

Letter – Opening Doors

Blue is an email to me. **Burgundy is my reply**

I grew up Baptist and am fully aware of the "rights for women". Where did this come from? The 60's movement! Ever since that time, it has been down hill for women. Does your man still open every door for you? Do you want to be treated like a woman or just like everybody else? It is not God ordained, but women ordained.

If you truly read God's word you will see that the Lord has a perfect plan for women. No, we are not to be under a man's foot, but to be by his side. I am a minister's wife and have done and am still doing my fair share in the church: music ministry - everything, women's ministry, pastor's ministry assistant, wedding coordinator, etc., but I don't feel God has called this woman to be responsible for all of the church. NO WOMAN can handle that! God didn't design her to. We all have our place, GOD'S PLACE, not man's.

Yes, you have a right to your opinion and so do I. May the Lord open our eyes to see through HIS!

"He Keeps Me Singing!"

P.S. I am only 50 years of age.

Thank you so much for your reply. I got a chuckle from it. Men down here still open doors for women, and I even open doors for men and think nothing about it. You do realize, don't you, that if women had always been treated right, that there would be no need for Women's Rights. When I was first married I worked in downtown Houston. One of the first things we learned was that when you got pregnant, you could only work for 3 months, then you had to quit. The Civil Rights of 1964 put a stop to that nonsense and now you and your daughters and granddaughters are allowed to apply for any job you qualify for and to work as long as you choose.

When my husband and I were in Morocco, Africa, I watched the Muslim women. They had long robes over their clothes and jewels in their hair, and their hands were painted with sienna. I knew they had beautiful clothes underneath those robes because I had seen the most exquisite fabrics that I had ever seen in the market stalls. I looked down at my slacks, rundown shoes, and wondered for a brief moment what it would be like to be like those women. No way would I live like that. When I came back to Texas, I could go and buy property, and not BE property. But that is because of someone fighting for the rights of women. Before 1964 women could not buy property in her name or take out bank loans in some cities or have credit in her own name.

Our church has lagged behind in allowing women full freedom, all in the guise of "God forbids it." Those women were told that "Allah forbids it", too, and they accept it. I refuse

to accept that. I have read those same scriptures and read the reassuring words of Jesus, and I find a Christ that is not afraid to heal on the Sabbath, nor to work on the Sabbath, and who surely would not be afraid of allowing women to be equal in the church.

Why didn't he? Culture, of course. They lived in a society where all the men in the village and the priest knew their time of the month, something you and I wouldn't put up with today. They were property of the men and had no rights, no way to support themselves, and nobody would ever pay them for following Jesus and starting a new church and preaching. They were always pregnant, or had a baby on the hip.

No, I don't want to go back to those days. And I don't believe you would want to either.

Thanks so much for your reply. It was a sweet gentle letter. I am sure your church is very fortunate to have you as their pastor's wife.

**Shirley Taylor
bWe Baptist Women for Equality**

We are not and never have been like the Muslims, and you should not make that comparison. The SBC is nothing like the Muslim faith, and I take offense that you would even compare them.

The Baptist church is not perfect. Never has been and never will be, but I do know that the Lord Jesus Christ never asked women to take on the role of heading up the church. Yes, we can lead Bible Studies, serve our fellow believers and especially the non-churched.

Our Lord is looking for servants, not someone who wants to be in control or has to have a title. Do you really need to be a pastor or deacon to minister? NO!

By the way, I'm not the pastor's wife, but I am his ministry assistant. I have been in ministry w/my husband for over 26 years and grew up a Southern Baptist. I believe what I believe not because of the way I was raised, but because of what I have personally searched out and found to be true. God has full authority, not man or woman. I will follow and obey HIS WORD, not someone else's version.

Please remove me from your email list.

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I will support you when you can show me how you are the husband of one wife

Now, now, now. You know that is not what that scripture means. 1Timothy 3:12 is talking about the custom of having more than one wife at a time. Arabs still today are allowed to have 4 wives at a time. Muslims can have more than one wife. Some Mormons do even here in our own country, and even though Utah had to give up the practice before it became a state, they haven't all given it up. It was still a common practice during Paul's time.

Of course you also know that women could never have more than one husband at a time, so there was no need to restrict women in how many husbands they had. Still can't even in those countries and cultures that allow multiple wives.

Read Matthew 23 about the legal letter of the law. Jesus came down very hard on the Pharisees because they put their law above caring for people. Are you sure you are not doing that very same thing? Read Matthew 23 with the same diligence as you read I Timothy 3:12.

I thank you for your reply.

Shirley Taylor
bWe Baptist Women for Equality

You can't change the Scriptures Just because custom change remember that God never changes and you don't need to respond. But best of luck, and may God bless you.

Arabs, Muslims, and Mormons are not the problem stick to the topic and don't use them as a smoke screen they are not the issue and neither is whether or not a women would have more than one husband. Paul said that a women should remain silent in church. I have no problem with women teaching women. Have a good day.

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I reply to every letter. Please continue to write.

People who listen, who respond, and who take up the cause make the difference.

This is your chance to make a difference.

Individual people walking together in the same direction make a crowd.