Passion

(Blue are letters received – Red is my reply)

Absolutely not!!!!

I understand your passion. I feel the same intensity that woman should be allowed to answer God's calling in her life.

I read an interview with a Muslim woman who is speaking out against being told to "go sit in the corner" in the mosque. It is hard to believe that Baptist women put up with such in our own churches.

Baptists could do so much better. We could lead out in freeing our women from this Middle Eastern oppression in our churches.

Someday I hope you just as fervently lose the "not."

Thank you for writing.

Shirley Taylor
bWe Baptist Women for Equality

I do not undervalue the ministry that women provide. However, we continue to blur the line and cause the gray areas to expand when the Word of God is clear on the subject matter. No doubt many churches would have closed if it were not for women. If you will look to history, the facts are there to suggest the movement of godly men have been the beacon of every great awakening. That is not by chance, but by a Holy design.

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How do we permit and pursue that which God's word forbids. Being made in the image of God doesn't mean you are called to be God, but rather to accept His ordained roles and responsibilities, even when we don't, in our finite minds, understand why He might establish certain boundaries.

Pastor, I thank you for your reply. I am confused by what you mean when you say "being made in the image of God doesn't mean you are called to be God." There is but one God and neither man nor woman on this earth is Him.

Paul said "I do not allow" and he was not claiming to be God. In this instance, he wasn't even claiming to be speaking for God, yet we have made those words from Paul's mouth, appear to be words directly out of God's mouth.

Boundaries are generally set by men, and in this case, they were set by culture.

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We all know we don't follow God's word to the letter. You don't and your church doesn't. When women are silent, the choir does not sing, announcements are not made, marriage vows are not said in front of the altar, and women's professions of faith are not made in front of the church.

What a wonderful feeling it must be to be a man and to be closer to God than women can ever be. Jesus never made any mention of men being closer to God than women are. This order puts a woman's husband, brother, son, or father between her and God. It makes her husband her priest.

Thank you so much.
Shirley Taylor
bWe Baptist Women for Equality

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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 Muslims still today are allowed to have 4 wives at a time. 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

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