

Religion and Politics

In August last year we saw a march against the Civil Unions bill organised by the Destiny Church. There has been a lot of debate about whether such action was appropriate, quite apart from the merits of each sides case.

Destiny Church said it led the demonstration because it saw the proposed legislation as a threat to their children, as well as declaring their sentiments about relationships outside of orthodox marriage between a man and a woman. The Destiny Church has also formed its own political party to try and get its view of things enforced via the ballot box. The question is, regardless of what we may think of marriage and the bill, should a church form a political party and try and have its own way imposed on others? And would it really make a difference to the way WE live or our approach to marriage?

Jesus certainly was against establishing his kingdom as a civil power or by force of natural arms. "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world my servants would fight." John 18:36. The Jewish people had expected the Messiah to be an earthly king who would make them the rulers of the world. Their will and way would be imposed by force of arms, especially as they worshiped Jehovah, the one true God. When Jesus did not fulfill their natural worldly expectations, they crucified him.

The church's function is not to impose but to persuade by the power of truth and the self-evident reasoning of love. Rather than trying to establish the Lord's kingdom via the ballot box, it should be working to establish it in the individual lives of the nation's people. Only then does the Lord's kingdom come, for it is within us. It concerns how our thoughts and feelings are governed and our actions arising from them.

Is the legislation a threat to us? No! It may indeed in some ways sadden us, but it only makes it more urgent for us to make people aware of the unique, profound and beautiful body of teaching regarding marriage love in the New Christian Church. The only way to change things for the better in the world is by evangelisation and by living example. If we judge the world as being against us and a threat to us, then our professed faith is natural and external. This is when we focus on what we perceive to be evil in others rather than in ourselves. Such a faith is not spiritual and rooted in the core of our being. If we have dug deep into our own lives and set the foundation on the Rock, then our lives will feel and be secure, regardless of what is going on. This will enable us to work quietly and compassionately to bring about change and build the Lord's Kingdom in the hearts and minds of people.