

How did God make a pig clean?

Acts 10:14-15 (NIV) ¹⁴ Surely not, Lord! Peter replied, "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."
¹⁵ The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times...

It took Peter a long time to get the message that he could now eat shrimp and ham. We don't know if he ever ate bacon, but he realized that he could not stand in judgment of those who did.

When Peter had his vision, women were nothing but property of a man. Whenever a woman gave birth to a boy, she was unclean for seven days, but when she gave birth to a girl, she was unclean for fourteen days. Twice as long just for having a baby girl. Being born a girl tainted the mother and the girl forever. Even until this day. Even in our churches today.

Can you imagine calling your women church members unclean? Neither can I, but every time we quote those scriptures from the Apostle Paul that we drag out to restrict women from service in our churches, we do just that.

How did God make a pig clean? By the blood of Jesus. The same way he gave women dignity and removed the curse of Eve.

Rope that ram

Matthew 12:11-14 (NIV) ¹¹ He (Jesus) said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." ¹³ Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. ¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

This scripture has nothing to do with working on Sunday. It is all about decisions. Jesus told the Pharisees (the SBC) that they had already decided to break their law when it was humane to do so. They wouldn't think twice before they got a rope around that ram's neck and pulled him out of the ditch.

But they wanted a man who couldn't work because of a shriveled hand to stay that way another day, so they could honor their law.

No woman deacon! No woman pastor! We know what our Pharisees say.

Couldn't we decide that women are more important than the law? Jesus did.

The Shepherd's voice

John 10:3 (NIV) " ...and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

Have you read your website through the eyes of a visitor? While you may want the Love of Christ to shine through, it is far more likely that you are letting your prejudice against women be your shining star.

It is there when you point with pride, and a click will take us to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, which is a "in your face reminder" to your congregation and visitors where you stand on women serving in the church.

It is there when you list your deacons and they are all men.

It is there when you have women serving as children's ministers and in all other capacities, except as a pastor or as a deacon.

Oh, we hear you. And if we also happen to hear the voice of Jesus through all this animosity toward women, it is because the Shepherd calls to women and the sheep hears the Master's voice.

Whiter than snow

1 Timothy 2:11-14 (NIV) ¹¹. A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. ¹². I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man; she must be silent. ¹³. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.

If you believe 1 Timothy 2:11-14 then you must not believe that women are washed clean of their sins upon a profession of faith in Jesus.

Why doesn't the blood of Jesus take away the curse of Eve?

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.