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Touch not the unclean thing.

Question: "May Christians who are affiliated to an organisation which endorses the wickedness of sodomy exonerate themselves by claiming that they are opposed to that organisation's endorsement of sodomy?"

Answer: ". . . touch not the unclean thing," 2 Corinthians 6:17.

To one who was engaged in the 1960s and 1970s in a battle with evangelicals within the Presbyterian, Church of Ireland and Methodist denominations here in Ulster on this very question, only then the organisation under scrutiny was not the Democratic Unionist Party but the World Council of Churches, it is amazing to find myself having to repeat and spell out the old arguments for separation to members of the Free Presbyterian Church!

The case against the DUP is that it has endorsed and embraced wickedness and that of a kind that the WCC in its worst days back some 50 years ago, did not accept.

Back in May of this year, I wrote the following in an article entitled: **The day Ulster changed unutterably.**

I wrote back then:

'One headline in particular states the folly of the DUP. "Gay DUP candidate Alison Bennington makes history as she clinches victory in election". This was the 'Belfast Newsletter' headline on Friday 3rd May. History indeed and a day of infamy for the DUP, the party that once had as its slogan 'The Truth Will Set You Free' and which under Dr Paisley, its founder, fought a campaign to 'Save Ulster from Sodomy' in the late 1970s. All that has gone and the DUP has abandoned the truth of God and has embraced sodomy as an acceptable lifestyle. The countdown to its judgment has begun! It may see many 'highs' and 'successes' in the near future for The mills of God grind slowly, But they grind exceeding small! The DUP cannot escape the consequences of embracing to its heart that which God has cursed! There have been many perfidious attempts by DUP mouthpieces to deny that the party has betrayed its past, its professed Protestantism and members who remain loyal to the Lord. Lords Morrow and McCrea are quoted in the 'Belfast Newsletter' under the headline: 'DUP gay marriage stance 'not up for debate' despite lesbian candidate' as saying, 'The DUP's selection of its first openly gay candidate does not mean the party is on course to change its policy on same-sex marriage'

The report goes on: "When asked by the News Letter if he believed the selection of Ms Bennington might signal a change in party policy on same-sex marriage coming down the line. Lord Morrow replied: "I am absolutely certain it won't." The peer was also asked for his view on Ms Bennington's selection and the apparent disquiet it is causing to some within the party ranks. He said: "My views are as they always have been. I am for traditional marriage. I am opposed to the redefining of marriage." It also reported the reaction of Lord McCrea (Rev William McCrea). "Meanwhile, DUP peer Lord McCrea also said there was no change of policy regarding same-sex marriage, adding: "That is a fact and certainly is not up for debate." The former MP added: "There is party policy and anyone who agrees to stand will stand under the party policy of the DUP." Asked if he had any personal views about Ms Bennington's selection, Lord McCrea told the News Letter: "That is the position which I am making abundantly clear. "I used to be an officer, I am not an officer of the party at the present moment. But the party policy is very clear on this issue and that is exactly where the party will be standing."

Now all that sounds very positive and good EXCEPT the issue is NOT 'sodomite marriage' BUT the acceptability of an openly acknowledged sodomite standing as a DUP candidate in an election. Of course, she not merely stood as a candidate but was declared to be an 'excellent candidate' by the DUP! Neither Lord Morrow or Lord McCrea had any word of criticism for the party doing so, despite its history of being opposed to sodomy! That amounts simply to PUTTING THE INTERESTS OF A PARTY BEFORE THE HONOUR AND GLORY OF THE Lord Jesus Christ!



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The DUP leader, a lawyer by trade, was very careful in her comments on this matter. She was quoted in the 'Belfast Telegraph' of Friday, May 3rd. "DUP leader Arlene Foster suggested Ms Bennington's election did not necessarily mean a shift in the party's policy on same-sex marriage." Again UTV reports on the same date: "Speaking to UTV, the DUP leader Arlene Foster says she is "delighted for her and delighted for all the candidates that are being returned". However she said the party's stance against gay marriage has not changed. "Alison put herself forward because she's a committed unionist and that's why she decided to put her name forward for the DUP, as many others did right across the country, and she was selected on that basis," said Ms Foster. "It sends out a message that the DUP is open to everyone who signs up to the policies of the DUP as Alison did."

The DUP leader accepted that there are party members who would be "uncomfortable" with the decision to nominate Ms Bennington. "I think it would be right to acknowledge that," Arlene Foster continued, "but our policy in relation to same-sex marriage has not changed. "We still believe that marriage is between a man and a woman, that has been our policy and will continue to be our policy."

It is important to notice the 'red herring' of 'sodomite marriage'! It is perfectly acceptable with the DUP that this woman is a sodomite. The party has no problem with her perverse lifestyle!

It must also be noted that, "DUP leader Arlene Foster suggested Ms Bennington's election did not necessarily mean a shift in the party's policy on same-sex marriage." Please note the use of the words 'suggested' and 'not necessarily mean a shift in the party's policy on same-sex marriage.' This statement leaves the door open for the DUP to take the final step and embrace 'sodomite marriage' and so utterly repudiate all it ever stood for and stood against!

I challenge anyone to deny that the DUP has clearly changed its position on Sodomy! By selecting a woman who openly flaunts her perversity, for lesbianism is a perverse life style, condemned of God, the DUP thus repudiates its former opposition to such a lifestyle. When the DUP did so they based their opposition upon the Word of God. It states the matter clearly.

"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient," Romans 1:24-28.

The new position of the DUP is a clear repudiation of these words of Divine Truth. It is to the shame of Christians within the DUP that they speak words that seek to avoid the obvious sin of the DUP and divert attention away from that sin and employ tactics which can only be seen to be intended to conceal from the eyes of the public that the DUP has embraced and condoned sodomy!

Of course, all those who profess faith in Christ and obedience to God's Word within the ranks of the DUP when confronted with these facts, will defend themselves with the claim that they are opposed to this development within the DUP. It is the same point that I heard put forward back in the 1960s amid the spluttering attempts by compromising evangelicals in the Presbyterian, Church of Ireland and Methodist churches to excuse their membership of those apostate denominations!

The likes of 'Rev Donald Gillies, Rev Martin Smyth' and many others would have avidly spoken out against the sins of the WCC but did not see or acknowledge that the Word of God required them to distinctly separate themselves from these sins! Complaining and criticising were for them enough!

So it is with the evangelicals caught up in today's compromise. The only difference is that those elected representatives within the DUP who claim to oppose its new position of accepting the sodomite lifestyle, have



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not spoken out publicly against the sin. The loss of the Party Whip, hangs over their head like the 'Sword of Damocles'!

Only two members, Mr. Jim Wells and Mr John Finlay, to my knowledge, have spoken of their opposition of this wickedness and criticised the Party for the selecting own the sodomite.

However, the opponents of this new policy have not obeyed the teaching of the Word of God!

It is not enough to declare one's opposition and rejection of wickedness within any organisation of which we are a part. We must do more. We must put clear water between us and the God-offending corruption that has been welcomed within that organisation, be it religious or political!

I have no doubt that the Bible is clear on this matter. I have quoted that well known verse from 2 Corinthians 6 in my title. I will quote some more of that vital passage of God's Word.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God," 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1.

These words need no explanation. Neither do the following verses:

Numbers 16:23-33. "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins. So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children. And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind. If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me. But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them: and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation."

Psalm 1:1-3. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Revelation 18:4-8. "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord



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God who judgeth her."

These words and the many other portions of God's Word that set forth the same truth, must be familiar to a Free Presbyterian! I am very much disconcerted and perturbed that I find it necessary to remind Free Presbyterians of such a truth as separation, yet it would appear that this fundamental truth of God's Word and the central doctrine in the Biblical position adopted by the Free Presbyterian Church back in 1951 when Dr Paisley was led of God to lead a separation of God's people from the apostasy then very much more in its infancy compared to the abominable wickedness embraced by today's denominations and now followed down that path of defiance of God by the DUP.

As was lovingly stated in the 1960s to those who determined to stay with their corrupted churches, so we say now to Free Presbyterians who seem determined to fly in the face of God's Law, there are only grief and sorrow down such a path and the shame and suffering that can only follow disobedience to God's Holy Word and, sad to say, a contaminating of others whom you influence into following you in this path of folly.

"And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me. And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: when I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it. So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it. And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD. And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day," Joshua 7: 19-26.

Rev Ivan Foster (Retired)

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