

Social Welfare Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road,
Central, Hong Kong, SAR.

16th February 2009

Ref: Against - The Question of whether we should change the name of our Family Brutality Act.

The answer is no. We have to retain the same name with the word "Family".

Suggestion: One similar law with two different titles applicable to two groups of people.

(1) The Family Brutality Act

(2) The Neighbourhood Brutality Act.

The Question of whether we should change the name of our Family Brutality Act to the Neighbourhood Brutality Act is not sensible and practical. Before changing the name we should think about how the situation will affect our young people who are not mature enough, who are in need of a moral idol to follow in order to survive in our new-developing democratic government. We also have to think of the situation that would affect some grown-ups moral values, then we will find less unity in our government discussions.

Morality is a big word and very difficult to define in our modern world. Young people sometimes get confused what moral code they have to follow. They need the older generation's experiences and laws in the government to guide them through until they manage to pick for themselves the right choices.

The name of the Law must never be changed. "Family" and "Neighbourhood" are two words in the English language which have two different meanings in the dictionary. The family is the most important entity in the English language. The law is a special one as the

family is protected in a democratic government. The law for the neighbourhood should be another family but can't be abused. Why don't the churches want to change the name? What is the importance of the Holy Family?

To be a good Christian one must commit one's whole life to follow and practise what God wants a Christian to do. To know about God one must know how to read and write. One must truly trust God. Whether the Bible is written in English or Chinese it still would be difficult to understand it. Christians always pray to God to help them understand the Bible when they are reading it. Gradually, reading the Bible, having experiences with others all your life you will find what God wants you to do and what will happen to you in the eternal life.

Jesus was quite young when he died but the requirements that he wanted Christians to follow are still applicable today. He respected and simplified laws that were made, before he was born. Which is the greatest commandment in the Law. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew 22:36-40)

The teachings of Jesus have to be practised in a Christian's life. The Christians believe that this earthly world is a temporary home. While living in this world you learn how to become a good Christian by following Jesus' teachings. Christianity believes in the Trinity (God, the Father, the Son & the Holy Ghost.)

Jesus Prays for His Disciples: - to continue the preaching of God's laws. Sanctify - ~~make~~ ^{under} the

guidance of the Holy Spirit (the Trinity) Earth is a temporary place for Christians. (Jesus said) I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For then I sanctify myself, that they too, may be truly sanctified.

Jesus Prays for all Believers - Father, I pray that all believers may be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

The big problem is that sometimes Jesus does not directly tell us what to do. He tells parables and stories that convey a hidden meaning.

* Before Jesus was born, Moses the leader of Israel who brought the Jewish people out of Egypt began complaining about the family. God doesn't believe in divorce. Jesus doesn't believe in divorce. The Christian Church today doesn't believe in divorce. (Matt. 19:4-9) Moses permitted divorce because husbands' hearts were hard.

* Divorce is allowed if a person has made that choice. But remember God has a punishment for that in the eternal life as one is breaking one of God's laws. A Christian must have a strong trust in God and in this earthly world where Christians are tested with the help of God as there are still many things that God only knows, God is faithful and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength but with the testing he will also provide the

way out so that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

To have a real democratic country it must be under the rules of God. After all when we go to the eternal world we have to face nobody else but God. The beliefs of Christianity and the teachings of Jesus must be followed and experienced by a Christian to have eternal life. Besides knowing the laws of God which are difficult there must be a strong trust and faith in God as none else has yet returned from the eternal life. But the rules one has to follow to be a good Christian is clearly explained in the Bible. Not the things you hear from others but what a Christian needs and practises from the Bible with God's guidance.

America - who claims to have the best democratic system of government in the world. There was a time that the church members had a great disagreement among themselves. One of the questions was whether the ministries in the church should get married. Some of the church members believed that they should have more freedom especially in reading the Bible. The Catholic church didn't allow the members to read the Bible. And the language they used in church services was Latin, so some church members left the church in England and sailed for America. These church leaders formed the American democratic system of government and gave their trust and faith to God. On the U.S. dollar notes, they have these words printed "In God we trust." When they have a ^{new} President, he holds the Bible, takes his oath, and the last sentence he says, "So help me, God." Unfortunately, the American democratic government is ruled by human beings who are trying to practise the difficult laws of God. And that's very difficult to do sometimes.

The Family Brutality Act and the Neighbourhood Act (Romans 19:1-36)

- * The Church is afraid that young people will follow unmarried couples who are living together, which are happening today. And makes it worst if there is no Family Brutality Act. A Family entity makes Christians think more positively of their responsibilities towards society and to others who don't believe in a family. These groups of people should also be protected from any physical abuse.
- * The Family Brutality Act reminds the young people that a family is a special entity with members that have duties and responsibilities towards a good democratic system of an orderly society. This is why the church wants to retain the traditional name and the good traditional family values.
- * Practising traditional family values helps to remind citizens that in a democratic system of government one has duties and responsibilities.
- * To practise christian family traditional values will help bring order in a democratic system of government in which it allows its citizens to have choices.

Paul, the most educated disciple of Jesus complained years later that some members of the church were acting strangely. The Neighbourhood Brutality Act in Hongkong should be for these groups of people. The women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned

natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a crazy mind to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents, they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things ~~but~~ but also approve of those who practise them (Romans 1: 26-32) We don't want to show such examples to our young people; ~~people~~, do we? That is the main reason why the church doesn't want to change the name of the Family Brutality Act.

The Letters to Parents from some Church Schools.

Real Christianity is democracy. The person who wants to be a follower of Christ must know how to read and write. He must know how to read the Bible - the words of God. They say a democratic form of government is only for the elite and the educated. To be rich is not the major priority but I do agree that living in a democratic system of government

it would be better if citizens are educated and could make proper choices. Jesus' teachings always gives the disciples the chance to make choices, there is a lot of freedom, too in whatever they do. The Believer's Freedom: Everything is permissible but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible - but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others. (1 Corinthians 23-24)

* The Teachers + Parents' Associations in different Hongkong Schools must have highly educated people. Nowadays, I guess they are highly educated than those parents hundreds of years ago. The church doesn't ~~force~~ force the parents to sign the letters, Parents should learn how to read their own letters. Parents should learn and think about the situation, then mark their choices and write out their reasons. Parents should show love and understanding. They should know their rights and responsibilities. Now, do you understand why the Family Brutality Act is important?

* Therefore, if parents don't agree with the Schools' notices or letters, they shouldn't sign it. In a democratic country honesty is the best policy. One has to complain and voice out one's opinions with good reasons. If parents don't agree with the Principal or the Voice of the Church, then there is no need for that parent to sign the letter. It's just a matter of choice. A choice has to be supported with good reasons. That's Christianity and that's democracy in action. And remember it pays to be always polite.

Hong Kong is learning and experiencing the process of a democratic system. There is a lot to

learn. The citizens of Hongkong should learn to know their rights and duties in a democratic government. There should be no reason for people to be fighting in streets or throwing bananas in a place where local district leaders ought to be exchanging ideas, thinking or planning out how to solve the immediate problems of the day.

* The Family Brutality Act would greatly influence the lives of many young people. There are young people today who have gone astray as a result of broken homes. They lack love, never know how to give love and don't understand what it means to have a loving family. With the word Family young people will learn to respect their old family members at home. Young people will then understand and realize that the closest persons who have lots of rules in a family are the ones who truly love them. The Family Brutality Act can give them protection and help them to create a happy family of their own when the time comes. The family is important and to have a family of your own is special.

The Neighbourhood Brutality Act will protect people who are in love with each other, lives together, but they are not a family. The Neighbourhood Brutality Act can protect these groups of people from getting hurt and being abused. They have the right to be protected, too.

* Society has to improve with the needs of the passing time. But old traditional moral values have

* also the purpose to be retained in order to ~~maintain~~ maintain a particular stability. Old traditional values which can only be taught and learned in families can help to maintain a stability that is needed in a young developing democratic system of a government like Hongkong.

* As a follower of Jesus Christ (Hop Yat Church) and a citizen of Hongkong, I strongly believe that the word "Family" should not be deleted from the title of the Law nor the title of the Law be changed.

* Having a family is essential to a young person's life. In order to grow up young people need the values of their families and the moral laws of the developing democratic system of the government in Hongkong. We can't just let them grow up without the proper knowledge of what makes an ideal family. Young people need to experience life with their families.

Christians believe that whatever earthly problems they may encounter in this world will be completely solved if they follow God's ways.

To the Social Welfare Committee (members)

Thank you for your kind attention and may God bless all of you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Edna May Y. Wong