

Rebellion

(blue is the letter – red is my reply)

There is no scriptural denial of women preaching (prophesying) but the role of a pastor is much more than the preaching - to go against god's alignment (based not on ability but on responsibility) is not allowable as it is rebellion

It's rebellion according to the SBC definition of a woman's role. Read the following excerpt from The Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Do you see how belittling this is to women - to your wife, to your daughter, to your sisters, to the women of your church?

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 says this about equality in the home and marriage. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

See that Equal - but? She is equal, but - she must serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation. It is his household and it is his children. She is to be the housekeeper, and caretaker of his children.

Equal - but. She must submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband.

Equal - but. She has equal worth before God, but the rest of the paragraph does not give her equal worth before her husband.

A helper is never equal, no matter how much "worth" we try to give it.

Remember, Baptists believe in the priesthood of the believer, not the priesthood of a husband.

So, if a woman can "preach" why can't she be a pastor? Paul is the one who said "I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man." He didn't say God said it. He claimed the words as his.

The official Web site of the Southern Baptist Convention lists ten "Position Statements" on various contemporary issues.

- *Priesthood of all believers*—Laypersons have the same right as ordained ministers to communicate with God, interpret Scripture, and minister in Christ's name
- *Soul competency*—the accountability of each person before God
- *Creeks and confessions*—Statements of belief are revisable in light of Scripture. The Bible is the final word.
- *Women in ministry*—Women are an integral part of Southern Baptist boards, faculties, mission teams, writer pools, and professional staffs. Pastoral leadership is assigned to men. If this is not having "authority over a man" then I guess all these people on these teams are other women and men have their own teams. There goes another camel down our throat. (Shirley Taylor)

I sense that it is our "alignment" rather than God's. Do you realize that when you use these expressions that you are saying that the order of alignment is God, any man, then woman? That puts man as a woman's priest. Jesus said we don't need priests as we become our own priests. However, Southern Baptists have decided that only men and all men are priests.

Thank you for writing.

Shirley Taylor bWe Baptist Women for Equality

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Excuse me, but I am a woman, and I would like to see you address the scripture that "they" sight concerning women pastors and deacons rather than all of this resentful ranting. You sound too much like the embittered women who run the NOW Organization. Please support your cause with scripture and not with resentment (if you can), and more people will listen.

Jill, (name changed)

I don't understand the leap you made to connect me to NOW. The NOW organization is devoted almost exclusively to abortion which is something that I am very strongly against. Would you please send me the scriptures that connect women who serve God in the fullness of her calling to abortion murder?

I am attaching two pages that can be found on my website using Scriptural basis for women as deacons. I find no reason to further explain those scriptures when they do it so eloquently. You know those scriptures by heart, as do all of us Baptists.

I would like to direct you also to www.baptistdistinctives.org where you can read about the priesthood of the believer. It says "Each believer priest is responsible for his or her own actions. Individual believers can go directly to God without the aid of any intermediary. Individuals can and should read and interpret the Bible for themselves without religious officials dictating to them what to believe. This is part of the Baptist faith that we hold dear.

Joan, I thank you very much for your letter and for this opportunity to further explain bWe Baptist Women for Equality.

Shirley Taylor
bWe Baptist Women for Equality

I did not mean to imply that I connect your goals with NOW, but the tone of your message immediately reminded me of the bitter tone of many of their messages and bitterness is not from God. I have been privileged to be married to a Godly man and to work with Godly men in my church. It is not that they never discriminate or that I always agree with everything they believe, but their hearts are not those pictured in a couple of the bWe Baptist Women e-mails I have read. I am cautioning you to be careful how you portray

