



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### The choice for Christians within the Democratic Unionist Party



Belfast sodomite parade

*" . . . choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD," Joshua 24:15.*

*"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon," Matthew 6:24.*

Recent headlines in the Belfast Telegraph of 3rd May, 2007, must surely bring home to those who profess to be Christians and who desire the passing glories of govern-

ment office, that there is a cost to be borne.

The headlines said: **"Extra funding for Gay Pride... from a DUP ministry"**. The article states, "Belfast's annual Gay Pride Festival was boosted by a grant increase from an incoming DUP minister's department.

Festival organisers were yesterday offered a £5,110 allocation for this year's celebrations - £2,110 more than the 2006 funding." The article continued: "The financial support has been made available by an offshoot of the Department of Culture, which will have DUP MLA Edwin Poots as its Minister from next week.

Mr Poots is a member of the Free Presbyterian Church and has been a vociferous opponent of recent gay rights legislation in Northern Ireland.

He signalled yesterday that he will not intervene over the Belfast Gay Pride funding, despite strong opposition from within his Church.

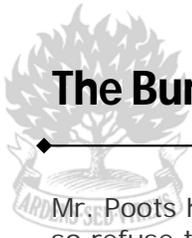
While stressing that his views on same sex relationships were well known, the incoming minister pointed to equality legislation provisions.

"There is little point making decisions that will end up being overturned in a court of law," he stated. Mr Poots also said that he would not have a direct input on such grant-aid issues."

Irrespective of whether the minister-elect's input is great or small, direct or indirect, the "buck stops with him"!

He is the one who will be in charge of that department of the power-sharing government. If, as he says, he will not intervene or attempt to stop such a grant being made then he will share in the culpability of a most shameful act, namely using public funds to promote and celebrate that which he has opposed in the past and which is an abomination before God.

To say that he will not oppose the funding because "there is little point making decisions that will end up being overturned in a court of law" is like Pilate saying that it was useless to release Christ because Caesar would simply have had Him re-arrested and crucified!



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Mr. Poots has another course of action open to him. He could resign as minister-elect and so refuse to be part of any betrayal of the gospel of Christ of which betrayal he will be a part if, on May 8th, he dons the dark mantle of Culture minister.

For any party entering upon the responsibilities of government there is always the challenge of making unpleasant decisions. Making unpleasant decisions is one thing but making unprincipled and unscriptural and anti-God decisions is another!

The Christians within the Democratic Unionist Party have made life even harder for themselves by yoking themselves to the chariot of the party of robbery, terror and murder, Sinn Fein/IRA.

They can never do anything contrary to that permitted by their partners. That being so, they must make a choice between GOVERNMENT and GOD. Indeed, they should have made it long ago but I believe that it is becoming clear that the lustre of political glory blinded them to the reality of what it was they were entering into.

Edwin Poots has, providentially, been the first to come face to face with the price that his political ambitions will require of him. The choice that he must make is that which must be made by all those Christians who harbour ambitions to be great in the eyes of men.

Mr. Poots cannot serve God and the world. He cannot please God and the iniquitous sodomite lobby or, indeed, his Sinn Fein/IRA partners.

If he acquiesces to this demand, then he is throwing his lot in with the enemies of God and will be contravening the standards of God's Word for a Christian and becomes an opponent of those in Ulster who are seeking to uphold God's holy standards.

Let him remember that which he would have learned at Sabbath School. ***“What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him? The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him”*** (Shorter Catechism Question 2).

He stands at a crossroads. One way is the way of political ambition and the other is the way of obedience to God's Word.

The choice is his.

May the Lord enable him to make the right choice.

Ivan Foster, May 3rd, 2007.

Since the mounting of this article, the *Belfast Telegraph* of 4th May, 2007, has published



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an article indicating that the Department of the First Minister, Dr Paisley, will be responsible for administering £180,000 during 2007-2008, "to support lesbian, gay and bisexual people"! (See <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/article2512200.ece>) The same dilemma that faces Edwin Poots will face all believers who accept the role of government ministers in this power-sharing arrangement with Sinn Fein/IRA.

I appeal for Christians to pray for those who have got themselves caught up in this sordid matter.