in total obedience to God's Holy Word and have no part in the dreadful and wicked betrayal of the gospel by Joel Beeke.

We must reject this sell-out of the heritage of the saints, this casting away of the blood-bought birthright of the redeemed by utterly repudiating it and separating from it and all who would ally themselves with Joel Beeke.