

Letters – Why don't you just stop being Baptist?

Email letters to me in Blue. Replies from me in Burgundy.

Please do not send me Email. I am sorry that you feel the only way you can serve God to do what he said not to do. I pray for your pride. In addition, if you are not happy with the Baptist Faith, Choose another, or do what so many others have done, start your own. However, you'll find no support here for women pastors. Read your Bible!

Thank you so much for your reply. I have read the Bible. Baptists believe in the priesthood of the believer and this believer sees a loving God who has created women in His own image, who has made her soul just as worthy as a man's is. When we get to Heaven, your soul and mine will look just alike.

In my email I express the thought "I wonder if humbleness is only for women and not for men, also." While you are praying for my pride, be sure to pray for your own prideful attitude that God made you a male.

Jonah 4:5-11 (Today's English Version)

Jonah went out east of the city and sat down. He made a shelter for himself and sat in its shade, waiting to see what would happen to Nineveh. Then the Lord God made a plant grow up over Jonah to give him some shade, so that he would be more comfortable. Jonah was extremely pleased with the plant. But at dawn the next day, at God's command, a worm attacked the plant, and it died. After the sun had risen, God sent a hot east wind, and Jonah was about to faint from the heat of the sun beating down on his head. So he wished he were dead. "I am better off dead than alive," He said. But God said to him, "What right do you have to be angry about the plant?" Jonah replied, "I have every right to be angry - angry enough to die!" The Lord said to him, "This plant grew up in one night and disappeared the next; you didn't do anything for it and you didn't make it grow - yet you feel sorry for it! How much more then, should I have pity on Nineveh, that great city. After all, it has more than 120,000 innocent children in it, as well as many animals."

The point I am making is this. God is telling Jonah that he has the right to change his mind when it comes to mercy. Wouldn't you call giving women more status than being a husband's property, mercy? Wouldn't you call allowing women to spread the gospel and baptize the masses of lost people, mercy? Wouldn't you call having women minister to the sick and dying as a hospital Chaplain, mercy? Wouldn't you call allowing your daughter to stay at home to preach instead of having her go to a dangerous foreign country, mercy?

Jonah, can't you have mercy on a lost and dying world that needs to hear the gospel of Jesus - whether from a woman's mouth, or from a man's mouth?

Shirley Taylor

His rely

I do pray for myself daily. It is a must. Thank you for your prayers. I do have two questions for you in this quest.

1) Why do you think that the Baptist community needs to whole heartedly accept what you believe? First off, All Baptist church units operate independent of any organization. The SBC doesn't tell ANY church what to believe. If the first Baptist Church of Wherever wanted YOU to be their pastor, then they could elect you as pastor. Nothing to stop them. No one to answer to. Even the local associations would have a hard time getting that church's membership from the COOP revoked. So what may I ask is stopping you from doing this?

2) Why not just join a denomination that accepts women as pastors. Methodist, Pentecostal, Church of God, and independents all over America do this without anyone stopping them. So why not just go be a pastor? See it has been since the beginning, Baptists make no effort to hide what we believe, how we worship. It's out in the open. So why are you so bent on trying to change something that is so transparent?

Believe what you want, translate how you will, but a woman will NEVER be the husband of one wife. Of course, I am sure that you could also do what a lot of Baptists have done and write your own Bible to fit your needs. Oh, and point your finger at all us "Pride laden, blind, bigoted, woman bashing, hate speech filled Baptists." That was sarcasm, just so you read that sentence correctly.

(The next email)

Oh in addition There is nothing preventing a women from leading someone to Christ. That job is not the sole property of a male preacher/pastor, that is EVERYONE's responsibility. Leading the lost to Christ and Pastoring a church are not one in the same.

1. First, SBC does tell churches what to believe. The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 does that. Professors have to sign the BF&M 2000 before they can teach in a Seminary and our missionaries have to sign it before they can go on the mission field, or stay on the field. Second, all Baptist churches do not operate independently – many are so-called campuses which might be 6 or 7 different locations under the same pastor (bishops in other denominations). Third, FBC of Whatever will not call me to preach because of certain influential people in their congregations who threaten to leave the church if any mention of a woman deacon or minister is made. Attitudes must be changed. And that is what I am seeking to do.
2. Why not just join a denomination that allows women pastors? You are missing the whole point. I have never been called to pastor a church or to be a deacon. It was while sitting in a Baptist church that I began to realize that what we are teaching our boys and girls is wrong. Baptists can do so much better. They can be the leaders in

allowing women equality – they can lift women up to a higher level than we currently are – they can stop making women sex objects instead of full spiritual beings created in the image of God. As to a woman never being the husband of one wife – that is a complete misinterpretation of that scripture. In Muslim countries today and for the Jews in Jesus' day, it was common for men to have more than one wife. Surely you know that. Also, I agree that leading the lost to Christ and pastoring are two different things. But, I ask you, which is greater?

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Not to be rude, but why stay Baptist? Why not gracefully bow out and move on? There are other denominations that adopt your beliefs. Good luck and God bless.

Pastor,

You pose a good question as to why don't I just leave the Baptists and join some other church. The reason is that I have spent 65 years in a Baptist church, sent my sons to Baptist universities, and worked for BGCT for 14 1/2 years, in addition to all the Sunday School work, committees, and hours and hours of volunteer work in my local Baptist church, and in my heart I am a Baptist.

I have copied selected paragraphs (the rest can be read on his blog by googling his name and church) that was posted this past week on the blog of a Baptist pastor, Mitch Randall. He says the church as a whole is changing, and our churches are losing people because they are not changing and are not relating to the younger generation. While he doesn't specifically say so, you and I know that the young women of our churches feel a call to the mission fields just as strongly as the men do. If we are willing to send the women off to a foreign country to live out the gospel, why aren't we willing to keep them at home and allow them to serve in their own local church? The world that is poor, hungry, sick, and lonely (his words) are not just people in a foreign land. They are our neighbors, our relatives, and friends, and at home). NOTE: His church already recognizes women as equals.)

RETURNING THE CHURCH TO OUR TRUE CALLING

by Mitch Randall Pastor, NorthHaven Church, Norman, Oklahoma (Baptist)

However, the church is changing. There's no denying it. Those who have been leading the church for the past 20 to 30 years are losing their influence. The greatest unknown for everyone is how the church will change. If we continue to hold to beliefs without basis, we will continue to decline. However, if we reenergize ourselves around a missional strategy that demonstrates the love of Christ to a world that is poor, hungry, sick, and lonely, then we will start seeing a church that is healthy and growing, and meeting the needs of the world around us - today and in the years to come.

Although this kind of talk intimidates many among us, there is a new movement "emerging" within the church. This movement has two interesting characteristics. One, it has the audacity to take Jesus at His word. And two, it is young.

So, if the church is to be what Jesus has called us to be - the light in the midst of a dark world - we must accept responsibility for the decline in the numbers of those who identify with us. We must fall on our knees to repent of allowing Christ's church to drift away from its calling. We can stop the decline of the church only by being humble and open to change.

The church in America can thrive again if we embrace this new way with humanity and passion. We must stand alongside our global brothers and sisters to participate in the "kingdom" work of which Jesus spoke while He walked among us. The church can adapt and overcome, but we must be willing to listen to the voice of God and bold enough to follow where He directs. (my emphasis)

My words now - Perhaps God is directing us to allow all his children (women and men) to serve Him fully.

Thank you so much for writing and visiting my website. It is really appreciated.

Shirley Taylor

bWe - Baptist Women for Equality

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

I reply to every letter. Please continue to write.

Equality for women is not theirs to give, but women's to claim.