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THE "MAN IN WHITE" - A "WHITED SEPULCHRE"

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity," Matthew 23:27-28.



These words of the Lord Jesus are found in the midst of a chapter replete with the strongest denunciations of the hypocrisy and deceit of those who made the strongest professions of religion!

I can never understand those 'Christian snowflakes' who are aghast at any strong denunciations of sin today. I have to suspect that their offence stems more from having their 'toes trodden on' than from any reaction to a perceived transgressing of the Law of God!

The Lord Jesus in this chapter is acting and speaking in the same Spirit as did the prophet of old. "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.

Micah's words are but an echo of the earlier words of his contemporary, Isaiah. "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins," 58:1.

Colin Nevin, a Bangor man who openly and unashamedly acknowledges he has engaged in a sodomite lifestyle in various media letters he has written and in articles and interviews about him, is very keen to present himself as a Christian while defending his sodomite 'same-sex attraction' and seeking to have such lustings accepted as compatible with a credible Christian profession!

He has been to the fore in promoting the idea that Sodom was not destroyed because of its perverted and wicked lifestyle but rather because of its general wickedness. (See [here](#) and [here](#))

Such thinking is completely out of step with the Word of God and betrays a desire to ameliorate the image of the gross sinners of Sodom presented in the Bible and commonly believed since the days of Sodom's destruction!

Engaging in such an exercise surely identifies the nature and the character of this man.

He wrote in a letter to the Belfast Newsletter of October 19th 2018: "It must not be forgotten, however, that there are many sincere Christians within the churches that struggle with or experience various levels of 'gay' feelings or same-sex attraction. I myself am in this category"

He claims to be a 'born-again believer' yet expresses, without apparent shame, that he is amongst those that "experience various levels of 'gay' feelings or same-sex attraction."

It must be noted that he uses the 'present tense' - 'I am in this category.'

It is not something he was plagued with, but from which he obtained deliverance but rather, he still harbours such perverted inclinations and he openly and unashamedly and without embarrassment states this of himself in the public media as if it were quite normal for a Christian to have such inclinations!

What saith the Scriptures

There have been those who have fallen into the wickedness of sodomy but who through the gospel of the grace of God have been gloriously delivered from it.



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"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God," 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

Please note the words of verse 11. "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." They 'are' (present tense) washed from their sins, made holy and declared righteous by God. Their sodomite lifestyle has been utterly put away!

The character of the believer after he is born again is stated for us by the apostle John. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God," 1 John 3:9.

What exactly does that mean?

Simply stated, it means that the person who is truly regenerated will not live in sin, continually engage in sin nor tolerate its presence. He will not sin habitually as once he did. He cannot abide in sin because his new nature will, like Lazarus of old, cause him to hasten to come forth from the place of the dead and join the living, John 11:43-44.

The saved sinner because of his new disposition, does not desire or consent to live in sin. The reason is, he loves those things which please God, and hates those things which displease him.

John Calvin said of this verse: "It hence appears that it cannot be but that the children of God are not free from sins, and that they daily sin, that is, as far as they have still some remnants of their old nature. Nevertheless, what the Apostle contends for stands unalterable, that the design of regeneration is to destroy sin, and that all who are born of God lead a righteous and a holy life, because the Spirit of God restrains the lusting of sin."

John Gill says: that the true believer "does not make it his trade and business; it is not the constant course of his life; he does not live and walk in sin, or give up himself to it; he is not without the being of it in him, or free from acts of sin in his life and conversation, but he does not so commit it as to be the servant of it, a slave unto it, or to continue in it; and that for this reason."

The wise Matthew Henry says of this passage of Scripture: "He that abideth in Christ continues not in the practice of sin. As vital union with the Lord Jesus broke the power of sin in the heart and nature, so continuance therein prevents the regency and prevalence thereof in the life and conduct. Or the negative expression here is put for the positive: He sinneth not, that is, he is obedient, he keeps the commandments (in sincerity, and in the ordinary course of life) and does those things that are pleasing in his sight, as is said 1 John 3:22. Those that abide in Christ abide in their covenant with him, and consequently watch against the sin that is contrary thereto. They abide in the potent light and knowledge of him; and therefore it may be concluded that he that sinneth (abideth in the predominant practice of sin) hath not seen him (hath not his mind impressed with a sound evangelical discerning of him), neither known him, hath no experimental acquaintance with him. Practical renunciation of sin is the great evidence of spiritual union with, continuance in, and saving knowledge of, the Lord Christ."

Temptation

You may well say: "Surely every true believer is subject to sin?"

That is absolutely true but we must distinguish between being tempted to sin and experiencing, for example, "various levels of 'gay' feelings or same-sex attraction" abiding within the heart. One is an approach from outside by an agency seeking to provoke the believer to sin while the other refers to an abiding, indwelling



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tendency and lusting to sin!

We might liken it to a man converted from a sinful lifestyle who is approached by his former companions, seeking to have him join with them again in wicked practices. He cannot be blamed for such an approach neither is it a sin on his part. However, were he to acknowledge an ongoing desire for such wicked practices and that such desires are continual with him, then he is saying that he has never been delivered from such lustings. Colin Nevin is like those Peter warned of in 2 Peter 2:12-22.

"But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; and shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

The words of the Saviour

The Lord Jesus identifies the great danger those who play host to unclean lustings are in.

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: but I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell," Matthew 5:27-30.

Here the Lord Jesus says that to lust is seen in God's eyes as the committing of the sin so desired.

I would therefore believe that this man Colin Nevin, when he says that he is "in this category" of those who "experience various levels of 'gay' feelings or same-sex attraction" is, in God's eyes, guilty of those acts that he openly confesses he has an abiding desire for!

For this reason I perceive that Colin Nevin is a dangerous charlatan whose views will deceive Christians into embracing notions that are contrary to the Word of God and endorsing a lifestyle that is abhorred and condemned by the Lord. To do such will greatly harm the believer's walk with the Lord. Remember what happened to Peter when he gave a home to ungodly notions!

"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men," Matthew 16:21-23.



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Peter was wrong because for a time he 'savoured', or gave a place in his heart to very wrong notions about the Saviour. He came under the strong disapproval of the Lord even though Peter held these views for a short time only and abandoned them when so rebuked. That is not the case with Colin Nevin by his own confession!

This man has been accepted by Bangor Congregational Church as a Christian in good standing and they have let him avail of their open-air facilities in Bangor in which he has indicated that he plans 'Gospel Meetings' during July and August. This endorsement is very wrong and dangerous.

There has been a widespread acceptance of the claims of the likes of this man and an embracing of the notion that it is quite alright for a professing believer to 'harbour' ongoing inclinations to sodomite practices.

This is not Biblical and it is not the view of those Christian leaders of the past whose labours and testimony were greatly honoured of God.

God's Word declares: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me," Psalm 66:18. The word 'regard' means to 'look upon with approbation and affection.'

To acknowledge the ongoing presence of evil lustings while professing to be a Christian is a contradiction in terms. Such is Colin Nevin's profession.

This man, for his own eternal wellbeing, would need to take heed to words that I read just this morning in Deuteronomy 29:18-20.

"Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood; and it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: the LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven."

Ivan Foster.

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