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SEPARATION OR INTEGRATION - WHICH IS GOD'S PLAN?

The Democratic Unionist Party, in its ongoing mutation from orthodox unionist party to the vanguard of the ecumenical thrust in Ulster, has become the champion of Integrated Education.

Here is a definition of IE from the website of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education.

Integrated Education brings children and staff from Catholic and Protestant traditions, as well as those of other faiths, or none, together in one school. For the past 30 years, in a deeply divided society, Integrated schools have been an alternative to an educational system in which most children attend largely religiously separated schools.

Integrated Schools differ from other schools in Northern Ireland by ensuring that children from diverse backgrounds are educated together every day in the same classrooms. Through their Admissions Criteria they enrol approximately equal numbers of Catholic and Protestant children, as well as children from other religious and cultural backgrounds.

It is important to note that Integrated schools are not secular but are essentially Christian in character and welcome all faiths and none. *In Integrated Primary Schools Catholic children are offered Sacramental preparation at P4 and P7. At the same time, Protestant children can generally avail of the Delving Deeper programme to develop their own faith knowledge.*

The DUP, in its support of this system, has recently recruited the British Prime Minister, David Cameron and the US President, Barak Obama, to push for its acceptance. The various events surrounding the G8 Summit provided a platform for this promotion. One of the statements Barak Obama made was this: "If towns remain divided – if Catholics have their schools and buildings and Protestants have theirs, if we can't see ourselves in one another and fear or resentment are allowed to harden – that too encourages division and discourages cooperation."

As implied in this statement, Integrated Education is seen as the means of ending the controversy and conflict between Protestantism and Romanism in Ulster. This notion can be traced back to the 1800s when the British Government sought to impose just such a scheme here. Back then, Dr Henry Cooke, the Presbyterian stalwart led the resistance to it because of its unbiblical basis.

It was again mooted as the solution to our troubles in the early 1980s and Lagan College was founded. Though it was started as an independent school, without government funding, it was soon brought within the state system and fully financed from 1991.

Integrated Education is basically an exercise in Ecumenism. The children are taught that there is no difference between Protestantism and Romanism - they are both "Christian". In such a situation, you invariably find that those from a Protestant background lose all contact with and concept of, Biblical Protestantism. How can it be otherwise when the system is based upon an abandoning of the precepts of the Bible?

On the other hand, Romanists retain a devotion to their creed and culture for it is carefully nurtured within the Integrated Education system as the NICIE statement already quoted indicates. *In Integrated Primary Schools Catholic children are offered Sacramental preparation at P4 and P7. At the same time, Protestant children can generally avail of the Delving Deeper programme to develop their own faith knowledge.*

Romanism employs its orthodox teaching method of imparting its doctrinal tenets to its young while the Protestant child is subject to some "airy-fairy" scheme devoid of substance or meaning called the "Delving Deeper programme". Romanism is preserved and protected while the provision for the "Protestant" child is vague and indistinct. Thus there is a retention of the old religious claims and cultural objectives of Popery - the eradication of all things Protestant in Ireland - while the "Protestant's" links and affiliation with his history and culture wither swiftly.



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This is illustrated in the dwindling attendances at Protestant churches and the adherence to Reformation principles and doctrine within Protestant society. It is seen also in the shift that has taken place within the political arena in Ulster since the DUP embraced the ecumenical concept of "power-sharing". On every front Unionism has retreated. The present ongoing controversies demonstrate that. The Union Flag may no longer be flown on public buildings whenever the Unionist people would wish to. The commemoration of our Protestant history is bitterly and unrelentingly opposed at every turn with permission constantly having to be sought for parades and demonstrations to take place, and often refused or so surrounded by conditions as to make it unacceptable. Such parades and gatherings are often opposed by riot and disorder by republicans with the purpose of providing grounds why such events should not be allowed to take place.

Furthermore, we have in high government office, indeed the highest office, those who spent years involved in terrorism and murder. There has never been the slightest sign of remorse over the terrorism committed by the IRA. Rather, that campaign has been gloried in and celebrated constantly. Members of Sinn Fein, who were convicted of terrorist crimes, have been rewarded by being given highly paid positions within the Stormont administration as special advisers to their Sinn Fein bosses.

We have seen the security forces destroyed at the demand of the IRA. The 'B' Specials, the UDR and finally the RUC, were all destroyed at the behest of the terrorist, and Unionism meekly and compromisingly acquiesced.

Thus the Ulster Protestant can be seen to have retreated before the ecumenical/republican onslaught which has eroded the heart and mind of Protestantism's resolve by undermining all confidence in the principles and foundations laid down by our godly forefathers. Today, the DUP resembles a picked over corpse after the vultures of Ecumenism and Romanism have finished. There is little that remains, not even the bones, of the robust organisation that the DUP once was.

Ulster is drifting toward a united Ireland, all the while kept in an untroubled, befuddled state by the chanting of the DUP hierarchy that all is well and the Union with Great Britain is stronger than ever.

Sadly, indeed, tragically, the whole mish-mash of ecumenical deception has been embraced and endorsed by some Free Presbyterians, who, in utterly blind and stupid devotion to the DUP, have abandoned the Biblical principles undergirding Free Presbyterianism.

Free Presbyterians have become advocates of Integrated Education! It has brought confusion and division to our church. The DUP Education spokesman is Mervyn Storey. He glories in Peter Robinson's scheme for educational integration. However, he is also a member of the management committee of a Free Presbyterian Independent Christian School. He is not only riding two horses but the horses he is riding are going in opposite directions. One is going God's way while the other is going in the devil's way!

Christian Education began in the Free Presbyterian Church in 1979. It was founded upon the Word of God. The Bible dictates its philosophy, its methodology, its discipline and curriculum content. Where this has been faithfully adhered to God's blessing has followed.

Christian Education was no new concept. Rather it was an applying of a clear Biblical principle to the educational realm. God's purpose for the Christian and his offspring is SEPARATION from the world and not INTEGRATION with the world.

"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. "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 preserving of his children from the world is a chief duty of a father. This is illustrated in the confronta-



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tion between Moses and Pharaoh on the issue of who was to go forth to worship the Lord. "And Moses and Aaron were brought again unto Pharaoh: and he said unto them, Go, serve the LORD your God: but who are they that shall go? And Moses said, We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for we must hold a feast unto the LORD. . . . Not so: go now ye that are men, and serve the LORD; for that ye did desire. And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence," Exodus 10:8-9, 11.

The world would ever retain an influence over our children for that means that inevitably it will bring about the demise of the people of God as the next generation is absorbed and integrated.

That is what is being planned for the people of God in Ulster and to think we have Christians aiding that devilish scheme!

Where are the voices raised in alarm? Why are pulpits not echoing with warnings of this danger? Has the fear of man gagged God's servants? Vociferous DUP members pose a threat in the eyes of some ministers and so all controversy is avoided for fear of annoying these DUP vassals. Such a tactic will cost us our gospel heritage.

O for men like Micah. "But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin." Micah 3:8.

Let today's ministers remember: "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. It is time to choose. "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD," Joshua 24:15.