

## MEN AND WOMEN SERVING GOD.... Valley Bible Chapel, July 2005

A note on morality stemming from the creative order as defined in Genesis 1-3

Sex is one of the most protected social institutions created by God. In the Bible it is protected from abuse, incest, rape, and bestiality. It is seen as picturing the union that God has with His people (in both Testaments: Israel is the wife of Jehovah, the church is the bride of Christ). The following Scriptures determine the incorrectness of "same sex" relationships that defy the intent of the original creation.

Leviticus 18:22---the absolute prohibition

(Leviticus 20:13---the penalty phase under the Israelite codification)

Romans 1:26-27

1 Corinthians 6:9

1 Timothy 1:10

The sinfulness in these passages is apparent. But, and it is important, all sins may be forgiven in our knowledge of Jesus. To continue them willfully is problematic and needs more information than I can write in this note.

The moral principles are based on the character of God and are eternal in that degree. Particular punishments are economic and dependent on the age to age needs and direction. What is forbidden is not a matter of living in a common property...there are no laws against that...but a relationship that defies the creative order. Two people of the same sex might very well share a home or a business and there is no critique on this unless an intersexual relationship is established in the general pattern that would be normal for a man and a woman.

I apologize for writing so long and not as clearly as I should. The words sometimes don't come out as exactly as we would like. Besides....I have a puritan soul and am never comfortable discussing these matters. I know I should get over it but...there are lots of other things I should get over as well.

Thanks for your questioning on this, Tom V. Taylor

## **MEN AND WOMEN SERVING THE LORD: HIS CHURCH AND HIS PEOPLE**

### **I. Some Introductory Notes**

A. The Background for this study...developments in modern culture  
and excesses in many directions.

B. The Composition of the Body of Christ

1. Believers, gifted to serve, privileged to witness, challenged to  
worship

2. There are some properties common to all:

- a. reality of salvation
- b. assurance of hope
- c. reception of gift
- d. fellowship with the Deity
- e. the eternal promises
- f. the challenge of obedience
- g. the spiritual invitation to worship and service.

3. There are certain distinctions where individuality of performance  
will differ:

- a. family roles
- b. societal expression
- c. behavioral patterns

(and probably a lot more things in both categories if  
I were quick enough to recognize them)

C. A New Testament Picture: Romans 16

(The company of believers at Rome...many, no doubt, the result  
of the ministry of Peter, but a considerable company to which  
Paul has written this epistle and identified many of the company.)

1. The composition:

- a. couples, verse 3, etc.
- b. individual men: vs 4, 8, 9, 10
- c. individual women, vs 6
- d. family members of the Apostle, 8, 11
- e. households, 10, 11, 13
- f. some unknowns 12, 14, 15
- g. summary:

2. Some observations on this company of believers:

- a. no indication of superiority or organization
- b. no mention of ecclesiastical duty
- c. it is assumed that each member took a proper role in the body.
- d. a common appreciation is noted for all and it must have been a happy fellowship indeed in spite of persecution and danger
- e. a common fellowship of help and witness is observed but this condition is revamped as time goes on. In the face of modern disputings and trials it makes us wonder what has gone wrong with the church. We may not be able to answer or to solve the dilemma but we may be able to put a Biblical perspective on the matter...an adventure in Scripture that will help guide us.

II. Men and Women Serving God: the Creative Order.

A. The facts of creation:

- 1. Genesis 1:26-27
- 2. Genesis 2:7, 18-19; 21-22
- 3. Genesis 3:23-25

B. The Divine Intention

- 1. Genesis 1:28a
- 1:28b
- 2. Genesis 2:15 (a job for a lifetime with specific instruction)

3. Genesis 2:18

4. Genesis 2:24-25

c. The Problem that Comes in the Adventure of Living:

1. Genesis 3:1---the serpent and the character of the same

2. Genesis 3:3-4---the assertion and the question...there are some hidden questions as well

3. Genesis 3:6-7---a compounded sin

4. Genesis 3:7-8---a tough time in the garden (note that God directs his remarks to Adam)

5. Genesis 3:10-12---the confessions

6. Genesis 3:13---the interrogation

7. Genesis 3:14-19---the judgments determined

8. Genesis 3:21---an act of mercy

9. Genesis 3:24---the removal

D. The resultant state:

1. A note on the genealogies

2. Genesis 4---Cain and Abel

3. Family dissension

4. Genesis 5:3..."his own image"

5. Note the polygamy development in 4:19

6. To the days of Noah

E. Later Biblical reference:

a. 1 Timothy 2:13-15



C. Observations:

All of these lists could be extended considerably but these are sufficient to show us women were active in every aspect of Israel's national life with the exceptions of the priesthood and the national ruler. They were given, under the law, some special privileges and great responsibility in the social structure. These exemplary persons gave themselves to God and His direction.. Through them the redemptive process was maintained and eventually fulfilled. Rules of morality applied to both sexes and the joy of worship was also held in common.

D. In the Old Testament: Selective Serving in the Lives of Men

1. Introductory Note

The priesthood and the kingly role belonged exclusively to men in the Old Testament. Other than the general concept of the creative order no reason is given for this. The priesthood was given to the men of the Levitical family and the national rule to men of the family of Judah...with the quick exception of Saul, a Benjamite. Prophets were both male and female (as noted) and the prophetic ministry depended on the call and ordination of God with whomsoever and howsoever He would choose to work.

We will use the same classifications for men in His service as we did with the women in the previous section.

2. National leaders:

- a. Abraham, Genesis 12
- b. David: 1 Samuel 16:13
- c. Moses: Exodus 3 ff
- d. Solomon 1 Kings 1:30 ff

3. Perceptive believers

- a. Joseph
- b. Job
- c. Daniel

4. Spokesperson for God

- a. Samuel
- b. Elijah

- c. Isaiah
- d. Jeremiah

#### E. Conclusion

Every believer, in a practical sense, had a sphere of service to honor the Lord. The challenge was to be faithful in the acknowledgement that God was faithful to them. The key to spiritual well being in this case was to know what God wanted one to do and then to do it. Serving at any level is a happy privilege and it is our spiritual joy to see that it was always that way and, until Jesus comes, will continue to be that way.

#### IV. Men and Women Serving God in the New Testament

##### A. A feeble attempt to explain a complicating factor

The terms "Old Testament" and "New Testament" are general terms and not time distinctions. The Old Testament generally tracks out the history of Israel as God's covenanted people. It is a national body with a spiritual corps. The New Testament presents the history and development of a covenanted people that is non-ethnic and for which national status is virtually meaningless. The character of the four Gospels binds the two segments together and some of the Old Testament practices are seen as being concluded and the replacing New Testament practices are being developed. (Priesthood is a good example. In the Old Testament only the Levites are priests...in the New Testament all believers are priests) The book of Acts completes the transition and the Epistles of the New Testament outline the the character and development of the church. From this material we derive the principles and practices that are essentially "churchy". Of course, all of the Scriptures are important for us but we no longer sacrifice animals, for example, since Christ, our Passover has been sacrificed for us. Therefore the foundational principles for the "church" are taken from the New Testament teaching while we find that moral values and integrity are unchanged from age to age or institution to institution. The Gospels are in between these two bodies and will reflect the fulfillment of the Old and the anticipation of the New. If this does not make sense to you, think of how hard it is for me to try to write it out! I will leave some space for further notes...just in case we try to get some elucidating information.

## B. Selective Serving in the New Testament in the Lives of Women

### 1. The Women in the ministry of Jesus:

- a. His Mother - *Mary*
- b. Anna, the prophetess *2:36-37 fl*
- c. Mary Magdalene *Jn 20:1*
- d. Mary and Martha *Jn 11:1, Luke 10:38*

Notice in particular how the ministered to Him,  
honored Him, and told about Him.

### 2. Beyond the Gospels: the New Testament in general

- a. Mary the mother of Mark *12:12*
- b. Dorcas
- c. Priscilla *18*
- d. Phoebe *Rom 16:1*
- e. the Philippian helpers *4:2-3*

Notice the impact that each of these had in the  
promotion of truth

### 3. Some particular services that attend the sisters:

- a. hospitality 1 Timothy 5 :10 (*Rom 15*)
- b. teaching: Titus 2:3
- c. helping as noted: Romans 16: 1 ff
- d. performing priestly functions 1 Peter 2 :5
- e. home and church: Philemon

### 4. A note on limitations:

- a. debate: 1Corinthians 14:29-35
- b. oversight: 1 Timothy 2:8-14

### 5. And a special promise: 1 Timothy 2:15



## C. Selective Serving in the New Testament in the Lives of Men

### 1. The Men in the life of the Lord Jesus

- a. The Apostles
- b. The beneficiaries
- c. The enemies

### 2. The New Testament in general:

#### a. the eldership: Titus 1, 1 Timothy 2

- (1) qualifications
- (2) duties
- (3) authority structure (Hebrews 13)
- (4) problem areas
- (5) exemplary participation: 1 Peter 5

#### b. the diaconate

- (1) institution
- (2) qualifications
- (3) duties
- (4) a feminine side?

#### c. the church planters:

- (1) Paul and Barnabas
- (2) Titus
- (3) Timothy

#### d. helpers:

#### e. Personal friends:

- (a) Philemon
- (b) Gaius
- (c) Epaphroditus

### 3. Particular responsibilities:

- a. prayer and priestly functions... 1 Timothy 2, 1 Peter 2
- b. maintenance of home and family 1 Timothy



- c. sharing the word 1 Corinthians 14
- d. teaching 2 Timothy 2
- e. leadership 1 Timothy 2

D. Shared responsibilities: men and women together

- 1. The home
- 2. The family witness: 1 Peter 3
- 3. The nourishment of one another
- 4. A distinctive testimony

There is a lot more to this category and the most helpful thing is to remember that we are believers together and are worshippers in particular. Apart from some specific things, the general practice is "whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...as unto the Lord." (Colossians 3)

V. The Present Status: adventures in theological understanding.

A. A general fact of our time:

Societal pressures have weighed hard on the Bible. Sometimes they have been corrective of non-biblical notions but very often they have pressed to alter the course of Biblical teaching. I will offer examples and hope they are not offensive

- 1. The home: who said that a man should not do the dishes?  
whose idea is it that the family will vote on family issues that are in dispute?
- 2. The work place: who said that a woman should not work outside the home? Has that person read Proverbs 31? whose idea is it that the man should be the major provider for family needs?
- 3. On marriage: Isn't it better to live together for a little while till you know you like each other than to jump into marriage? Should a couple stay married if they argue about small things or look for others who are more compatible?
- 4. On my taxes, it's only cheating if I get caught. The government

*maintained  
Christe*

*maintained  
testimony*

*On adultery  
Dt 22  
he character  
17 and  
Purity*

*Public  
integrity*

wastes plenty of money on other things for which I don't approve. The Lord paid taxes, we should never question the authorities on their policies.

*G 21: 22 23  
Project of hf*

5. On abortion: The fetus is not human until it breathes independently...we can do anything we want to it before that point. Anyway the life of the mother is much more important than the life of a child.

6. The Bible laws on marriage, etc., are medieval and have been shown to interfere with real happiness. It is up to us to make our own decisions based on our own understanding and desires.

7. On the church...There's no reason why a woman should not pastor a church....Paul's anti-feminism is out of date. Maybe so but the Bible does not allow women to teach at all or to influence the thinking of men in any way.

*Severities  
the strict  
of D. in the world  
Follow the  
agreements*

These are examples as to how society tends to interfere with our revealed Word of God. Many, many more examples could be given but it is important the reader know these are not our positions but a summary of the pressures that are laid against the evangelical community. The pressures tend to force a "re-thinking" and often the truth is overshadowed by human preference or contemporary thought. It is important at this present time...as at other times, I suppose, to have the Bible as the infallible guide and to be directed by teaching that comes from God and not from desperate parties that see their own will as being more important than that of the Creator.

#### B. The challenge to traditional roles....

I will talk about this and note that there are traditions good (1 Corinthians 11) and traditions not good (1 Peter 1)

#### C. Re-thinking values

The most important thing in life is not what makes you happy although.....

D. The present status is one of confusion about moral issues, practical behavior, human life values, etc. The Bible has a lot to say about all of them. It must be our guide and norm since it is based on the character of God and not on the whims of men.

VI. What, then, Should be Our Emphasis Today?

- A. First of all: the Gospel...the saving message must be kept clear provide a welcome into the family of God.
- B. Consecration of God and commitment to His will as given in the Scriptures.
- C. Worshipping and serving appropriately according to the gifts and opportunities of the Spirit.
- D. Rejoicing that our privilege of knowing and enjoying God is not based on sex or societal statues...not on intelligence of human ingenuity. It is based on the finished work of Christ and we are all, as one people, encouraged to honor the Lord in the process of life. Some things are more masculine, some are more feminine, some duties may be similarly aligned and some privileges may also be ordered appropriately. But the Lord is the One we serve and men and women together comprise that glorious body called "the church".



Class (Wednesday)  
review  
summary men / women

Men and  
Women hold  
feel the same

D - page 8

V

- ever get tired of people telling you  
what to do...

1) The home...  
relationships with partners, children, Ephesians 5  
1 Peter 3, Col. 3,

Biblical examples

much left to our judgment - we should  
not make rules that replace Scripture

1 Tim 5 "guide the house" (a deposit)

2) working (mother and daughter)  
Proverbs 31 (well)

3) No service - pictures  
Commitment stressed... 1 Cor 7  
do. 18:22, 20:15 Rom 1

4) Col 3, 1 Peter 3, do. 19  
the commandments  
(judge judge)

5) Abolition  
the covenant

6) Bible Law

7) On the Shabbat

We do  
not have all  
the details in  
the Bible... we have  
principles, general

homosexual  
marriage  
defies the ideology

We are not  
freedom  
not free



V. A. The Seven Points...

- a Christian Home
- working testimonies
- moral purity
- public integrity
- respect of life
- acceptance of Divine Order
- compliance with the order of Scripture

— (Questions ...)

B. traditional roles

C. the living values

D. Bible as goal

VI

A

B

C

D. commitment



Men & Women Serv'g God

I B.

1. 1 Corinthians 12, Rom 12, 1 Peter

2. a. Ephesians 2:8-9  
Galatians 5:28

b. Romans 8:24  
Hebrews 6:18-19

c. Romans 12:6

d. 1 John 1

e. 1 Peter 1

f. John 15

g. 1 Peter 2

3. a. fathers = Col. 3:2 (1:19) } ph  
mothers = Col 3:18

b. wives of elders, deacons

c. wives 1 Peter 3

C. (as noted)

Class 2

A-3 2:23-25

II - B =

The Plan  
of  
God

B Divine intentions

① 1:28 a - fruitful, multiply  
b - have dominion

② 2:15 - Adam in to dress the gods

2:18 - a helper

2:24 - as before (as 4 holiness)

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C. = The Problem

D. = The Permitted State

E. State references.

F. Permitted State