



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The growing offensiveness of the gospel in this world

"Political correctness" is the term which denotes the requirement upon us all to speak of people and behaviour in such a fashion as to avoid offending any. Any that is except the Christian! We must not call sodomites perverts whose behaviour is an abomination to God. Rather we must use the effeminate and euphemistic "gay" when referring to them and their evil. No thought is to be given whatever to the offence that their behaviour gives to the God-fearing. Likewise, today we are required to use the term "Ms" when referring to a female who refuses the traditional title of "Miss." It is a phrase that was coined by those rebelling against the role ordained for women by God. They wished to create a position for themselves that was neither fish nor fowl but something in between. Again, no consideration is given to the many women who find such a title offensive. They must suffer being addressed as such in silence.

While on a recent visit to the USA, I read in a Christian magazine of the experiences of a recent victim of such "correctness" which show just where these trends are heading.

A 25-year-old woman, Michelle Shocks, was travelling home by public bus, near the city of Seattle. It was about 5.00 pm and she was hurrying home from an appointment in order to get her husband and two children ready for an evening church service.

She got into conversation with a man who was seated across the aisle from her. He had gotten on the bus a few stops after her. Because a rain and wind storm was blowing full force, those who got on with the man were complaining loudly of the weather. He smiled and countered the complaints by saying, "Praise the Lord." Mrs. Shocks, a Christian, began to talk with the man about church matters, inquiring what church he attended. The man answered that he was looking for a church where they did not preach philosophy and such notions of men. Mrs. Shocks invited him to her church.

It was but a few minutes after the conversation started that the bus driver, a woman, called Mrs. Shocks forward and told her that she must stop talking about her faith since it might offend some of her passengers. Mrs. Shocks returned to her seat, somewhat dumbfounded, this time sitting down beside the gentleman so that they could continue their conversation in much quieter tones. Seconds later, the driver again called her forward and told her that since she would not keep quiet, she must get off the bus.

Despite the remonstrations of the male passenger with whom Mrs. Shocks had been conversing, she and the man were put off the bus. Mrs. Shocks was five-months pregnant at the time. She was ejected from the bus on a busy highway in the middle of a storm without proper outer clothing to cope with such weather. She was about a mile from home and so started to walk the shoulder of the highway toward her home.

Following the incident, Mrs. Shocks sought to highlight her grievance. Only one newspaper even mentioned her story. Had she been alleging racial discrimination or gender discrimination, she would have become an instant celebrity. As it was, being a Christian, little heed was paid to her.



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The one mention by a newspaper prompted the bus company to respond, however. It alleged that the driver acted because the man to whom Mrs. Shocks was speaking became unruly and they both then had to be ordered off the bus. A week after the incident, the Seattle Times ran a story in which a fellow passenger was quoted as saying the conversation between Mrs. Shocks and the male passenger was not loud or offensive. The bus company could not explain why a video tape of the incident was erased and so the only candid record of the incident destroyed.

The incident serves to highlight the growing disregard for the sensitivities and lawful rights of the one who professes faith in Christ and who seeks to live by His Word. Christ and the Bible may be mocked and miscalled but who is it amongst the mockers and satirists who will dare mock the Moslem's god, Allah, or deprecate the Koran as the false and deceitful work that it is?

He *Who was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not* is still unknown and dishonoured as are also His faithful people.