

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM LES BEECH

I am writing with regard to the Hate Crime Bill, I would urge your committee to consider the implications of this bill on Bible believing Christians in Scotland. While I agree that it is wrong to stir up hatred against anyone on grounds of race, and sexual orientation, it is also wrong to make it an offence to preach what the word of God

I would ask you to consider these verses from Romans Chapter 1, verse 17 and following says; for therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth of unrighteousness. Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God has showed it to them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through 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 forever, 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 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 recompense 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 not convenient; Being filled with unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful; who knowing the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

As you can see from the above verses any sexual activity outside of those carried out between men and women is condemned by God, therefore if I preach against these acts I am honouring God and his holy word. whilst I know that the bible is not very much held in high esteem in our land, Christians are still allowed to believe these things, if this bill is passed we would then be breaking the law of the land. However as a Christian I am bound by faith in God to preach the truth of his word.

I would further draw your attention to the 1560 Scottish confession of faith,

It remains the Confession of the Church of Scotland until superseded by the Westminster Confession of Faith in 1647, However the confession itself begins by stating that the Parliament ratified and approved the confession as wholesome and sound doctrine grounded upon the infallible truth of God`s word, thus ,though changes within in societies may have diminished its relevance, believers hold that the authority of its statements is rooted not in parliamentary approval but in, as it says "the infallible truth of God`s word" . As the Confession of Faith Ratification Act 1560, the Confession remains part of Scots law, T the law as proposed therefore this bill has no authority to change the law.

I would therefore ask you to seriously think about passing this bill as it stands. I would respectfully suggest that you excuse churches from this act.. I would further point out that by ignoring God`s word you risk placing Scotland under his judgement.

Les Beech
18 July 2020