

Mission/Vision

We value women and their response to God's calling in their lives and will put up no barriers to women serving God in the same capacity as men do.

Special points of interest:

- Guest Columnist, Pastor David Carrington, page 2, discusses the dysfunctional church in relation to attitudes toward women.
- Women have been led to believe that once they are married, their husband stands before God in their place if they are submitting to him scripturally.
- Our men are being led to believe that women are weak emotionally and physically.

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Baptist Women of the Veil

bWe Baptist Women for Equality

Advocating for women pastors and women deacons

Baptist Women of the Veil

October 2009

Removing the veil

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with the ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Real 2 Corinthians 3:14-17 (NIV)

The Apostle Paul was saying that the veil over their faces would be removed as soon as they accepted Christ. Because it is through Christ that we see Him face to face. All of us, Paul said. Women as well as men. We can go directly to God because of Jesus. We are not denied because we are women. We are not denied because we are married. But the leaders and pastors in the Southern Baptist churches would have you believe that. They insist on keeping the veil between a woman and God. They insist that women cannot serve Christ in the fullness of the church and cannot be a deacon or a pastor. Women, the veil has been removed. Our SBC churches are like Moses and are keeping

the veil even though the shining glory of the law has faded, and a new glory in Christ Jesus has been revealed. Women are no longer behind the veil. Women are accountable directly to God for their actions, and their salvation comes directly from God. Not through our husbands. Each person, man and woman, is accountable to God for their own actions. The only man who can stand before God and me is Christ Jesus. Not as one of the framers of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 says in this quote from Christianity Today 1998 "As a woman standing under the authority of Scripture, even when it comes to submitting to my husband when I know he's wrong, I just have to do it and then he stands accountable at the judgment." Is her husband the sacrificial lamb for her? He has no power to give her authority or to take it away from her.

Women of today, the veil has been removed. You stand before God face to face.



Shirley Taylor is a life-long Baptist. She was a ministry assistant in the Church Starting Center of Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) and worked in the Field Office in Conroe, Texas for over 14 years. Shirley and her husband Don have been married 47 years and have two sons, and three granddaughters. Since a change of heart in 2000, Shirley is committed to promoting women in leadership positions.

Baptist women are the standard-bearers of our faith

Whenever you see a woman in a prairie dress, you know it is because the men of the religion want her to remain in the past and tells her *God says so*. Whenever you see a woman in a burqa, or a headscarf, or with a veil on her face, you know it is because the men of her religion have made her wear the clothes that will keep her face and arms and body under cover because *God says so*. Whenever you see

a woman who cannot cut her hair, or wear make-up or pants, you know it is because the men of her religion have told her *God says so*. Whenever you see a woman who shaves her head, and wears a wig, you know that it is the men who have decided that women must cover their heads because *God says so*.

Whenever you see a woman who cannot be a pastor or a

deacon, you know it is because the men of her faith seek to keep women from answering their call from God, by telling her *God says no*.

Baptist women are the visible standard-bearers of our faith.

Read the full story at www.bwebaptist.com

Guest columnist

Ministry Dysfunction

As both a pastor and a psychotherapist, I view Baptist churches as having dysfunctional relationships with the women in the congregation. On Mother's Day I hear how wonderful the women are in the church, and when it comes to mission work, famous women missionaries are invoked to inspire the whole church to continue the work. However, other messages that are heard resound with how women cannot be pastors, are not called as deacons, and should not teach men concerning the Lord. Note that such views are not held in all Baptist churches, and just like families, some churches propagate the mixed

and dysfunctional ideas about women and ministry.

For families or churches, not being able to function is a problem. Salvador Minuchin, a famed family therapist, wrote in his seminal work *Families & Family Therapy*, that one of the key factors for a family's success was mutual accommodation (1974). In other words, a family is able to function in a healthy state if its members agree to aid one another. From a pastoral perspective, Minuchin's findings resonate with the church's responsibility of loving one another and serving each other (see 1 John 3:11 & 16). What kind of love or mutual accommodation exists in the church that denies a woman's

calling to be a deacon or pastor if this may be what God is calling her to do? With such church dysfunction, I wonder if Huldah (see 2 Kings 22), the prophetess who spoke God's message to King Josiah, would be thrown out of a Baptist church for teaching men. Such is the nature of this particular dysfunction in God's church: praising women on the one hand, and then denying God's calling on the other.

Reference:
Minuchin, S. (1974). *Families & Family Therapy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

David Carrington, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Granite Shoals, Texas

"...praising women on the one hand, and then denying God's calling on the other."

We individually submit to Christ, not through our husbands

Through the curtain which is Christ's body

Hebrews 10:19-25

The Message

"So, friends, we can now—without hesitation—walk right up to God, into "the Holy Place." Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The "curtain" into God's presence is his body. So let's do it—full of belief, confident

that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word."

Jesus is our priest before God, as Hebrews says. Not just for the men and the unmarried women. Jesus is the priest for married women, not her husband.

"It was a perfect sacrifice by a perfect person to perfect some

very imperfect people. By that single offering, he did everything that needed to be done for everyone who takes part in the purifying process."

Nothing is said about roles for men and women. We stand as equals before God, made that way by the blood of Christ. We have not been put into restricted female roles from which we can never get out of.

Where are they learning this? They are not getting it from Jesus

This is what our young men are being taught and what they are saying to me. Where are they hearing this? What are the consequences?

When God created a woman, he made her weak emotionally. She is unable to form relationships with women in the workplace, in the home or in the church. If a woman tries to assume a man's role she will be torn up emotionally and all of

her desires for satisfaction will be lacking. She must find her security and identity under a man. Women need to be humbled knowing that she was made for man, but man really needs to be humble knowing that God said he was incomplete without the woman (the church has made women sex objects) I know that it is part of the woman's curse to desire the role of a man, but if she tries to

assume it, she is doing more damage to herself and those around her than she realizes. Paul is clear that the man functions as an authoritative figure in the church and in the home.

We are setting up our young men to believe that they are ordained to be little gods. It is as if these little husband-gods are slipped in between the woman and God during the marriage ceremony.

The “covering” of male leadership

From the letters I received from pastors all over the south. (comments are mine in italics)

- God intended for the fellowship of the church to have the “covering” of male leadership
- The submissive role is only for married women. (*single women, be warned, you will be next*)
- Women must submit to the husband’s authority as he submits to Christ.
- Submit to the authority of the pastor/elder (*totally unbiblical and un-Christlike*).
- Women are kept from any accusation of inferiority through the godly influence they have in the lives of their children (*now it is the children who saves the women*).
- You must understand the role God has ordained for women. I pity you. (*Jesus ordained only 2 things –the Lord’s Supper and Baptism*)
- God has declared us equal yet different.
- Only certain men qualify for the pastorate or deaconship.
- Are you equal? Absolutely but you are prohibited from serving in those roles. (*Equal, but!*)
- I believe this teaches that someone who submits to my leadership as pastor and faithfully serves the church may be more important, have more influence, receive greater rewards in Heaven, etc. (*does God know about this?*)

“...All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
1 Peter 5:5

Lifting the veil from Saul

Acts 8:1 (NIV) And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. (3) But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off *men and women* and put them in prison.

9:1,2 ...Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus so that if he found any there who

belonged to the Way, whether *men or women*, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

9:4. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

Acts 9:26-27. he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ..He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and

that the Lord has spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

(31) Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

Will you be the Saul that God speaks through to promote women in ministry?

Saul persecuted men and women equally

Will you be our Saul?

Resources for further reading

In his message to the Midwest Regional Meeting of the New Baptist Covenant, Wade Burleson spoke these words:

“It should lead us to resist any effort to shut up or censor any Baptist woman called to preach Christ and Him crucified. It is impossible for my Baptist brothers to point to any text – let me repeat this—it is impossible for my Baptist brothers to point to any text, that is properly understood in

its context, that ever compels Baptist men to suppress Baptist women in terms of ministry. On the contrary, we are called by our Lord to support and love those women of faith just as our Lord has loved us.” (Read the full text of Wade Burleson, Saturday August 08, 2009, A Personal Confession, A Public Challenge on his blog, [Grace and Truth to You](#))

- “Putting Women in Their Place. Moving Beyond Gender Stereotypes in Church and Home. The Baptist Debate Over Female Equality.” by Audra and Joe Trull (Read excerpt on [Christian Ethicstoday.com](#) Issue044 Volume 9 No 2 April 2003
- “Hidden Voices: Biblical Women and Our Christian Heritage” by Heidi Parales, MDiv

Multitudes of voices will not be silenced

*Humble yourselves,
therefore, that he
may lift you up in
due time.*

1 Peter 5:6

E-mail:
bwebaptist.women@live.com

bWebaptist.com

Shirley Taylor, Publisher
Don Taylor, Assistant

P O Box 425
Conroe TX 77305

**Priesthood of the
believer, not priesthood
of the husband.**

**Equality for
women
is not theirs to
give, but ours to
claim.**

How you can help

If you would like to be a part of **bWe Baptist Women for Equality—advocates for Women Deacons and Women Pastors**, which is an endeavor to bring Southern Baptists into the 21st Century, please contact me by email. Only you can bring about the change in your church. It starts with the church By-laws where it is interpreted that women are scripturally unqualified to be deacons. Each Southern Baptist church writes its own By-laws and makes its own decisions. I ask you to join me in helping our daughters, sisters, and granddaughters find the freedom Jesus has promised them and for them to be able to serve a cup of juice and piece of bread in their Baptist church. Change is never easy. But it will be right. Women, we must speak up.

**Please forward Baptist Women of the Veil
To all your Baptist friends and neighbors**

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Free of the veil

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples; 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

Matthew 28:5-7 (NIV)

"Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (NIV)

Many young men in our SBC churches are being taught that women are weak, and in need of male authority.

When anyone sets themselves up to be in authority over another, it gives untold powers to that person.

Is this the way we want our young men to relate to their wives, to our daughters?

Are these young men who are told that their wife is to submit to them, reliable judges as to how far submission should go? How do they determine what submission is scriptural and what level of submission is simply because that is what is desired? How do they treat women who do not submit as fully as they think she should?

Unless your church allows women and girls to follow the call of God fully in your church, you are telling her that she is under male authority. You are telling her that she is unworthy simply because of her birth as a female. You are telling women that they are incomplete in Christ.

As Moses did, you are keeping the veil over your fading glory so women cannot see the truth. (Shirley Taylor)