

## The warped 'wit and wisdom' of Adam Harbinson

In recent weeks I have addressed the issue of those who claim to be Christian but who are comfortable to endorse the view that a sexually active homosexual lifestyle is perfectly compatible with a profession made by someone to their being a Christian. In one case it was a group known as **Changing Attitude Ireland** and my article responding to their views can be accessed on -

[http://www.takeheed.info/Assorted\\_Articles/Contemporary/Welcome-to-Diocese-of-Sodom-and-Gomorrah.pdf](http://www.takeheed.info/Assorted_Articles/Contemporary/Welcome-to-Diocese-of-Sodom-and-Gomorrah.pdf)

and in the other it was the views of **Cliff Richard** that I addressed and that article can be accessed on -

[http://www.takeheed.info/Assorted\\_Articles/Contemporary/No-straight-talk-from-Cliff-Richard.pdf](http://www.takeheed.info/Assorted_Articles/Contemporary/No-straight-talk-from-Cliff-Richard.pdf)

Yet again I am having to return to this subject as I was sent the newspaper column that appeared in the Bangor Spectator of Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008. The regular column by supposed Christian, **Adam Harbinson** is known as '**Wit and wisdom**'.

In our December 2002 newsletter I wrote a short article entitled **The 'sin' of Adam** and in it I challenged some other published unscriptural views that had been penned by **Adam Harbinson** – that short article can be accessed by scrolling through the newsletter located on this link -

<http://www.takeheed.info/news-from-the-front-december-2002/>

For the purpose of this article I plan to reproduce Mr Harbinson's article of 23<sup>rd</sup> October and as we move through it I will address and biblically challenge some assertions that he makes in his article.

**Good news for God's homosexual children:  
Bad news for some Christians.  
By Adam Harbinson**

*First off, let me state categorically that God does not hate homosexuals; he doesn't hate anyone, How could He, He is love. It's probably also worth saying that to claim to hate homosexuality but love the homosexual is hypocritical in the extreme. Can you separate what the person is from who the person is?*

### Cecil's comments

God's Word declares that a true child of God is one who **“purifieth himself even as he (God) is pure”** [1<sup>st</sup> John 3:3] God's Word also says **“To everything there is a season...a time to love and a time to hate”** [Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 8], it says **“I loved Jacob and I hated Esau”** [Malachi 1:2-3: Romans 9:13] and it also says **“Ye who love the Lord, hate evil”** [Psalm 97:10].

Matthew Henry in the course of commenting on this Psalm 97 wrote 'It is God's holiness **WHICH, ABOVE ALL HIS ATTRIBUTES**, the angels celebrate (Isaiah 6:3 Holy, Holy Holy) Sinners tremble but Saints rejoice at the remembrance of God's holiness' (Psalm 30:4)

As to 'separating what the person is from who the person is' the Lord Himself demonstrated this in Mark's account of the story of the rich young ruler – in Mark 10:21 we read **“Then Jesus beholding him, loved him”** – Matthew Henry comments **‘Christ had a kindness for him...Christ particularly loves to see young people and rich people asking the way to heaven’** - but by confronting the rich young ruler with aspects and requirements of God's law in verse 19 and by this means thus identifying this young man's underlying sin we read of the young man's reaction in verse 22 that **“he was sad at that saying and went away grieved”** [Cecil's comment – does any true believer ever depart **“sad”** and **“grieved”** after an encounter with the **Lord Jesus Christ?**]. Here, in this story, the Lord demonstrates not only His love for the young man but also His hatred of his sin.

### Continuing Mr Harbinson's article

*The arrogance and self-righteousness of some people who call themselves Christian is breath-taking. They single out people who are not like them, they marginalize them, they label them as pariahs, they thoughtlessly use words like 'abomination' and the nauseating thing is that they seek to legitimate their narrow views by misinterpreting the Bible. And to make matters worse, when those marginalized people are beaten up on the street or when their homes are attacked or when their despair drives them to suicide, they wring their hands in horror and say, 'How could it be anything to do with what I said?' – now they're being disingenuous as well as arrogant and self-righteous.*

<b>Cecil's comments</b>
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I just wonder what planet Mr Harbinson is living on?

For him all the problems associated with the 'gay' issue stem apparently from Christians speaking and behaving as God Himself speaks and tells His people how to behave on this issue. When asked for their views on homosexual behaviour it is perfectly right and biblical for a Christian to describe such as an 'abomination' (this is one example of how they are to be "salt and light" [Matthew 5:13-14]) and a good example earlier this year would be MLA Iris Robinson's response to that effect when questioned specifically on this issue. That response provoked much controversy but Iris, as a professing and practicing Christian, was simply stating how God views such behaviour.

Mr Harbinson accuses such biblically-based views as being arrived at by '***misinterpreting the bible***' and yet later in his article he concedes that God does declare homosexual behaviour to be an '**abomination**' in for example Leviticus 18:22. Physical attacks on '**gays**' are not sanctioned or carried out by true Christians and such action has rightly been condemned by the likes of Iris Robinson and Free Presbyterian minister, David McIlveen, who has regularly spoken publicly on this issue.

It's amazing that in his article Adam Harbinson makes no reference to the openly offensive and blasphemous behaviour during the many so-called '**Gay-Pride Marches**' that snake through many cities including Belfast and where banners provocatively proclaiming the **Lord Jesus Christ** to be '**gay**' or '**a faggot**' are waived under the noses of peaceful protesting Christians. I wonder too will Mr Harbinson address the emergence of a 'gay' group called '**Bash Back**' that on 9<sup>th</sup> November attacked a church in Michigan USA – there were shouts of '**Jesus was gay**' and two lesbians entered the pulpit and began kissing.

A report of the incident can be read on -

<http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=80743>

True Christians are very aware that they are not '**self-righteous**' but rather they rejoice in Jehovah **Tsidkenu** "**The Lord Our**

**Righteousness**” [Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16]. The Apostle Paul who was inspired by God to write much about immorality in all its sinful forms including homosexual practice far from being **‘self-righteous’** wrote of his personal hope of being **“found in him (Christ) not having mine own righteousness...but that (righteousness) which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness WHICH IS OF GOD by faith”** [Philippians 3:9].

Is it *‘arrogant’* of Christians to publicly identify when people are clearly sinning before God – the Apostle Paul obviously did not view it like that when on one occasion he wrote in his letter to the Galatians **“Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth”** [Galatians 4:16] – **‘Arrogance’** was not on Paul’s **‘radar’**.

#### Continuing Mr Harbinson’s article

*We have long known that certain brands of Christian fundamentalism have convinced themselves that homosexual people can and must be ‘healed’, but I heard a minister on TV the other night say that something that can only have been incubated in some dark corner of a dubious theological college. I can see where their belief that homosexuals are an ‘abomination’ comes from, although some serious intellectual contortions and blind spots are called for to reach that conclusion. But this man went totally beyond the pale, claiming that unless they are ‘healed’ they cannot be Christians and are bound for eternal damnation. What he was really saying was, ‘If you want God to love you, you have to be like me’.*

#### Cecil’s comments

The reality is that all sinners, if they are to be with God for eternity in heaven need to be **‘saved’**. It’s interesting that the Lord in Matthew 9:12 spoke of His mission against a backdrop of using medical, healing terminology. He said in Matthew 9:12-13 **“They that are well need not a physician but they that are sick...I am not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance”**. The Lord clearly likened sinners to being like people who are sick and who need to be *‘healed’*.

Mr Harbinson wrote *‘But this man went totally beyond the pale, claiming that unless they are ‘healed’ they cannot be Christians and are bound for eternal damnation’*. Did this minister go *‘totally*

*beyond the pale?* – not according to the words of the Lord Jesus to a gathering of people in Luke 13:3&5 “**Except ye repent ye shall ALL likewise perish**”.

Mr Harbinson’s paraphrasing of the minister’s message in these words ‘***If you want God to love you, you have to be like me***’ is I believe a distortion of what he has reported the minister as having said and I’m sure the minister would be horrified by this distortion of what he reportedly said. Any faithful minister of the gospel will simply preach the truth that if a sinner does not seek God’s forgiveness for his sins, whether they be of an immoral homosexual nature, or of an immoral heterosexual nature, or of any other kind of sinful breaking of God’s law, then that person will “**die in their sins**” [John 8:24] and in consequence that person “**cannot come to where Jesus has gone (heaven)**” [John 8:21-22]

#### Continuing Mr Harbinson’s article

*Now I know I risk making a few more enemies just now, but if you share this minister’s view, can I ask you to suspend your convictions for just a minute, can you allow for the possibility that they might be built on a misunderstanding of Scripture. Let me ask a couple of questions. We all believe that Jesus died for the sins of the world, don’t we? So who says some sins are so loathsome that he wouldn’t or couldn’t forgive them? And who decides which sins are loathsome and which aren’t?*

#### Cecil’s comments

God’s Word says the following about the sins that the Lord Jesus Christ atoned for when He endured His Father’s just wrath against sin when He died as a sacrificial substitute on the Cross of Calvary.

“Thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save HIS PEOPLE from their sins” [Matthew 1:21]

“The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom FOR MANY” [Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45]

“this is my blood of the new testament which is shed FOR MANY for the remission of sins” [Matthew 26:28]

“feed THE CHURCH OF GOD which he hath purchased with his own blood” [Acts 20:28]

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life FOR THE SHEEP” [John 10:11]

“I am the good shepherd and KNOW MY SHEEP and am known OF MINE” [John 10:14]

“Ye believe not BECAUSE YE ARE NOT OF MY SHEEP” [John 10:26]

“All things are delivered unto me by my Father, and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father except the Son, and he TO WHOM THE SON will reveal him” [Matthew 11:27]

As for some sins being ‘*loathsome*’ as Mr Harbinson puts it, God Himself identifies certain sins such as homosexual practice (Leviticus 18:22) and occultic practice (Deuteronomy 18:9-14) as being an ‘**abomination**’ which means they are particularly repulsive and ‘*loathsome*’ in His sight.

#### Continuing Mr Harbinson’s article

*Paul and Silas told the prison governor ‘**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved**’. Jesus told the thief on the cross, ‘**Today you will be with me..**’ but the minister added his own homophobic condition – ‘**You have to believe and be straight!**’ Where did that come from if not a mind full of fear, prejudice and hatred?*

#### Cecil’s comments

Once more I believe Mr Harbinson is guilty of distorting what the minister reportedly said when he writes that for someone to be with Christ in paradise, as was the Saviour’s promise to the repentant thief, he adds a supposed ‘*homophobic condition*’ imposed by the minister. The reality is that if a sinner does not repent of their sins and believe the gospel to the saving of their soul then they will not go to heaven/paradise but will go to hell – that is God’s clear message in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-10 “**Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? BE NOT DECEIVED: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor**

**adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God**". The reality is that **"If any man be (*truly*) in Christ he is a new creation; old (*sinful*) things are passed away; behold all things (*passions and pursuits*) are become new"** [2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17]. We might in turn ask – where do Mr Harbinson's views come from and perhaps Isaiah 5:21 might supply the answer to that, particularly in the light of the preceding verse.

#### Continuing Mr Harbinson's article

*I acknowledge the Scripture in Leviticus that says; **'You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination,'** but did you know that word abomination appears 117 times in the Bible and only once does it refer to same sex relationships? And did you know that the 'A' word also applies to eating rabbit meat and shellfish? So why ignore the other 116 abominations? And of course Jesus was silent on the subject. Could there be a reason for that?*

#### Cecil's comments

If Mr Harbinson did truly *'acknowledge the Scripture in Leviticus that says; **'You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination,'*** there would be no possible way that he could so forcefully rebuke those Christians who use this biblical word **'abomination'** when expressing the Christian/God's view of homosexual behaviour and practice so his token *'acknowledgment'* is not worth the Spectator paper that it was written on. Mr Harbinson goes on to try and belittle the severity of just how abominable homosexual practice is in the sight of God by adopting the 'gay' approach of referring to other practices that were described in the Bible as being **'abominable'** and yet to our way of thinking might seem pretty ridiculous and he cites by way of example *'did you know that the 'A' word also applies to eating rabbit meat and shellfish?'*

In my earlier article **about 'Changing Attitude Ireland'** I quoted from a letter published in the Belfast Telegraph where a Christian called John Montgomery (known personally to me) wrote **'Many of the rules given to Israel during their wilderness wanderings were specifically for their health and welfare in that particular situation. Some were ceremonial laws**

**for the Jews and were fulfilled in Christ and abolished (Colossians 2:13-17). However, the moral law summed up in the Ten Commandments is perpetually binding on all mankind. The New Testament makes it clear that theft, murder, fornication, adultery and homosexual practices are sinful and if not repented of will exclude people from the Kingdom of God' (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-10).**

Mr Harbinson, like those from the 'gay' community has failed to grasp the difference between God's timeless and enduring moral law and what were His temporary and expedient dietary regulations that were imposed for a specific environmental situation. Mr Harbinson claims that '**Jesus was silent on the subject. Could there be a reason for that**' – Mr Harbinson is wrong to say that the Lord Jesus was silent for when it came to the matter of God's law the Lord Jesus declared "**Think not that I am come to destroy the law...I am not come to destroy...Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the law**" [Matthew 5:17-18].

#### Continuing Mr Harbinson's article

*The news is good folks, the golden thread that runs through the true Christian faith is this; God created us all, all in his image, all loved equally and all died for by Jesus And the bad news? Well, the bad news for that particular minister and thousands like him is that like it or lump it, he will have to spend eternity with millions of God's gay children– on the assumption of course that he makes it past the Pearly gates.*

#### Cecil's comments

Is Mr Harbinson right to assert by way of 'good news' this universal, all-embracing approach by God to every single individual without any exception whatsoever? The following scriptures would certainly challenge that assertion on his part –

**"I (Jesus) have manifested thy name unto THE MEN WHOM THOU GAVEST ME out of the world...I pray FOR THEM; I pray NOT FOR THE WORLD but FOR THEM WHOM THOU HAST GIVEN ME...Neither pray I for these alone, but FOR THEM ALSO WHO SHALL BELIEVE ON ME through their word...Father I will that THEY ALSO WHOM THOU HAST GIVEN ME be with me where I am"** [John 17: 6-24].

I believe it's very important to keep in mind the context in which the Lord Jesus is praying these words here in John 17 – the context is that He is moving from His role, that has since His baptism been as God's 'prophet', to His role now as God's 'priest' where He is preparing to offer Himself as a sacrifice to atone for **the sins of His people** and in that context He does NOT pray for the world but rather He prays specifically for those chosen by and given to Him by His Father.

Then, contrary to Mr Harbinson's claimed '*bad news*', the truly 'good news' for God and His true people is that when it comes to the inhabitants of heaven **"There shall in no way enter into it anything that defileth, neither HE THAT WORKETH ABOMINATION, or maketh a lie but they who are written in the Lamb's book of life"** [Revelation 21:27].

Will there be any in heaven who at some stage whilst here on earth engaged in homosexual activity – God's word says 'yes' for we read after 'the list' of sinners mentioned earlier in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-10 **"And such WERE some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God"** [verse 11]. When any sinner of whatever ilk is truly **"born again of the Spirit of God"** they are all equally **"blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"** [Ephesians 1:3].

<b>Concluding thoughts</b>
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Do genuine Christians seek to forsake their former sinful, immoral ways – they most certainly do for Peter writes in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:14-15 **"As obedient children, NOT fashioning yourselves ACCORDING TO THE FORMER LUSTS in your ignorance, but as he which hath called you is holy, SO BE YE HOLY IN ALL manner of conversation"**.

Matthew Henry comments **"The best of God's children have had their times of lust and ignorance; the time has been...when their way and fashion was to accommodate and gratify their unlawful desires and vicious appetites... Persons when converted differ exceedingly from what they were formerly. They are people of another fashion and manner from what they were before"**.

Contrary to what Mr Harbinson claims, there will not be in heaven millions of unrepentant and sexually-active **'gay children'** of God any more than there will be millions of unrepentant murderous or unrepentant thieving or unrepentant adulterous or unrepentant sinners of whatever shade or brand in the glory to come. To teach as Mr Harbinson does is to see a fulfilment in our day and generation of the warning found in Jude 4 **"For there are certain men crept in unawares...ungodly men, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness"**.

Obviously I have no certain idea of *'that particular minister'* that Mr Harbinson took issue with so strongly but it is clear from other articles that Mr Harbinson has no time for for instance the public biblical stance that David McIlveen, minister of Sandown Road Free Presbyterian Church takes on a range of issues. I know this because in Mr Harbinson's 'Wit and wisdom' of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2008 he mocked the public witness that Mr McIlveen and some of his parishioners gave near the Oval football ground in Belfast when for the first time a competitive Irish League soccer match was held on a Sunday.

In the article he refers to an imaginary dream he has where Jesus takes part in a football match with a bunch of lads and he writes *'towards the end of the match Jesus heard the sound of singing wafting in the still Sunday afternoon air "Are you washed in the blood" and he thought "O dear God, not them again"*. These few lines speak volumes to Mr Harbinson's contempt for **"all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus"** [2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:12]. That being the case I've no doubt Mr Harbinson would have no time for David McIlveen's contribution to a televised debate with a lesbian 'Bishop' on the subject of 'Gay christians'. I have just posted this debate to our website and I would encourage God's people to take the time [about 90 minutes] to watch this debate as it will enlighten and equip them for this 'battle' that continues to rage.

The debate can be accessed on this link –  
<http://www.takeheed.info/the-gay-christian-tv-debate/>

In conclusion, I am convinced that the root cause of Mr Harbinson's blindness on this issue (and other issues that he has addressed over time in his column) **is his failure** to understand and appreciate the supreme attribute of the true God of heaven. Mr Harbinson is one of those who sing from the hymn sheet that has only one line written

on it – ‘**God is love**’ – he stated as much in the opening paragraph of this article that we have just examined and also in his column of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2005. Then Mr Harbinson wrote -

In an article entitled ‘***It’s a long way from your head to your heart***’ Mr Harbinson wrote ‘*As a child Tony was encouraged to be a free thinker and a forthright speaker...And so, when his Sunday school teacher told the class “God is angry” the precocious nine-year-old jumped to his feet and protested. “No He’s not. God is love”. And the boy was right. [Cecil’s comment – My Bible tells me in Psalm 7:11 that “God is angry with the wicked every day” – and who would God classify as “wicked”? – well I think those mentioned specifically in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-10. “The unrighteous... fornicators... idolaters... adulterers... effeminate... self-abusers with mankind... thieves... covetous... drunkards... revilers and extortioners” I believe they would certainly be the subject of God’s anger “every day”]*

*Brennan Manning [Cecil’s comment – Brennan Manning is someone who like Steve Chalke denies ‘penal substitution’ – the saving truth at the very heart of the Christian Gospel. Former Roman Catholic, Mike Gendron wrote a helpful report on other worrying views of Brennan Manning and it can be accessed on <http://www.reachingcatholics.org/beware.html>] goes further. He says that since God is love, THAT’S ALL he can do – he ONLY ever loves and I THINK HE’S RIGHT too’.*

I have made reference to Steve Chalke and in articles that I wrote about his view that God is ONLY love I exposed the error of his thinking on this matter. I will now close this particular article by repeating here some of my thoughts from that article published back in March 2005 as I believe they apply equally today to Adam Harbinson and identify very clearly his warped ‘Wit and wisdom’.

In another article that I wrote recently called ‘**Moral Crusades and The Gospel**’ I quoted a saying by a former Pastor of mine. Well once more I want to quote one of the sayings of this former Pastor and it was this ‘**When a half-truth is proclaimed as the whole truth it becomes a lie**’. Why do I quote this saying? Well at the heart of Steve Chalke’s book ‘*The Lost Message of Jesus*’ I believe that ‘**a half-truth is being proclaimed as the whole truth and as a result it has become a lie**’. On page 63 Steve Chalke writes ‘*The Bible never defines God as anger, power*

***or judgement – in fact it never defines him as anything other than love. But more than that it never makes assertions about his anger, power or judgement independently of his love. So, though we read about his various attributes, in reality they are, as Karl Barth points out never more than “repetitions and amplifications of the one statement that God loves”.***

In this statement Steve Chalke acknowledges that the Bible does reveal some of the **‘attributes’** of God as being **‘anger, power and judgement’** but he asserts, along with Karl Barth, that the one factor that guides God when exercising His **‘attributes’** is His **‘love’** so that any exercise of **‘anger, power or judgement’** is in reality an expression or as Karl Barth puts it a **‘repetition and amplification’** of God acting in **‘love’**. Can I just say that I find that assertion ‘hard to swallow’ when I read of how God moved in **‘anger, power and judgement’** against the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Was it really God’s **‘love’** that caused Him to exercise His attributes of **‘anger, power and judgement’** when He rained down fire and brimstone [see Genesis 19:15-29 and Jude 7] upon these dens of iniquity and destroyed them?

I do believe that there is a factor that does guide God when He exercises His **‘attributes’**, but I do not believe that it is His **‘love’** and in fact I believe that His **‘love’** is itself guided by this other factor. Steve Chalke wrote that in the Bible **‘it never defines him [God] as anything other than love’**. THIS IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE! In my Bible I read this truth in **1 John 1:5 “GOD IS LIGHT and in him is no darkness at all”** and Paul, writing to Timothy in **1 Timothy 6:16** speaks of God **“dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto”**.

What truth did John, under divine inspiration, want to convey when he wrote, **“God is light and in him is no darkness at all?”** To answer that let me quote Pastor John MacArthur from his devotional thoughts for **October 4** in his book **‘Strength for Today’** when he considers the verse **1 John 1:5 “God is light and in him is no darkness at all”** – Pastor MacArthur wrote **‘Light and darkness are familiar metaphors in Scripture. Intellectually, light refers to truth, and darkness to error; morally light refers to holiness, and darkness to evil. Intellectually, the Bible reveals God as the God of truth...Morally, light describes God’s absolute holiness**

**and separation from evil...Understanding the truth that “God is light” is foundational to dealing with sin in our lives.’ I would like to add to this last statement and to say that *‘Understanding the truth that “God is light” is foundational to God’s dealing with our sin’.***

The truth that the Bible reveals as being the guiding factor for God as He exercises His **‘attributes’** is not as Steve Chalke asserts God’s **‘love’** but rather it is God’s **‘holiness’** – an inherent **‘holiness’** that totally sets Him apart from His whole creation. Jesus Christ was **“Emmanuel...God with us”** [Matthew 1:23] and He was **“God...manifest in the flesh”** [1 Timothy 3:16] and John MacArthur gives this telling explanation concerning the Incarnate Christ in his book **‘The Murder of Jesus’** [p71-72] - **‘When Christ took on human flesh, he also took on Himself all the natural weaknesses of humanity – except those that are inherently sinful. Hebrews 4:15 says “For we do not have an high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”...Christ experienced every infirmity of human nature except for sin’.** This explanation by Pastor MacArthur explains why Christ could declare in **John 8:12** **“I am the light of the world”** and why He could say in **John 14:30** **“the prince [of darkness – Acts 26:18] of this world cometh and hath nothing in me”**. Jesus Christ, the one in whose resurrected presence Thomas confessed **“My Lord and my God”** [John 20:28], is supremely **“holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners”** [Hebrews 7:26]. In His presence, we read that Peter one day **“fell down at Jesus’ knees saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man O Lord”** [Luke 5:8]. In the parable of the Pharisee and the publican we read in **Luke 18:13** **“And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner”**. Why did Peter and the publican both react in such a fashion – they had become aware of the **‘holiness’** of God. Their eyes had been opened to recognise the truth that **“God is light and in him is no darkness at all”**.

Another character in the Bible, the prophet Isaiah, was like-wise compelled to cry out one day in anguish of soul, **“Woe is me! For I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts”** [Isaiah 6:5]. Isaiah

had been granted a vision of God in His heaven and was it God's **'love'** that caused him to cry out in anguish – absolutely not! In that vision, the angelic beings around the Throne of God were not crying out **'love, love, love'** – no – they were crying out **“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts” [Isaiah 6:3]**. Isaiah had received an overwhelming revelation of the absolute **'holiness'** of God that is perfectly summed up in **1 John 1:5** that **“God is light and in him is no darkness at all”**.

Having watched the God of Heaven move in **'anger, power and judgement'** against the pursuing armies of Pharaoh by drowning them in the Red Sea [Exodus 14: 13-31] we read in **Exodus 15:1-10** that **“Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord...The Lord is my strength...he is become my salvation...The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea...Thy right hand O Lord is become glorious in power; thy right hand O Lord hath dashed in pieces the enemy...thou sentest forth thy wrath which consumed them as stubble...Thou didst blow with thy wind; the sea covered them; they sank as lead in the mighty waters”**.

Can anyone doubt that this was God exercising His **'attributes'** of **'anger, power and judgement'**? Steve Chalke and Karl Barth would have us believe that it was God's **'love'** that influenced Him to take such action but **verse 11 of Exodus 15** tells quite a different story for the **“song”** concisely sums up God's actions against the Egyptians with these words **“Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like thee, GLORIOUS IN HOLINESS, fearful in praises, doing wonders”?**

God's move against Pharaoh's army was influenced not by His **'love'** but by His glorious [majestic] **'holiness'**...I mentioned that Steve Chalke's assertion that in the Bible **'it never defines him [God] as anything other than love'** was in effect a lie. It was a lie that ignored the revealed biblical truth that **“God is light and in him is no darkness at all”**. Who would want to cover up this truth of God being **“light”**? The answer is that those who **“preach another Jesus [and] have received another spirit [and] another gospel” [2 Corinthians 11:4]**. Who are such people? **“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ” [2 Corinthians 11:13]**. Should God's people be surprised at such

happenings? **“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works” [2 Corinthians 11:14-15].**

There's an old saying 'Don't believe everything you read in the papers' and I certainly believe this has particular application when it comes to Adam Harbinson and his own brand of 'Wit and wisdom'.

**Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

PS I had literally just finished writing this article when I received an email from my brother in Christ and fellow contender, Ken Silva, directing me to a short article that he had just penned. This is the link to it -

<http://apprising.org/2008/11/tony-jones-influential-theologian-of-the-emergent-church-out-of-the-closet/>

and this article by Ken serves to show that this growing acceptance and promotion of the notion of sexually active 'gay Christians' by supposed Christians is having a global impact.