



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### Rev Ivan Foster's letter to the Editor of the "Belfast Newsletter" in answer to the latest from Dublin critic, John McFarland Campbell

*Mr Ivan Foster (Aug 11) informs us that he has quoted from a version of the Articles of Religion as on the Church Society website.*

*It is clearly stated there, that this version "is provided solely for the purpose of making the Articles more easily understood. The standing or authority of the Articles as set out in the Book of Common Prayer is in no way to be interpreted as diminished or undermined."*

*However, by not quoting the authoritative Articles, Mr Foster is indeed undermining them. Knowing what is actually written is important. It would have been helpful if he had given his source when originally writing.*

*I must admit that I do not recognise the message of the God of love, sitting on a throne of grace, (cf Hebrews 4:16) in much of what Mr Foster writes. God's love and grace are there for all who wish to receive it. In my Christian life and witness, I recognise and embrace the diversity that is found in the world today: the diversity that has indeed always been there.*

*Guided by the Holy Spirit, we recognise the importance of support and loving each other, where all are welcomed and affirmed, whilst challenging ourselves to embrace the call of Jesus Christ found in the Gospels. It would be fantastic if more people would follow the Master's call.*

*And thinking of the words of Christ, it might be useful for everyone (including Mr Foster) to remember the words found in Matthew 7:5 "cast out first the beam in thy own eye, and then shalt thou see to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."*

*John McFarland Campbell, Dublin 1*

#### Rev. Foster's reply

Sir,

Mr Campbell in his latest epistle does not make much sense but then it is very difficult to make rubbish sound sensible!

If, by quoting from a version of the 39 Articles which was set forth by the Church Society in order to make "the Articles more easily understood", I am undermining the 39 Articles how much more guilty of this is the Church Society which provided this modern version???

As for the rest of Mr Campbell's comments, they are a familiar nonsensical rant used by those who have little real knowledge of the gospel apart from being able to quote the one or two texts that his like habitually reiterate against those who oppose their liberal ecumenical theology.

Mr John McFarland Campbell says: "In my Christian life and witness, I recognise and embrace the diversity that is found in the world today: the diversity that has indeed always been there."

He may not have read the Scripture which states: "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you," John 15:19.

There is nothing 'inclusive' about the gospel! "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it," Matthew 7:13-14.



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These words, which are a stark contrast to the philosophy of Mr John McFarland Campbell, are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. Mr John McFarland Campbell promotes the devil's lie. He would have men embrace the notion that they can believe what they like, do what they like, live as they please, have all that the world offers and still go to heaven! The outcome of that 'gospel' is eternal perdition!

Unlike Mr John McFarland Campbell, I do not embrace the world and its diversities but rather oppose them as commanded by the Saviour. My view of the world is such that I cannot embrace it. My view is that taught in Scripture. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever," 1 John 2:15-17.

The views of the world held by Mr John McFarland Campbell, are the very opposite of that view taught in the Bible. His embracing of "the diversity that is found in the world today" is why he and I are in total disagreement about the true character of the Gospel of Christ.

Ivan Foster.

15th August, 2016.