

Reflections on the death of J I Packer

(Posted to Facebook 18/7/2020)

It is always a matter of great sadness for family and friends when a loved one dies and it will surely be the same for the family and friends of Mr Packer. I have already read quite a number of tributes to him as regards his 'theological fidelity' but, with much sadness, I'm afraid I don't share those sentiments.

Mr Packer, like a number of others identified as 'evangelicals' was, to say the least, 'frustrating' - 'frustrating' in that they could articulate a biblically sound point of view but then do totally the opposite in practice. I summed up my concerns on this issue back in 2016 and you can read my article on this link –

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2016/October/J-I-Packer-double-minded-and-unstable.pdf>

Just on Thursday past I posted details announcing the death of Lynn Bennett who was the widow of Richard Bennett – Richard was a former Roman Catholic priest who was wonderfully saved and subsequently exercised an excellent apologetics ministry known as 'The Berean Beacon'.

Richard and I ministered together on a number of occasions both here and in America. Like myself, Richard had very serious and legitimate concerns about the role Mr Packer played in promoting false, gospel-compromising ecumenism and he detailed it in this very helpful article –

<https://bereanbeacon.org/the-alignment-of-new-evangelicals-with-apostasy/?fbclid=IwAR1K3pxzZXdpYhbkq-TcHO7u0A05sTIIyM8Rn3eFGdGWOMGvPVF-nIMgKII>

Some may perhaps feel that, in the immediate aftermath of his death, this is not the right time to be identifying such concerns about Mr Packer. I have wrestled with that thought, but am persuaded that this is actually the right time, because many, who perhaps may not be familiar with Mr Packer, could be drawn to his 'sound' writings because of the tributes being paid and then, in consequence, also be drawn into supporting his gospel-compromising ecumenical stance – a stance that caused Dr Martin Lloyd-Jones to break fellowship with Mr Packer as can be read in Iain Murray's account of those events in 'Evangelicalism Divided' - available on

<https://banneroftruth.org/uk/store/church-ministry/evangelicalism-divided/>

In the wake of J I Packer's personal visit to Ireland to promote, in partnership with 'Father' Pat Collins, an 'Evangelicals and Catholics Together in Ireland' document, I made reference to it when interviewed during the 2nd 'Ex Catholics for Christ' conference held in Texas in 1999. You can see what I said by going to the link I will give and watching from 17.25-19.13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXe3ugzfILY>

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 18 July 2020