

The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The scandal of government funding for sodomites



The blasphemous placard carried in a parade grant-aided by the present DUP-Sinn Fein/IRA coalition government!

It has been said that we must never elevate our opinion, on a political initiative or policy which is not directly and clearly legislated upon in God's Word, to such a degree that we judge others by our opinion in the way that we should only measure actions and attitudes by God's Word. That is a true and wise saying.

God's Word is the sole arbitrator of righteousness. However, we should not so elevate this view to the degree that even when God's Word is clearly breached we hesitate to speak out for God and rebuke those in the political arena who are guilty of defying God's Law.

Here in Northern Ireland, Christians are faced with a situation in which the Law of God has been defied by those who argued in favour of a coalition government between Sinn Fein/IRA and the Democratic Unionist Party and who then went on to launch that coalition. Because of the high regard for the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, Dr Ian Paisley, especially amongst Christians, there was a great hesitation in challenging his course of action publicly. However, as it became clear that private admonitions were of no avail, public opposition became necessary.

As time has passed since the formal establishing of the coalition, it has become more and more evident that the first concerns about the morality of such a government shared with those but recently involved in terrorism and murder were justified.

Nothing has been more telling against this political arrangement than its funding of sodomite organisations and activities.

When the initiative was first mooted, many Christians questioned the morality of the DUP political leadership breaking clear promises and undertakings to the electorate on entering government with Sinn Fein/IRA.

There was also the issue of the DUP entering government with those whose moral character utterly unfitted them for government. The DUP had repeatedly said that Sinn Fein/IRA was unfitted for government. But suddenly that changed.

Romans 13:1-4 has not changed.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same."



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Unrepentant terrorists and murderers in government is contrary to the teaching of this passage. It is morally wrong therefore to assist them into government by forming a coalition with them to this end.

That is what the Free Presbyterian Church declared itself to believe in 1998 when the issue first arose under the political leadership of David Trimble of the Ulster Unionist Party.

MAIN ISSUE

However, one issue above all has tended to epitomise the immorality of the present political set-up and that is the funding of sodomite organisations.

On Saturday, August 4th, a parade glorying in the wickedness of sodomy took place in Belfast. It was the "Gay Pride" parade. One of those taking part carried a poster which was so offensive to Christians that I hesitate to give its wording. What made the matter even more offensive is the fact that such an event is funded by the DUP-led coalition and administered directly by the departments held by Dr Paisley and another Christian, Edwin Poots.



Free Presbyterians protesting against sodomite parade in Belfast

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

From documents I have obtained under the "Freedom of Information Act 2000" it is clear that negotiations between civil servants within the Department of the Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) took place back last year during its consultations on the "draft sexual orientation strategy and action plan" (covering letter from OFMDFM). An announcement of the funding of sodomites, represented by the "Coalition on Sexual Orientation" (CoSO) was made by the Secretary of State, Peter Hain, on 29th July 2006. In that statement it became clear that the OFMDFM would be the vehicle by which this funding would take place.

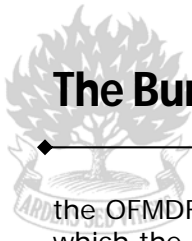
On March 22nd 2007, it was announced by OFMDFM that the short term funding package of £100,000 announced by Peter Hain on 29th July 2006, would be increased to a total of £230,000 which will end in the Summer of 2008. The first payment of £100,000 covered the period January 2007 to March 31st 2007. This was stated in a letter from



Gospel literature distributed



Carrier of blasphemous placard being shown Romans chapter 1.



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the OFMDFM dated 29th January 2007. It is interesting to note that one of the terms under which the grant was given was that CoSO would give proper publicity to "assistance made available by the Department (OFMDFM) to the Organisation . . . in any publicity or brochures or other material produced by or on behalf of the Organisation and in which the Project is mentioned" (paragraph XIX). The OFMDFM is obviously very proud of its support for sodomites and wants that fact to be known!

This grant of £100,000 was augmented by a further grant of £180,000 for the period 1st April 2007 to 30th September 2008 (Letter from OFMDFM to CoSO, April 2nd 2007). The same demand for publicity for the OFMDFM's role in this funding was repeated. As well as this funding, there was an additional direct grant to the Belfast's annual "Gay Pride Festival" from the Department of Culture of a £5,110 allocation for this year's celebrations - £2,110 more than the 2006 funding. This was announced just days before Mr. Edwin Poots took over that department.

REPLIES

The only reply from the First Minister regarding this matter was to point out that this funding was arranged and began before the DUP entered government with Sinn Fein/IRA. Mr. Poots' response was somewhat similar. 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."

Such excuses do not absolve the two ministers of responsibility for what is going on in their departments.

NEGOTIATIONS

In the negotiations that went on before the signing up to power-sharing, surely the DUP had a look at the books of the departments they planned to run in the government that they were seeking to establish. Therefore, they would have been aware of the deals done by Peter Hain with the sodomite organisations regarding funding. They would therefore have had to make a decision on whether or not they were prepared to take on those departments and the legal obligations to fund sodomy.

We all know the decision they took. Political office and power were more important than honouring God's Word on the issue of sodomy.

This is what encapsulates the grief and sorrow felt by so many believers in Ulster!



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AIMS OF OFFICE STATED

The position of the Department OFMDFP was recently clearly stated by Martin McGuinness Deputy First Minister. He was speaking at the launch of Londonderry's "Gay Pride" festival at the beginning of August. Here is the BBC report on the matter.

"Londonderry's Gay Pride festival programme has been launched by Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness.

The week-long event celebrates the cultural and political achievements of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender community in the city.

Mr McGuinness said the festival showed progress had been made in Derry.

He praised the introduction of civil partnerships and new legislation banning discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Launching the festival at the Rainbow Project in the city, Mr McGuinness said: "No-one should be discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation in the same way that it should not happen because of their age, race or indeed any other characteristic of their being.

"The Office of the First and Deputy First Minister are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all our citizens."

Dr. Paisley has never, to my knowledge, disassociated himself from this definition of the duties of his office with regards sodomites.

What that means is that the OFMDFM is in the business of promoting the aims and objectives of the sodomite lobby. This is utterly and totally wrong for any Christian to be involved with in any way.

The DUP have often been defended by those who use Daniel's role in the affairs of Babylon to justify the DUP's involvement with Sinn Fein/IRA.

I agree that a believer may participate in a government which is not led by fellow-believers. However, they must, like Daniel, be ready to jeopardise their lives when they are required to offend God and break His law by the government of which they are a part.

That, the DUP has clearly indicated it is not willing to do. For the sake of continuing in office it will defy God's law and support and defend God's enemies.

If the Christian people of Ulster and the Free Presbyterian Church in particular go along with these things then we must ask with Jeremiah " . . . what will ye do in the end thereof?" Jeremiah 5:31.

Ivan Foster.
9th August 2007.