



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

Joel Beeke preaches for and publicly seeks closer links with sodomy-endorsing Dutch denomination!

- **His departure cannot get much worse and leaves his supporters with a stark choice.**
- **How long are some ministers going to continue attempting to whitewash this man?**
- **God's warning stands sure: "Behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out," Numbers 32:23.**

Introduction

Most of our readers should be aware of the controversy surrounding Dr Joel Beeke and his links with those whose standing should not be acceptable to the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster. In the past he has shared platforms with pro-sodomite speakers and sold books extolling the sodomite life-style. This can be checked out in Pastor Ralph Ovadal's article: "The Downward Spiral of Dr. Joel Beeke's Ministries Continues" (<http://www.pccmonroe.org/2016/03.htm>).

However, as is the inevitable outcome of compromise, he has gone even further. On a preaching visit to Holland, he preached in pulpits which are occupied by sodomite-supporting ministers. But, not content with such a violation of God's Word, Dr Beeke used the occasion to express a desire for his church, Heritage Netherlands Reformed Congregation, to have formal links with the Restored Reformed Church denomination which has endorsed the dreadful doctrine that a sodomite can be a true believer and even a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I can hardly believe that Joel Beeke can sink any lower. My concern is, however, that he does not bring down God's judgment on the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster for there are those within our ranks who have formed a friendship with this man, and that despite the repeated exposure of his sin.

Despite irrefutable evidence of the man's deceitfulness, which has been presented for all to examine over a period of some 6 years, there are those who have chosen to maintain fellowship with him while simply ignoring the proffered evidence of his sin.

This is regrettable and sadly reprehensible.

Dutch Believer

The following are facts that were sent to me recently by a Dutch brother in Christ who has been greatly grieved over Dr Beeke's behaviour and that for a number of years.

Much of the information is published online on Dutch websites.

With the help of a Dutch speaker we present this translation. The facts are obvious. These are not matters of theological niceties where translation from a foreign tongue might make it difficult to press criticism. The blatant abomination of sodomy welcomed into the church of Christ is plain enough to be understood in any language or unpolished translation.

Joel Beeke clearly endorses this dreadful departure.

There surely is an obligation upon all true believers, especially those who have repeatedly endorsed Joel Beeke in the face of previous articles, to investigate the clear implication of these latest disclosures. They cannot be ignored.



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If this online evidence is true then continued and unchallenged, fellowship with Joel Beeke by a number of Free Presbyterian ministers brings the whole Free Presbyterian Church into a very compromised and sinful position.

It is the duty of the Presbytery to safeguard the integrity and purity of the Church.

I am publishing these facts on my web site for I believe that God's people must be informed of these things, to which many have been prepared to turn a blind eye and deny, by misrepresenting the motives of the likes of Ralph Ovadal and myself when we have sought to be faithful to God and expose the chicanery of Joel Beeke in the past.

An example of that may be seen in Rev Paul Dowling of Whiteabbey Congregational Church, calling me a "slanderer", in other words, a liar, in a sermon preached on January 19th, 2014. (See <http://www.ivanfoster.net/pdf/Feb1401.pdf>). Not surprisingly, Rev Dowling made no response to my reply to his attack. Rev Dowling is announced to preach in Antrim Free Presbyterian Church on October 30th.

Latest disclosures

On the afternoon of Sunday September 4th, Dr. Joel Beeke preached in a church in Woudenberg, a congregation of the Restored Reformed Church (Hersteld Hervormde Kirken, or, HHK). All told that day he preached in three different HHK congregations as he had announced on his facebook page.

In doing so, he placed himself both directly and indirectly in fellowship with men who support the concept of 'Christian' homosexuality in the church and who even advocate publicly that sodomites be admitted into the church offices.

One of the four ministers of this particular congregation is J. Kommerie, as is indicated on the church website below.

<http://www.hhgwoudenberg.nl/kerkenraad/predikanten/>

This minister has published his views in his denomination over a number of years yet remains in office. The following article from a Dutch religious news website describes this.

<http://www.cip.nl/nieuws/februari-2011/20964-Homos-verdienen-plaats-in-de-christelijke-gemeente>

An extract from a translation of this page reads:

"In Orthodox Christian churches, as in the Restored Reformed Church (HHK), gay people deserve their own place within the congregation. That is the opinion of the Restored Reformed (Church) candidate J. Kommerie. The position of Kommerie about homosexuality connects in some way with that of *RefoAnders: homosexuality is a form of brokenness, but while gay relationships are contrary to the Bible, there is space for the celibate gay within the Christian community. According to Kommerie this space is even very large. "The ecclesiastical offices should be open to them."

During the seminar on April 9 of the Orthodox Christian gay organization RefoAnders, he will make a plea for homosexuals, to try to take away the taboo that rests on the subject."

This man, in whose pulpit Dr. Beeke preached, therefore, advocates the acceptance of 'celibate homosexuals' in the ministry and is part of a growing trend across Reformed Churches in Holland to view homosexuality as only becoming actually sinful when it becomes active and is practised. This, of course, is just an echo of the position of many modern apostate churches such as the Anglican Church.

It is interesting to see that apparently these views were expressed in February 2011, yet Kommerie went on

*RefoAnders is a Dutch Reformed sodomite lobby group



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to complete his seminary training, was subsequently examined by the denomination, declared eligible for a call and ordained on June 20, 2016 as the minister of the HHK congregation in Woudenberg.

An article from an elder of another congregation in this same denomination, opposed to Kommerie and his views, describes the controversy surrounding this minister.

http://www.hetgekrookteriet.com/Diverse_artikelen/Kommerie.html

This article is dated June 20th, 2016 and is therefore obviously current. It contains the following statements (translation):

"The Restored Reformed Synod ruled that as long as homosexuals do not practise, they are not worthy of discipline. They are allowed to say they are, so then would the Scriptures teach that there are Christian gay men."

"They know what Kommerie teaches and yet leave him. They don't judge THE doctrine, but A doctrine. If they really judged about the doctrine, the doctrine of Christ, then this type of candidate would not be allowed to be a minister."

This indicates that the current position of the HHK is actually to permit men to identify themselves publicly as homosexual and therefore claim to be 'gay Christians'.

HHK minister 'comes out'

Another HHK minister, Rev. D. D. Burggraaf, caused a controversy by publicly 'coming out' in an article published on May 29th, 2014. The actual article can be seen at the following link.

<http://www.rd.nl/zwijg-niet-langer-over-homoseksualiteit-1.387593>

Extract from a translation of his article: (Speaking of Nazis' treatment of homosexuals during a visit to the Dachau concentration camp)

'But suddenly there is one poster that shatters the dream and the pink cloud of my thoughts. "Homosexuelle" reads the German legend. I read, I feel and I know over there would have been your place, because you are one of them. Born with the same orientation. For years, unconscious and buried under all kinds of circumstances. After a serious car accident gradually come to light at a time when I was completely thrown back on myself. Eventually after a fathomless deep crisis and many inner struggles accepted as given.'

'Someone once wrote, "I can not remain silent any longer." More and more I had in the months after Dachau the same feeling. From various sides regularly sounds the call for silence in the Reformed denomination over and to break the taboo on homosexuality. Rightly so! I hope writing this will make a small contribution.'

I have also been made aware of some articles which expose and condemn D. Burggraaf's views and the pro-sodomite trend he and Kommerie represent in the HHK. Sadly, the author indicates that at the date of writing in response to this 'coming out' by a minister (August 5th, 2014) the Synod had done nothing to censure Burggraaf for his action. The following is an extract.

'...against the unbiblical testimony of Rev. Burggraaf they should act immediately. That can not be delayed, because that gay doctrine eats away as cancer, 2 Timothy 2:17. A biblical testimony should have been given directly by the HHK, but it failed. It is really astonishing and deeply upsetting.'

It is also clear that this policy continues to the present time, given that I have already referred to an article written in the same vein on June 20th, 2016.



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It is therefore clear that this denomination, in which Joel Beeke is so at home, has had these serious issues for some time!

It is evidently in such a state of spiritual departure and apostasy that men in its ranks have voiced such vile sentiments as to call for sodomites to occupy the pulpit, and nothing has been done to remove them from office.

The HHK also works closely with, and even exchanges ministers with, the Christian Reformed Church in Holland whose policy on homosexuality is cited in the following extract from http://www.hetgekrookteriet.com/Diverse_artikelen/Kommerie.html and commented on by the same HHK elder referred to above.

'Homosexual feelings are not necessarily sinful, teaches the gay report from the Christian Reformed Church (2013). What the report further says is currently introduced in all churches (including the Reformed): "In the light of the Scriptures all sexual acts must be outside of him and therefore also homosexual conduct is a sin. The preaching must call to confess these sins and fight them. There is forgiveness with God! In the meantime the preaching clearly echoes that homosexual orientation in itself is not a sin and homosexual feelings and desires not necessarily either. Brothers and sisters with a homosexual orientation will in their own way experience this preaching as exciting.'

Preaching that allows sinners to continue in their sin is always going to be exciting for them!

Thus by preaching for this specific congregation and for the HHK denomination, Dr. Beeke placed himself in fellowship with men who promote abominable perversion in God's name and a denominational hierarchy who seem unwilling to do anything to remove them from office, but rather have accepted the principle of 'sodomite Christians'.

However, the attachment between Dr. Beeke and the HHK goes beyond even this.

In the course of his remarks made in Kralingseveer Rotterdam on Sunday morning September 4th, explaining the pursuit of formal relations between HNRC and HHK, Dr. Beeke said:

"Our denomination has recently sent a letter to the Hersteld Hervormde Kerken that we might enter into some kind of contact. Because **we feel one with you and one with the reformed, Christ-centred, experiential emphasis that you adhere to as we do.**" (I have an audio recording of his message and transcribed this quote from that recording, emphasis mine, IF).

It is unbelievable that Dr. Beeke could make such a statement given what is easily learned about the HHK denomination and the advocacy for 'gay Christianity' that occurs without censure within its ranks. He cannot use his oft-used excuse of "not knowing" that these things were happening. You do not seek closer ties with a denomination without first fully researching its standards and practices!

REFO500

It is very interesting to see the link with Refo500 emerge again as a common factor in these events. Some time ago (back in 2012) Dr. Beeke was challenged on his involvement in this ecumenical organisation. His friends here in Ulster claimed that he was unaware of the character of this organisation (even though he was involved from its beginning) and consequently he was withdrawing from it. No public statement to that effect was ever made, as far as I am aware.

Dr. Beeke was in Holland speaking at a Refo500 sponsored event at the beginning of September when these objectionable preaching engagements occurred. This is but the latest in a number of engagements he has had under the banner of Refo500.

Leading figures in the HHK, including the Seminary professors who sanctioned J Kommerie's views, are also involved with Refo500. Dr. Vlastuin and Dr. P. De Vries are speakers at Refo500 together with Roman Catholics like Dutch Bishop De Korte.



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See <http://www.refo500.nl/pages/502/sprekers-2.html>

Dr. Vlastuin (Doctorate in reformed spirituality) is also part of Cred-Art, an organization including Roman Catholic theologians.

<https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/nl/onderzoek/instituten-en-researchgroepen/credart/onderzoekers/>

Dr. De Vries writes regularly in the Puritan Reformed Journal of PRTS

(for example <https://prts.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Journal-7-1-final.pdf>)

Another HHK Seminary Professor, Dr. Van Kooten recently indicated his views on Rome in a public video and has said that he does not dare to call the pope THE antichrist.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwUiUwhHR0k> (in Dutch)

Dr. Beeke, in spite of previous assurances to the contrary, has maintained his connections with Refo500, compromised as it is by its alliances with Rome, and it has been the means of leading him into even worse company than before.

In engaging in fellowship and worship with these men he has again compromised himself with Rome and the added abomination of the sodomite agenda.

It has ever been the practice of the Free Presbyterian Church that, in keeping with the teaching of the Bible, brethren who compromise themselves and persist in fellowshiping with those whose beliefs and practices make them "unclean", then those brethren themselves become "unclean" and must therefore be condemned, disciplined and avoided.

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself," 1 Timothy 6:3-5.

"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds," 2 John 1:10-11.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them," Romans 16:17.

Therefore, this issue of Joel Beeke cannot be ignored any longer by the Free Presbyterian Church without incurring the displeasure of the Lord.

The full Presbytery must make a decision in keeping with the teaching of God's Word if the heretofore witness of the Free Presbyterian Church is to be maintained uncompromisingly.

To do otherwise is to forfeit our "separated unto the Lord" stand and lose what we retain of the Lord's presence and power in our midst.

That is a consequence too awful to contemplate!

Ivan Foster.

26th September 2016.