

The Gelding of the Church

I admire women. They are more refined than men. Adam was made from mud; Eve was created from Adam. More refined. In most instances, females exhibit more compassion, sensitivity, and intuitiveness than males. If women were in charge of many countries instead of men, I think there would be less bloodshed. Hurrah for women.

When it comes to church leadership, however, women have to concede to men. That's what God's word says. It may irritate us, make us mad at God, be unreasonable to us, and contradictory to 21st Century norms. Perhaps Eve had those same thoughts as she was lured closer to the fruit. Why? It doesn't make sense! Such a small thing. Harmless, really.

The Female Influence Over Men

Solomon's words in the book of Proverbs reveal how gullible men are when it comes to women. Balaam apparently convinced the Moabite king, Balak, to use temple prostitutes to bring down the Israelites. (Num 25:1-3) In Ephesus, temple prostitution was practiced at the shrine of the goddess Diana. Ceremonial prostitution lured thousands of men to "worship" in temples in Corinth and other cities in Asia Minor. Today, we've gotten rid of the religious trappings, using brothels, street hookers, pornography, and other things to indulge in immorality.

Let's face it: when it comes to women, most men are weak. Scripture gives us many examples, everything from Adam's complicity with Eve to David's machinations with Bathsheba. Solomon had a penchant for foreign women (1 Kings 11), collecting a thousand of them. All three of these men were close to God.

Television and magazine ads use the female body to promote everything from fast cars to fast food. While these marketing devices may seem harmless, the female presence acts as a siren call, what the bible calls "the glory of man." (1 Cor 11:7-9) Paul tells us that the woman was created for man; the man was not created for the woman. He was first; she came along later to help him. (Gen 2:18)

There has been a growing change in America since the end of WWII to make woman prominent in society. Nothing wrong with that. Many countries today regard females as nothing more than pack animals and property, receptacles for men's lust. In India, for example, the woman is the last one to eat. Mormonism teaches that wives are resurrected only by permission from their earthly husbands. In eternity, they must remain pregnant, forever churning out babies for their "god" husbands.¹

Today, there are more women news anchors than men. With help from Hollywood, the feminist movement has catapulted women to the top. Films such as *Lara Croft, Tomb Raider*, the *Alien* series, *Painkiller Jane*, and countless other movies cast women as strong leaders, knuckle-busting and shooting their way past males and monsters alike. On the flip side, the majority of television sit-coms cast men as goofy mouth-breathers who can't solve problems, cannot lead a family, nor act with any identifiable masculinity. While this is all peddled as innocent

¹ Journal of Discourses, Vol. 6, page 10, a Mormon publication.

entertainment, the subtle message is clear: this world is consumed with reversing what God has designed.

Regarding church organization, women are to blend into the background:

A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. (1 Tim 2:11-14) NIV

In today's culture, Paul's words here have become more intolerable and antagonistic against society's mission to make all things "equal." Even in many Christian circles, similar scriptures have been reinterpreted to make them compatible with our "more sophisticated" society. For the sake of membership, churches have placed political correctness over scriptural authority.

While the feminist movement sees humanity composed of *individuals*, it is the *family* that is the core unit of the human race. Adam wasn't complete until Eve came along. That union made them a *family*. Thus, the race is made up of *families*, and the church is composed primarily of *families*, united by particular bonds. Relationships between male and female genders *within* the family naturally migrate into the church. In today's upside-down culture a woman is just another *person* by the side of the man. Therefore, when we ignore the differences between male and female, we end up destroying the social unit of the family in the interest of individualism.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul says, "Adam was not deceived; it was the woman who was deceived." The implication is thus clear: *Adam knew exactly what he was doing—Eve did not.* The serpent didn't trick Adam, he fooled Eve. We can only speculate as to why Adam was complicit in her sin. Perhaps in foreseeing her doom, he chose to share in her fate. Sort of a lover's leap off the cliff.

The point is, Adam, followed his wife and told God that He was ultimately culpable for what happened at the tree. The Creator ignored Adam's accusation and gave him the burden of working and providing for the woman. "Since you've shown a lack of backbone, Adam, I'm going to put you in charge of providing for the family. Eve, you're going to follow your husband."

To the woman (God) said, "...your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." To Adam, he said, "Because you listened to your wife..." (Gen 3:16, 17) NIV

The first punishment for Adam and Eve was death, but they also received other penalties. Adam chose to heed Eve's advice instead of God's command, so he inherited work, sweat, and the chore of bringing home the bacon. Women had to endure the pain of bringing innocent children into a world now ruled by Death.

Our culture has worked hard to blur these lines. Today, it is unpopular, immoral, and under certain conditions, illegal to regard men and women as "different." God's guidelines are seen as chauvinist and misogynistic. And because we've exalted our wisdom over God's, the family and

society's framework are collapsing around our very heads. The same godless spirit that has been promoting this scheme believes that money and education will turn it all around.

Our culture looks at all of the chaos in American society and blames it on centuries of white Christian bigotry and religious ignorance. We refuse to admit that all of mankind's problems are a result of rebelling against God. Instead, we are like Adam, blaming it all on the bible and anachronistic Christian propaganda. We fervently believe that a government-funded reorientation (the so-called "public" school system) will eventually eradicate Christian influence.

Feminine Influence In Today's Church

The "new" New International Version of the Bible has been made more "gender-accurate" to please feminists. God has been neutered. In fact, the *New Revised Standard Version*, the *New Century Bible*, the *International Children's Bible*, the *Contemporary English Version*, the *Odyssey Bible*, the *New Living Translation* and *God's Word*, all contain gender-neutral language.

If God had sent his Son to 21st Century America, Jesus' views on gender differences would have brought about his crucifixion. Elitists would demand that he use gender-neutral language. They would demand that He fill the apostle slots with internationally correct men and women. When our Savior began His ministry, he chose 12 Jewish *men*, not women. Why? Because He thought women couldn't handle the mission? Because He thought them inferior? That they needed to stay "barefoot and pregnant"? That's what the liberals want us to believe. The bible says different.

In spite of all the brouhaha, we find women involved in some of Jesus' most tender moments: the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4); Martha and Mary (Luke 10); the death of Lazarus (John 11); a widow's dead son (Luke 7).²

It was only to a woman that He plainly revealed Himself to be the Messiah. (John 4:25, 26) He never gave that info to a man, not even His apostles. To whom did our Savior appear on the first two occasions? Females. Women preached the first two resurrection sermons to unbelieving male disciples. (Luke 24: 10, 11)

Many individuals listed by Paul in his church letters were women who were active supporters of Christianity. In his second epistle, John chose to write to a woman, not to the preacher or elders (2 John 1). We could go on, but the point is, women played an integral part in the early church.

Today, we sweep all that away and concentrate on the exclusion of women in leadership positions. God's plan for oversight was for older men to guard the flock, not women. (1 Timothy 3) Paul clearly states the reason for this:

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! (Acts 20:28-31) NIV

² Preachers have often cast the woman at the well in John 4 in a negative light. Click [HERE](#) to get a better understanding of her.

In spite of Hollywood's historical revisionism, history paints a very different picture. Women could not stand against “savage wolves.” Regardless of how intelligent and intuitive, they could not have been guardians and shepherds in such an environment. It called for strength, and the culture in that day was extremely hostile to the female voice.

A casual reading of Edward Gibbon’s, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, enlightens readers as to how women were little more than property in “civilized” Roman culture. It was a dangerous and ruthless time. This is one reason why Jesus chose men over women to be His apostles. The gospel had to be preached in a world rife with danger. Women had absolutely no voice or say. There were exceptions, of course, but these were few and far between, and were restricted to the aristocracy.

As Christianity became more and more accepted and its influence extended around the globe, persecution eventually disappeared. It was time to relax if you will. Elders were still necessary, as false teachers continued to intertwine themselves between the wheat just as they still do today. The enemy from within the church was replacing the enemy from outside.

Fast-Forward to Today

Several signs show how many organized Christian groups have been influenced. Here are some observations:

- ❖ Flower bouquets dress up the places of assembly. Beautiful drapes, soft carpets, and padded benches all cater to the female side.
- ❖ Most of music played in churches today is of a soft-pop genre that women enjoy.
- ❖ More and more women are being made preachers, elders, and deacons. Liberal Bible colleges graduate as many female ministers as men.
- ❖ Large congregational buildings seem more like schools, where nurseries, administrative offices, and classrooms are organized and run by women.
- ❖ Sermons have become soft-spoken and comfortable, utterly devoid of terms such as “sinner!” “Hellfire!” and “repent or be lost!” Such language turns most women off.
- ❖ When a family moves into a new neighborhood and begins looking for a church, it is the wife who sets the standards: Do they have a good nursery? Is the preacher well groomed and perfumed (versus some gruff-looking guy wearing coveralls)? Do they have a good Sunday school program for the kids?

The husband typically surrenders to the wife’s mandates on these issues. It also provides men the added benefit of relief from the burden of having to bring the children up in the way of the Lord. Perhaps this is why women have taken the reins away from the men—because husbands and fathers have let careers and other worldly pursuits choke out their God-given responsibility.

There is nothing wrong with flowers in the auditorium. There's nothing wrong with listening to "ooh, ooh, Jesus loves you" music if that's your thing. There's nothing wrong with having classrooms with women in charge. And the preacher doesn't have to shout condemnations every Sunday morning. There's nothing wrong with any of the things mentioned above.

There may be something wrong, however, when these things become the criteria for the body of Christ. Where the "music has to get me in the mood to worship." Where the preacher's voice and looks take precedence over the truth he's preaching. Where the carpet and decor determine whether or not to become a member. Men have forgotten how to get on their knees to pray with the wife and kids, and never crack a bible during the week. They see driving the family to church on Sundays as their primary duty.

If husbands prefer letting their wives determine spiritual matters, then they have effectively castrated the leadership God has given them. Any man who attends a church where a woman is teaching and preaching has endorsed a rebellion against God's word. He has given her the pants, and he has put on the dress.

Summary

I admire women. Soft voices, soft skin, pleasing to the eye and ear. The weaker vessel, Peter calls her. Not weak in the sense of being less worthy, but more refined. A man is like a clay pot—good for filling with rocks and dirt without breaking. A woman is like a finely crafted porcelain perfume bottle. A finer vessel for use with more delicate things, not rocks and dirt.

Running the church is akin to managing rocks and dirt. I can tell you from personal experience that it can get downright ugly. So God has dictated the requirements for the body of Christ. We may not understand it or agree with it, but there are good reasons for following it. Like the discipline I received at the hands of my parents as a boy. I didn't understand it then, and I certainly didn't like it. But looking back, I understand a little better, and I'm a better person because of it. Let's not try and second-guess God with our assumptions.

To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. (1 Sam 15:22-23)

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