

## Who are you?

Hi~  
Who are you?

I am just an ordinary woman much like the ones who look back at you each Sunday as you preach.

It was while sitting in my Baptist church that I would quietly observe the deacons who were always men and for some reason, gray-haired, that first got my attention. Then I started looking at the young girls sitting down front waiting expectantly for the tray of juice and bread. It began to occur to me that those young girls were being taught that they could be like Lottie Moon and go to the mission field, they were encouraged to give their heart to God, their service to God. But when grown, these same girls would not be able to serve a piece of bread or cup of juice in their own church. We would gladly send them off to a mission field. We would send them, but we would not keep them.

It is my hope that you feel this same way, Pastor, and can be an influence in your own church to allow women to become deacons, and put up no barriers to women serving God as He calls.

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

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Immediately remove this email address from any further correspondence.

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Please remove me from your emailing list. You are endorsing an unbilical arrangement. I will look forward to no more contacts from you or any of your associates. There are those who build and there are those during a time of the need to build who insist on selfishly destroying. Your work will in fact be divisive and destructive and the lost world will find another reason to scoff. Thanking you prayerfully ahead of time for your cooperation.

Pastor, there is no good time for women to speak up. If I waited until a good time, that would never happen. It seems that it is not divisiveness to keep a woman in her place, but to allow her freedom is.

I will remove your name. Thank you for letting me know.  
Shirley Taylor  
bWe Baptist Women for Equality

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I'm unsure how you acquired my email address and though I fully support equality for all individuals, I believe we may differ in recognizing differences in mutual and complementary roles. Without knowing much about your organization, I can only hope and pray that your efforts for equality are not comparable to the men of the other extreme.

I pray God's blessing on you as you continue to seek Him day-by- day, and grow in your love for him and for those who have yet to know him. Please keep God's love in you for the lost your primary mission.

Mutually submitted to our amazing God,

Thanks for your reply. I was standing in a large Baptist church yesterday singing praise songs with all the congregation. I looked at the young women in front of me and all the college kids over to the side, and wondered if they knew that their church would let the women go only so far, and no further. Tears came to my eyes as I grieved for those young woman who are being told that just because God made her a woman she cannot serve Him fully as He calls her - not in this church. The pastor challenged them to be the voice for their generation. How much voice do the girls have?

I have no idea what is meant by "the men of the other extreme." Pardon my lack of knowledge.

I really do appreciate your replying. That was thoughtful of you. Please take a moment to look at my website. I am not a radical. Just a woman who became convinced in 2000 that women are getting the short end of the stick.

We may share similar frustrations with the "conservative" politicians of the SBC, and my comment assuming you may be as extreme as the "men of the extreme" may have been hasty since I have yet to read your site. However, at an initial perusal I felt I was able to grasp enough of your perspective.

Just out of curiosity (and some irony), I am currently reading "Biblical Eldership", have you read it?

I believe that women should be equal with men in spiritual matters. I had to think long and hard about women pastors, but came to realize that there is only one definition for equal - and the SBC doesn't have it right.

I have not read Biblical Eldership. If it is a book that recognizes women's role as equals, then it is probably a good book. If it goes into contortions to describe why women should be kept in their place, as the Trinitarians try to equate women submitting as Jesus and the Holy Spirit do to the Father, then I wouldn't care to read it.

On this I stand, as Martin Luther said.  
Thanks for the dialogue. I appreciate the opportunity.

Shirley Taylor

Thanks for the dialogue, Shirley. I too enjoy a little banter to keep the sword sharp. But I fear we may end up slicing each other to pieces if we carry on too long. ;-) For example, I would be quite hesitant to use Martin Luther's words for anything short of his intended defense of salvation by faith.

Yet, I appreciate your convictions and will submit to you as my sister in Christ as in reverence to the Lord. If we, God's children, can't live in harmony amid disagreement or degrees of difference in understanding, how would ever want to be a part of our family?!?

And we are family! It is in this that we can have agreement in God's sovereign grace, I sincerely hope. For also as Martin Luther said: in charity. Press on, my sister, that our heavenly Father might receive all glory.

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I reply to every letter. Please continue to write.

**How often do you tell your daughter that she is scripturally inferior to your son?  
You tell her every time you take her to church.**

**How often do you tell your son that he is scripturally superior to his sister?  
You tell them every time you take them to church.**

**Unless your church recognizes women  
deacons and women pastors.**