

Remove my name from this list

(Blue is the letter – red is my reply)

Please remove me from your mailing list. My careful study of the Bible has led me to conclusions in opposition to yours.

It was when the men went forward to serve the Lord's Supper and turned their backs to the congregation that I started looking at the youth and young girls sitting in the front rows that doubts began to arise in me. We tell them that they should seek God's will in their lives, and we will happily send them off to a foreign mission field. What we don't tell them is that they cannot ever fully answer God's calling in their lives as long as they are a member of their Baptist church.

There are women sitting in your congregation who are coming to these same conclusions.

Thank you for writing. I will remove your name.

Shirley Taylor
bWe Baptist Women for Equality

Remove me from your mailing list promptly. Take this problem to God. Kind of hard to meet just one of God's requirements (be the husband of one wife) when you are a woman.

Was that a little bit of smugness that I detected in your reply? Kind of a gotcha, you're not a husband? You know, of course, that Paul was referring to the men who had more than one wife at a time.

1 Timothy 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. Remember the FDLS who had many wives and children here in Texas, and still do even though our law prohibits it. Multiple wives was still a common practice among the pagans, gentiles, and Jews during Paul's time. And make no doubt about it, multiple wives at a time is a sexual sin. Again I ask you to look at the FDLS in Texas and see it for what it is.

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. Women still can't have more than one husband even in those countries and cultures that allow multiple wives.

I will remove your name.

Shirley Taylor
bWe Baptist Women for Equality

Please remove me from this unbiblical email list.

I appreciate your e-mail newsletter; however totally disagree with your theological understanding of an elder. 1 Timothy 2:12 is clear on this matter. Furthermore, in just a few verses later (3:1-7) Paul clearly outlines that an elder is to be a man (not just because it is written in the masculine, but because only a man can be the husband of one wife).

Deacons, however, can be understood to be women. I can see that argument in v 11. I think most translations get it wrong by adding the pronoun 'their' to the sentence. Although we don't have women deacons, I believe there is Scriptural basis for your argument.

Again, I appreciate your letter, but would caution against women as elders. I know so much of Scripture is hard to understand, but most of it is pretty simple. If we would just follow and obey it.

Please don't be offended, but I would like to unsubscribe to your letters.

Thanks,

Thank you so much for your gentle letter.

Let's talk about Elders a little bit. This is a new happening I am finding in Baptist churches. It is also just another way of restricting what women can do in a church. I wonder how many more ways will appear. Baptists used not to separate the office of Elder and Deacon, in fact, you could never say Elder because it meant you were not Baptist. But it is popular now – and just as restrictive towards women.

You know 1 Timothy 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 have never given it up. Remember the FDLS who had many wives and children here in Texas, and still do even though our law prohibits it. 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. Women still can't have more than one husband 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 1 Timothy 3:12. I find that Baptists adhere to the law when it is convenient to us, but when it says women should remain silent in the church, we ignore the full implications of that - choir, professions of faith, marriage vows, announcements, and baptismal confessions.

I will remove your name, but you are welcome to continue to visit my website.

Thank you so much.

Shirley Taylor
bWe Baptist Women for Equality

I totally disagree. The context of verse 12 is in describing the characteristics required for service. Verse 11 says (ἴσασαύτωςσεμνάς) lit.: women likewise dignified... And then describes the qualities expected in a woman who serves (which I think differ in no way than what is wives, but not always. Hence, I agree with you that women should be allowed to serve as deacons.

Verse 12 addresses the issue that the men were to be lit.: "one woman men". I think the issue for our culture is divorce, not one women serving as elders.

My heart goes out to you in your quest. I think there is an inherent danger in being loose with the things that God has made so clear. I do believe God calls women to serve, but he has outlined how those roles are to be defined.

Thank you for your kind response. I'm curious: do you have any Scriptural evidence for Women serving as elders.

By the way, Traditionally, Baptist had a two-tiered leadership, as is described in the Bible. It was around the middle of the 1800's that many of the churches began to have one elder, who they called pastor, and had deacons serve in the decision making role. Which isn't Biblical. The elders lead, given the authority by the 'teaching' of God's word. Hence, their requirement of being able to teach. The deacons were the ones who 'waited on tables' serving the needs of the body.

BenJamin Keach, "The Glory of a True Church and its Discipline Displayed."(1697)

Benjamin Griffin, "A Short Treatise Concerning a True and Orderly Gospel Church." (1743)

Charleston Association, "Summary of Church Discipline." (1774)

Samuel Jones, "A Treatise of Church Discipline and A Directiory." (1798)

I think you'll find the first Baptist church instituting our current way of church polity in 1811.
