

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

February 23, 2020

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

The Bible and Female Leadership

Dave Miller, Ph.D.

Amid the polarization that plagues American civilization in general, and Christendom in particular, one chasm continues to widen between those who wish to conform to Bible protocol and those who wish to modernize, update, adjust, and adapt Scripture to secular society. The cry of those who are pressing the feminist agenda is that the church in the past has restricted women in roles of leadership and worship simply because of culture and flawed hermeneutical principles. They say we are the product of a male-dominated society and have consequently misconstrued the contextual meaning of the relevant biblical passages. As attitudes soften and biblical conviction weakens, Scripture is being reinterpreted to allow for expanded roles for women in worship. At least some of this propensity for compromise is due to the skeptic’s insistence that God, the Bible, and Christians suffer from misogyny.

The central passage in the New Testament that indicates gender role in the home is Ephesians 5:22-33. The premier passage that treats gender roles in worship is 1 Timothy 2:8-15. Both passages indicate that men, i.e., adult males (andras), are to be holy, spiritual leaders in the home and in worship, while women are admonished to be modest and unassuming, and to fulfill the critical responsibilities assigned to them by God. What conceivable reason would the inspired writer (Paul) have for placing any limitations on either men or women? Was his concern prompted by the culture of that day? Was Paul merely accommodating an unenlightened, hostile environment, or asserting his own chauvinistic tendencies? The Holy Spirit gave the reason for the limitations, and that reason **transcends all culture and all locales**. Paul stated that men are to be kind, loving, nurturing leaders, and women are to submit to that leadership in the home and the church, because **Adam was created before Eve**. Here is the heart and core of God’s will concerning how men and women are to function and interrelate.

God’s original design for the human race entailed the creation of the male first as an indication of **the man’s responsibility to be the spiritual leader of the home and the church**. That is his functional purpose. Woman, on the other hand, was specifically designed and created for the purpose of being a subordinate (though not inferior) assistant. This feature of Creation explains why God gave spiritual teaching to Adam before Eve was created, implying that Adam had the created responsibility to teach his wife (Genesis 2:15-17). It explains why the female is twice stated to have been created to be “an help meet **for him**,” i.e., a helper suitable for the man (Genesis 2:18,20, emp. added). This explains why the Genesis text clearly indicates that in a unique sense, the woman was created **for** the man—not vice versa. It explains why God brought the woman “to the man” (Genesis 2:22)—not vice versa—again, as if she was made “for him.” Adam confirmed this understanding by stating “the woman whom You gave to be **with me**” (Genesis 3:12, emp. added). It explains why Paul argued on the basis of this very distinction: “Neither was the man created **for the woman**; but the woman **for the man**” (1 Corinthians 11:9, emp. added). It further clarifies the implied authority of the man over the women in his act of **naming** the woman (Genesis 2:23; 3:20). The Jews understood this divinely (cntd. pg. 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 2/16/20

Contribution – \$2376

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Classes – 28

Sunday Worship* – 51

Wednesday Night – 33

*Total for the day

WORKS SUPPORTED:

Marlon Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

The Gospel of Christ TV Program
Sundays:

6:30am - Ch. 8.3 (CW) 7:00am - Ch. 39.1

Listen to our radio station!

FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available online 24/7
at beaconcofc.com

Sermon Spotlight:

AM — Born Again!

1. If you were to ask the average American, would they say they have been born again?
2. In actuality, how many have really been born again?

PM — Hebrews Chapter 8

1. If Jesus were on earth, could He be a priest?
2. The new covenant makes the first _____.

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconcofc.com

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST
2326 JONESBORO ROAD
MAIL: P.O. BOX 3057
WEST MONROE, LA 71294

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Joy Skipper, Kaitlyn Wilson, Tim Green, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Stetson Ortega, Bettie Young, Scarlet Schooley, Judy May, Martin Hattaway, Marcia Green, Dewey Young, Kenzie May

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults: Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers. If you would like to help host an event in the future, please let Chase know!
- Monthly Ladies' Luncheon: Thanks to the 8 ladies to participated this past week! See Sharon for more details.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: Today in between services.
- VBS & Gospel Meeting with Dr. Brad Harrub: July 19th to 22nd. Will be here before we know it! Be planning to attend and help support this great event!

(Continued from page 1)

designed order, evidenced by the practice of primogeniture ("firstborn" male). God's creation of the man first was specifically intended to communicate the authority/submission principle for ordering the human race (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:8). Indeed, the evolutionists, skeptics, atheists, feminists, and theological liberals who disdain this reality are faced with the stubborn reality that gender distinction is inherently built into the created order via a host of clear cut emotional, psychological, and physiological differences between men and women—from chromosomes, to life span and muscle strength (cf. Jacobsen, 2007). Paul pinpoints perhaps the most prominent and distinguishing feature: the ability of females to bear children (1 Timothy 2:15).

Bible teaching on difference in role in no way implies a difference in worth, value, or ability. Galatians 3:28 ("neither male nor female"), 1 Timothy 2:15 ("she shall be saved"), and 1 Peter 3:7 ("heirs together of the grace of life") all show that males and females are **equals** as far as their person and salvation status is concerned. Women are often superior to men in talent, intellect, and ability. Women are not inferior to men anymore than Christ the Son is inferior to God the Father, citizens are inferior to the President, or students are inferior to teachers. The role of women in the home and in the church is not a matter of control, power, or oppression. It is a matter of submission on the part of **all** human beings to the will of God. It is a matter of willingness on the part of God's creatures, male and female, to subordinate themselves to the divine arrangement regarding the sexes. The biblical differentiation is purely a matter of function, assigned tasks, and sphere of responsibility. The tragic mistreatment of women through the centuries in countries and cultures around the world by men who have abused and misused their authority in no way discredits the biblical principle.

A massive restructuring of values and reorientation of moral and spiritual standards has been taking place in American culture for over 50 years now. The dismantling of scriptural gender differentiation is one facet of this multifaceted effacement and erosion of biblical values. Virtually every sphere of American culture has been impacted. To the extent that God's will for the proper functioning of the human race deteriorates, to that extent we will continue to see the unraveling of America's foundational values and increasing social confusion and disorientation. Many talented, godly women possess abilities and talents that would enable them to surpass many of the male worship leaders functioning in the church today. However, the Bible stands as an unalterable, eternal declaration of God's will on the matter. By those words we will be judged (John 12:48). May all people bow humbly and submissively before the God of Heaven in conformity to His perfect will for people.

REFERENCE

Jacobsen, Joyce (2007), *The Economics of Gender* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing), third edition.

Taken from <http://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=7&article=3656&topic=389>.

Blessed are they which are Persecuted

Chase Green

Matthew 5:10 - "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Persecution — "a program or campaign to exterminate, drive away, or subjugate people based on their membership in a religious, ethnic, social, or racial group" (dictionary.com). Historically, many groups have been persecuted for various reasons, and Christians have certainly been high on the list of the persecuted.

The Bible teaches that persecution in the life of a faithful Christian is not a matter of IF, but WHEN — "Yea, and **all** that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12, emphasis mine throughout, TCG). With such an impactful statement, one can conclude that if he has never been persecuted in any way, shape, or form, then he must not be living godly in Christ Jesus. This should give pause to stop and think for Christians "living the good life" in prosperous societies around the globe.

One does not have to be imprisoned, enslaved, tortured and/or killed for his beliefs in order to be among the persecuted, although those outcomes would certainly be among the most severe. Other forms of persecution include socio-political or economic ostracization, familial strife, humiliation, belittlement, name-calling, and false accusations (i.e. labeling Christians as "bigots" for standing firm on Biblical principles). While any of these are enough to cause serious distress in the life of a Christian, Christians must realize that momentary trials will be well worth the eternal bliss of heaven.

Probably the most persecuted period in Christian history was when the church was in its infancy in the first few centuries. The church faced severe persecution (the torturing and imprisonment and enslavement and killing kind) on two primary fronts — the Jews (who despised the fact that Christianity replaced Judaism), and the Pagans (led by the Roman Emperors, who saw Christianity as a challenge to their power). The book of Acts, especially (as well as other New Testament books), is rife with examples of Christians being held against their will, mocked, scourged, tortured, and killed for standing true to their beliefs. Acts 8:1-3 is a good example: "And Saul was consenting unto his (Stephen's, TCG) death. And at that time there was a **great persecution** against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made **havock** of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison." It is the Christians' **RESPONSE** to this great persecution that is truly remarkable — "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went **every where** preaching the word." Christians even **REJOICED** in their persecutions, being counted **WORTHY** to suffer for the cause of Christ (Acts 5:41; 2 Thes. 1:4-5).

Also remarkable is the fact that Christians, in counting the cost of discipleship, should have known **FULL WELL** what they were getting into, for Jesus Himself promised that they would be treated as such: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, **The servant is not greater than his lord**. If they have persecuted me, **they will also persecute you**; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also" (John 15:18-20). Imagine knowing full well that death was imminent upon conversion, but doing so anyway!

We will continue to examine the topic of persecution over the next two weeks as we look at the last two verses in the Beatitudes. May we all strive to be faithful to Christ, come what may! With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matt. 5:10