



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

NSPCC continues its campaign of opposition to the teaching of the Bible



NSPCC anti-smacking campaign photograph

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children could well be renamed as the Notorious Society for the Promotion of Crime and Chaos! Undoubtedly, society is reaping the first harvest of the sowing of the seeds of the moral anarchy, which has been espoused by the NSPCC and which is encapsulated in its “Stop Smacking” campaign.

As our nation has drifted further and further away from the teachings of the Bible and embraced man's blunderings and fumbings in the darkness of his own folly, the results are all too plainly seen within today's society. We have police chiefs, social workers and

government ministers voicing their bewilderment at what to do with persistent juvenile delinquents who repeatedly break the law, often while awaiting trial for some previous offence, but who cannot be effectively curbed.

These young criminals terrorise neighbourhoods and have been the cause of much distress, even the premature deaths of some aged people. School classrooms, in some instances, have become scenes of total anarchy, with teachers driven out of their profession by the stress brought on by attempting to cope with such chaos. wisdom replaced This has been the direct result of the foolish psychology which replaced the wisdom of God's Word. This in turn was the outcome of the departure from orthodox Christianity that liberalism and ecumenism promoted.

The targeting of the biblical practice of physically chastising a child for persistent wrongdoing by the NSPCC has been welcomed by Sinn Fein and IRA stalwart, Martin McGuinness, Minister of Education in the Stormont Executive. McGuinness headed up a unit of the Provisional IRA in Londonderry which was responsible for the murder of many people, including Roman Catholics, and the destruction of £millions worth of property. Recently, he announced his support as Education Minister for a scheme to combat school bullying. He stated that he was anxious to encourage any “ground-breaking” schemes. This makes intriguing reading coming from a man who owes his present political position to 30 years of terrorist bullying, to which the British government succumbed, and whose only previous encouragement of “ground-breaking” was the opening of graves for the many victims of IRA terror! The police on both sides of the Northern Ireland border are still engaged in the search for the graves of many of the victims of IRA “justice.” McGuinness makes an apt campaign partner for the NSPCC.

A recent tactic of the campaign was to “highlight” the feelings of remorse, after physically chastising their children, some parents allegedly expressed to pollsters. This was presented as a clear evidence of the wrongfulness of physically punishing a child. Would such remorse be felt if such action were correct? Such an argument is, at best, a very shallow at-



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tempt at logic and displays the intellectual ineptitude of those promoting such a proposition. Let us state, immediately, that we are not told the nature of the punishment meted out to the children. There is that which is called “punishment,” but which is in fact nothing more than a display of ill-tempered brutishness. Anyone guilty of such has every right to be ashamed. They are in breach of the law and ought to be prosecuted. Neither the NSPCC, nor anyone else for that matter, needs to campaign for the outlawing of such behaviour. It has long been outlawed! On the other hand, it needs to be stated, that that does not justify the outlawing of the physical punishment of children in accordance with God’s Word.

There never was a time when good parents punished their child and did not feel “remorse and regret” at having to do it. But such feelings do not make the practice wrong or improper. Who is there but wishes that they had not to punish their child so? Who is it but yearns within their heart that such punishment were not necessary? Such longings are natural but not indicative of impropriety on the part of the parent. What parent has not melted with sorrow and grief as a child has undergone surgery following an accident. Their very being has melted with anguish as they have looked upon their dear one rendered helpless by what it has experienced on the surgeon’s operating table. Do such feelings make the surgery wrong? The answer is clear.

It is not unknown for judges and magistrates, in some situations, to express sorrow that they were required by the law to pass sentence upon those on trial. Did such expressions of sympathy and regret by the officers of the court make the court proceedings illegal? Again, an answer is unnecessary.

Who is it that has any feeling, who has not felt sorrow at the grief some have brought upon themselves by their folly? That being so, it should surprise none that parents have felt remorse and sorrow following the punishing of a child for wrongdoing. To use such feelings as an excuse, never again to use such punishment, is putting our own comfort above the long-term wellbeing of the erring child. Furthermore, and more importantly, it elevates our personal feelings and sentiments above the clear teaching of God’s Word.

Does not God express feelings of grief at the prospect of punishing His people? Hear what God said through His prophet Hosea, the prophet who, it is claimed, reveals the heart of God. “How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.” Hosea 11:8. Did God abandon the plan to punish His people for their wrong-doing? No, He did not. Here is a condensing of the comments made by Matthew Henry, the renowned expositor, on this verse. “God is slow to anger, and is loath to abandon a people to utter ruin, who have been called by his name. When God was to give a sacrifice for sin, and a Saviour for sinners, he spared not his own Son, that he might spare us. This is the language of the day of his patience; but when men sin that away, then the great day of his wrath comes. Man’s compassions are nothing in comparison with the tender mercies of our God, whose thoughts and ways, in receiving returning sinners, are as much above ours as heaven is above the earth. God knows how to pardon poor sinners. He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and therein declares his righteousness, now Christ has purchased the pardon, and he has promised it. Holy trembling at the word of Christ will draw us to him, not drive us from him. When he roars like a lion, the slaves



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tremble, and flee from him, the children tremble, and flee to him. And all that come at the gospel call, shall have a place and a name in the gospel church. The religious services of Israel were mere hypocrisy, but in Judah regard was had to God's laws, and the people followed their pious forefathers. Let us be faithful: those who thus honor God, he will honor, but such as despise Him shall be lightly esteemed."

The NSPCC would have us abandon God's method of discipline, which, contrary to NSPCC's allegations, has not failed, for a greater measure of man's alternative which undoubtedly has failed. Not only is the NSPCC unworthy of being heeded on this issue, it is unworthy of a Christian's financial support as long as it espouses the objective of overthrowing God's Word on the issue of child discipline.