

## Playing Twister with the Scriptures

(Blue is his letter – red is my response)

Women are equal to men. However, God has set up an order to creation as it pertains to men and women, and that order is to be respected. 1 Tim 2:12-14 shows us that this order is as old as mankind itself.

I support the equality of women, but it should be noted that men and women both have separate roles in the church, home and relationships.

In Christ,  
Bro. John (name changed)

Pastor,

Thanks for writing. I went back and reread 1 Tim 2:12-14 and see that you stopped short of what Paul went on to say. Paul said I would be saved by having a baby. Does this mean that women are saved by men and not by God?

**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.

Thank you for writing. May God continue to reveal His Word to you.

Your understanding of verse 15 in 1 Timothy chapter 2 is as limited as your understanding of verses 12-14. I didn't reference verse 15 because it was irrelevant to what we were talking about. However I will go into detail about what that verse means.

Paul teaches here that although a woman precipitated the Fall and women bear that responsibility, yet they may be preserved from that stigma through childbearing. The rescue, the delivery, the freeing of women from that stigma of having led the race into sin happens when they bring up righteous children. Women are far from being second class citizens because they have the primary responsibility for rearing godly children. Mothers spend far more time with their children than do their fathers, and thus have the greater influence. Paul's point here is that while a woman may have led the race into sin, women have the privilege of leading that race out of sin into godliness. That does not mean God wants all women to bear children; some He doesn't even want married (1st Cor. 7:25-40). Paul speaks in general terms. The pain associated with childbirth was the punishment for the woman's sin, but the joy and privilege of child rearing delivers women from the stigma of that sin.

In this passage we can see how God has perfectly balanced the roles of the sexes. Men are to be the leaders in the church and the family. Women are kept from any accusation of inferiority through the godly influence they have in the lives of their children. For the church to depart from this divine order is to perpetuate the disaster of the Fall.

Also your "breakdown" of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message makes a very weak argument. First you quote the Baptist Faith and Message word for word. Then you labor to show that it says that men and women are equal BUT but the problem here is that there is no word "but" in that whole passage that you quoted. The BFM merely says that men and women are equal, and then goes about the business to define the two separate roles that God has set up for each of the sexes.

You said that a "helper is never equal." You're wrong. The Trinity is set up on a very basic premise. Jesus is equal to, but submissive to the Father. The Holy Spirit is equal to the Father and Jesus, but submissive to both. Jesus even tells us that we must be servants. You're wrong here, very wrong.

Thank God for Jesus' obedience, and submissiveness, even though He was equal with the Father. If Jesus hadn't understood and relied upon God and His defined role for Jesus none of us would be saved.

In Christ,  
Bro. John (same fellow as above)

Ah, John. Untwist yourself. You have played Twister with those scriptures.

What about the blood of Jesus delivering us from all sin, even the stigma of the Fall. You are telling me that Jesus does not have the power of Himself to free me, a woman, from that. How on earth could having a baby free us? Neil, that doesn't make one bit of sense. It gives men far more power than God or Paul ever intended. Because you see, that makes our whole salvation dependent upon an earthly male to make us whole. And it also depends upon our ability to raise righteous children. My salvation cannot be based upon whether or not my children are Christians, just as their salvation is not based upon whether or not this poor mother was a Christian.

Do you know how you sound with that "joy and privilege of childrearing delivers women from the stigma of that sin? Southern Baptists have not erased that stigma from me and I have

