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Rector to walk in Pride parade

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A Church of Ireland minister is to walk in Newry's Gay Pride parade today, with placards apologising for "how the church has mistreated LGBT+ people".

Rev Andrew Rawding, a rector from in Coalisland in Co Tyrone, is taking the stand due to serious mental health issues he sees among the LGBT community which he says are partly due to how they have been treated by the church.

"After listening to young adults and parents from my parishes, and after hearing the stories of LGBT people and knowing the very serious mental health implications including self harm and suicide, I decided that I needed to publicly

acknowledge how the church has mistreated LGBTQI+ people," he told the News Letter.

The church generally has "judged, condemned, rejected, isolated, spiritually abused and mistreated LGBTQI+ people" he added.

The cleric, who supports the introduction of same sex marriage into Northern Ireland, says he sees "no tension at all between the practise of homosexuality and my Christian faith because at the heart of my faith is God's love".

One of LGBT community he has been supportive of is Gareth, a 38-year-old mental health professional from Co Down who told the News Letter he had at one time been a youth leader in the Presbyterian church: "I had great relationships within the church and was a member of a small group". However he later confided in church leaders about the "struggle with my sexuality" and following "a huge psychological struggle that nearly killed me" he explained to them that he "would have to accept myself how God had made me or die".

He has since severed his connection with his original church but is now engaged with a number of LGBT affirming faith groups across Northern Ireland.

A spokesman for the Church of Ireland said that a church Synod resolution on human sexuality in 2012 affirmed that marriage is "a holy mystery in which one man and one woman become one flesh". The resolution also opposed "bigotry, hurtful words or actions and demeaning or damaging language" in relation to sexuality.

The spokesman said that church teaching is agreed in a "democratic" process; Many clergy and laity disagree with church teaching "and may continue to hold their point of view, but it will not be the official position of the Church".

The report above, in the "Belfast Newsletter" of August 31st, highlights the utter apostasy of the Church of Ireland, the Episcopalian sister organisation of the Church of England. Upon seeing the report I could not



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refrain from writing this brief expostulation.

That there should be in the ranks of this so-called Protestant denomination such a reprobate as this cleric, Rev Andrew Rawding, and that he is permitted to utter such wicked slanders and to retain his position and to propagate his blasphemy, is evidence enough of the outright departure from the teaching of the Bible that the Church of Ireland professes to believe and stand for!

He stupidly claims that "the very serious mental health implications including self harm and suicide stem from how the church has mistreated LGBTQI+ people."

There is a simple truth set forth in the Bible and endorsed manifestly in nature, which states: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting, Galatians 6:7-8.

Men and women bring misery upon their own heads through their sins and rebellion against God and their sorrows cannot be blamed upon others.

There is no group within society that more fragrantly defies God than the sodomite community! The ailments, wretchedness and angst which enshroud this section of today's society, are of their own making. They are indeed reaping what they have sown!

The truth of Galatians 6:7-8 is repeated many times in the Bible, but many like this 'Coalisland Clown', fail to grasp it.

"Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same," Job 4:8.

"For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: they would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices," Proverbs 1:29-31.

"For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind," Hosea 8:7.

"But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; but glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: for there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law," Romans 2:5-12.

This religious buffoon seeks to blame Christians in past generations for the despair of the sodomite because those Christians maintained attitudes toward the perversions of the sodomites as taught them in the Bible!

I am reminded of the words of Paul in response to the malicious slanders of the Christ-rejecting Jews of Jerusalem: "And they neither found me in the temple disputing with any man, neither raising up the people, neither in the synagogues, nor in the city: neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me. But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets," Acts 24:12-14.

This man, like those wicked Jews, called the God-ordained way of righteousness and truth, a way of heretical evil.

Providence has, however, had its say for in the background of the picture is a banner belonging to those who protest against such iniquity stating: 'Homosexuality is sin.' The ravings of this stupid man will not alter



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The man further blasphemes when he claims that he sees “no tension at all between the practise (sic) of homosexuality and my Christian faith because at the heart of my faith is God’s love”. God does not love sin! “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity,” Habakkuk 1:13. The word ‘behold’ carries the meaning ‘to respect, regard, enjoy,’ and is so translated in other places in Scripture. The Hebrew word translated as ‘look on’ is translated in other passages as ‘regard, respect.’

This verse makes it clear that God has no love and never can have for that which He has condemned as an abomination.

What a slanderer of God this man is!

Furthermore, it is reported here that this ‘Rector’ supports sodomite marriage! That he should be allowed to so speak by his denomination without discipline and utter rejection and repudiation, presents us with the final stage of rebellion against God. That which God unqualifiedly condemns in the most strident terms (Leviticus 20:13, 1 Kings 14:24, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9, 1 Timothy 1:10, Jude 1:7) this man and his ilk endorse and seek to promote and that without proper repudiation by his seniors!

This is wickedness indeed.

Shame on all those Church of Ireland members who profess personal faith in Christ. That they should remain in that camp which has so despicably defied the Word of God and betrayed the Saviour, is the ultimate in unfaithfulness and treachery! By so doing they are stained and condemned by the wickedness rampant within their denomination!

“And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins,” Numbers 16:26.

Let every faithful soul recognise the signs that indicate the descent of society down into the final apostasy that will be crushed in judgment by the return of Christ. It is the Christian’s duty to separate utterly from this latter-day apostasy and to maintain unremitting and uncompromising opposition to it!

As Dr Paisley used to say in the heyday of Free Presbyterian protests: “Stand up; Speak up; Get out and Shout out!!”