

DRAG QUEEN STORY TIME AT LIBRARIES *continued*

That Libraries NI should stage and promote an event of this nature which permits LGBT activists to target toddlers and children in order to distort our perception of reality is not only disturbing but dangerous.”

This comment received significant attention, including a string of foul-mouthed vulgarities that could not be reprinted in this church bulletin (and, in fairness, should not appear anywhere). After a full day of comments where any Christian who dared to comment was met with streams of vitriol from those who imagine they are the ‘progressives’ of our society, the advert for this event (and all postings associated with it) was taken down.

Further investigation has revealed that this is by no means a one-off event: last year, again during ‘Gay Pride Belfast,’ a similar event was staged by the same library. Back in November 2017 the *Christian Institute* warned in an article, ‘Drag Queens Now Targetting Two-Year-Olds In Nurseries,’ how “men dressed as women are reading children’s books and singing songs in nurseries as LGBT activists target toddlers. Inspired by a similar organisation in the US, Drag Queen Story Time has been allowed to hold events at seven nursery schools.” I plan to address a letter of protest to the library.



MEETINGS TODAY

- Morning Worship – 11.30am:
19th Message in the Galatians Series:
“The Critical Core – To Glory In The Cross.”
- Evening Service – 7.00pm:
“Pulled Out Of The Pit.”

INSPIRATION IN A SENTENCE

“... Rid them out of the hand of the wicked. They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.” [Psalm 82:4-5].



DRAG QUEEN STORY TIME AT LIBRARIES NI

On Thursday evening I received a tip off by some concerned Christian parents about an event scheduled for the Holywood Arches Library on Saturday, 28 July 2018 – ‘Drag Queen Story Time’ – one of the many events associated with this years’ ‘Gay Pride Week’ in Belfast. Three sessions had been organised, beginning at 10.30am, 11.00am and 11.30am, all featuring a Drag Queen conducting a programme of events for children. The library assisted by providing a specific LGBT display.

I quickly posted the following comment on the Facebook page of *LibrariesNI*:

“This – and similar events – has nothing to do with helping children but everything to do with using them as a propaganda tool to further the radical agenda of those who wish to do away with the precious distinctions between men and women.



I WILL GLORY IN THE CROSS

Text: **Galatians 6:11-18**.

During the days of the Early Church many forged documents were in circulation; in order to gain some creditability many falsely claimed that their spurious production had been written by one of the apostles. Paul added his genuine signature to this letter, ensuring that the Galatian churches would have no doubts as to its authorship; **6:11**.

“How large a letter | with what large letters” may reference Paul’s problematic eyesight (cf. **Galatians 4:13 and 15**), but certainly gives emphasis to a truth that is at the core of the apostle’s teaching in this epistle: when Christianity is reduced to its essential element, it is a message of the Cross (**1 Corin. 1:23**).

[1] THE ENMITY AGAINST A GLORYING IN THE CROSS; 6:12-13.

(a) **IN TERMS OF THEIR MESSAGE:** There have only ever been two approaches to salvation: God’s way is the way of divine accomplishment; all other ways rely on human achievement.

(b) **IN TERMS OF THEIR MOTIVATION:** Paul accuses the false teachers among the Judaizers of being motivated by:

(i) **Pride**, acting as braggarts, they *“desire to make a fair shew”* – and bullies, *“they constrain you to be circumcised.”* All flesh-motivated and flesh-driven activity is an offence to God and brings His condemnation (cf. **Matthew 6:1; Luke 16:14-15**).

(ii) **Cowardice**, They were not willing to pay the price of persecution in order to line up with Jesus Christ. The book of Galatians has been called ‘The Crucifixion Epistle,’ not merely due to the fact that the cross | crucifixion are directly mentioned 7 times (**2:20; 3:1; 5:11, 24; 6:12, 14** [twice]), but especially because the great theme of this epistle – God’s redemptive purpose and grace through the atonement of Christ – allows no room for human pride, status, or achievement.

(iii) **Hypocrisy**, False teachers pressurise others to obey the law, but do not obey the law themselves. Hypocrisy is never more easy – or dangerous – than in the Lord’s work.

[2] THE EXPLANATION OF THIS GLORYING IN THE CROSS; 6:14-15.

(a) **THE EXCLUSIVENESS OF IT:** For Paul, there was only one worthy first focus: *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ”* Charles Spurgeon preached a sermon on this text entitled ‘The Cross Our Glory.’ The cross is the climax of Jesus’ life given in obedience to His Father in heaven; He kept on humbling Himself *until* He reached the point of death (**Phil. 2:5-8; Matthew 16:21; Luke 12:50**).

(b) **THE ESSENTIALS IN IT;** The Cross:

(i) **REDEEMS / PROPITIATES; 6:15.** Circumcision, with its reliance on the flesh, has no value for salvation. The cross deals with the problem between man’s sin and God’s holiness.

(ii) **RECONCILES / PARDONS.**

(iii) **RESCUES / PRIORITISES;** *“...by whom the world is crucified unto me...”* – the world can offer us nothing of any value in comparison to what the cross offers (cf. **Mark 8:36**); *“...and I unto the world”* – where this may be more to do with criticism than consecration. The world viewed Paul as a wasted life.

[3] THE EFFECTS OF THIS GLORYING IN THE CROSS; 6:16-18.

(a) **BUFFETING; 6:17:** *“Judaizers can take their little ‘circumcision club’ and go somewhere else; don’t bother me any more. You like to make marks on the body and call yourself holy, but my marks are the scars of persecution – and the badge of ownership and loyalty to Christ and His Cross.”*

(b) **BLESSINGS; 6:16, 18:** “Rule” [kanon] points to a measurement, often a principle or standard. To *“walk according to this rule”* is to accept the Gospel of divine accomplishment through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and to walk by faith in the power of His Spirit, not in the energy and iniquity of the flesh. This glory in the crosswork of Christ brings *“peace”* (**6:16**) and *“mercy”* (**6:16**) – Peace refers to the believer’s new relationship with God, mercy speaks of the removal of his sins – and also *“grace”* (**6:18**). To the very last verse Paul continues hammering home his main point. His words are personal, *“brethren”*; he repeats his main theme, the necessity of God’s grace – *“the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ”* – and points one final time to the main issue, *“be with your spirit.”*