

Consequences of a Failed Headship

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Introduction: Satan works tirelessly against the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

- A. To be a Christian you must submit to the Lord in every area of your life. **(Col 3:17)**
 - 1. Nothing is off-limits! His authority does not stop in the assembly of the church.
 - 2. Many want to call Jesus Lord and live for themselves. **(Lk 6:46)**
 - 3. It takes real character to submit to and stand for the authority of Christ.
(1 Cor 16:13)
 - a. “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.” KJV
 - b. We need “real men” in the church who are not cowards to stand.
- B. Many do not want the Lord in their homes.
 - 1. It is easy to outwardly stay within Christ’s authority in the sight of men.
 - 2. In the home our real character is revealed. This lesson will be offensive to many because they do not want the Lord in their lives.
 - 3. One of the most hurtful battles you will fight will be here. **(Lk 12:49-53)**

I. Headship as designed by God.

- A. There is an established order by God. **(1 Cor 11:3)**
 - 1. The example of the order is shown by Jesus as head of the church.
(Eph 5:25-29)
 - a. Jesus nourished, provides and loves the church.
 - b. He also is head given all authority by God. **(Mt 28:18)**
 - 2. There are other kinds of “headship” where we must learn to submit!
(Heb 13:17; Eph 6:5, 8; 5:21)
 - a. Rebellion towards authority may be praised by the world but God hates it.
 - b. One who is to submit is not inferior.
- B. How should a husband be head of his home?
 - 1. He must make understanding a priority. **(1 Pt 3:7)**
 - 2. As a husband I put my wife’s needs before mine. If she is unhappy and hurting I look and examine the kind of head that I am.
 - 3. I rarely make decisions without carefully consulting her. I almost never make decisions that we don’t both agree on.
 - 4. I have a great blessing in that I married someone who loves the Lord. Things likely would be very different if I had not. **(Lk 1:5-6)**
 - 5. A husband cannot force his wife to submit! She must choose to obey God.
- C. What some men call headship Christ has never put a woman under.
 - 1. One cannot submit to one who wants them to disobey God. (Ex. Study with lady whose husband wanted her to attend his denomination.) **(Acts 4:17-20; 5:28-29)**
 - 2. A man who is a harsh head will be judged. **(Eph 6:5, 9; Col 4:1)**
 - a. Even with a harsh head submission is not removed. **(1 Pt 2:18)**
 - b. Woe to the man who treats his wife with condescension and contempt.
 - 3. If a man allows his own parents to be head of his home, he is a coward.

II. Current trends in society that seek to destroy headship

- A. The spirit of Satan will destroy all relationships. **(Jam 3:14-16)**

1. When you live for self, lie and hate then men will not want to trust you!
 2. Satan's hatred of the authority of God is shared in many ways.
- B. Fornication, adultery, divorce and government policy have created an explosion of single parent homes.
1. There are some neighborhoods in the country that have an 80% rate of births to unwed mothers.
 2. Any acceptance of this immorality is an acceptance of Satan as your lord. Sadly there will be innocent children that will be raised in a fatherless home.
- C. Mainstream denominations are all moving to reject God's order.
1. James Evan's a Baptist preacher with the Crosscreek Baptist Church in Pelham wrote about division in the Baptist church over the role of women and the Bible.
 2. Should one be "troubled" over a direct quote from the scriptures?

(1 Cor 14:33-37)

"Several pieces of the new Faith and Message statement are troubling to many Baptists. The document states that a woman cannot be a senior minister. There is also a statement that women should "submit graciously" to their husbands without any reciprocal submission required by the husband." – Baptist battle over doctrine, Birmingham Post Herald

3. The real issue is can we accept the Bible as the inspired, inerrant word of God!
 "In the 2000 version of the faith statement, there is a shift. Jesus is no longer the full revelation. That honor goes to the Bible itself, which is described as "God's revelation of himself to man.""

"They are being asked to commit to a view of women that is driven more by conservative Christian culture than by biblical principle. They are also being asked to sacrifice Jesus as the source of revelation."

4. When I attended Samford University I was taught these things and more from a professor of the Bible.
5. Mr. Evans claims that we who insist on following the scriptural principles are guilty of idolatry!

"Beyond all that, by elevating their opinion about the Bible to the level of inerrant authority, Southern Baptist leaders commit one of the oldest heresies known to faith: claiming divine status for something human in origin. In the old days, that was called idolatry."

6. Many who call themselves "churches of Christ" are not far behind.

III. Consequences of a failed headship

- A. There are some churches that are doing nothing more than following the trends of the culture in order to gain numbers.
1. When we see these attacks within society then rest assured that the church will be affected.
 2. These trendy churches may seem the place to be, but what does the Lord say?

(Col 2:8-9, 18-19)

B. We are losing the battle over modesty.

1. The way we dress should reflect on the character within us. **(1 Tim 2:9-10)**
(1 Timothy 2:9-10 KJV) In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in **modest** apparel, with **shamefacedness** and **sobriety**; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; *{10}* But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

a. **Modest** - (kosmios) - of good behavior , well arranged, seemly.

b. **Shamefacedness** - (aidos) - perhaps ..through the idea of downcast eyes; a sense of shame or honour, modesty, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect.

c. **sobriety** - (sophrosune) 1) soundness of mind 2) self-control

2. Our women face tremendous pressures from the world to conform.

a. The modern day women's movement scorns the Bible teaching of character. Immorality is openly encouraged and praised.

b. What does a woman face when she goes against the modern fashion?

c. God made men and women different therefore you will see emphasis towards women in these areas. Men are very stimulated by sight.

(Mt 5:27-30) (Ex. How many "Adult" magazines are toward men?)

d. Women you may be wearing clothing that is an invitation to ungodliness and you not be aware of it! Sadly some are aware.

(Prov 7:10; Gen 38:13-15) (Ex. Fish)

e. We need fathers to take a strong stand in these areas! Do you give in?

f. Many have given in to let their daughters to be cheerleaders, majorettes, dance team members and participants in school dances. This is almost always driven by women who have a cowardly husband.

g. There is one church that had a "lost generation" because of fathers who compromised in these areas. Many have left churches because they would not tolerate teaching against their "liberty."

C. Leadership within the church is being compromised.

1. Women have a great influence in the church when they follow their God given role. **(1 Pt 3:3-4; Eph 5:28)**

a. There are some bad examples in the old testament of women who dominated their husbands and forced their will. (Ex. Jezebel and Ahab)

b. Still there are many good examples of women who did much good by living by faith. **(Prov 31:10-12, 23, 26-31)**

c. A woman that is not constantly challenging their husband, but rather showing honor and confidence in his leadership, will build strength in him.

d. In the church a woman can cause great trouble by complaining, gossiping, being jealous and contentious. Some will push their husbands in the background to their designs. Some have used the term "she-elders"

e. When there are meetings among the men and a problem is solved then these things ought also to be solved at home! When the problem comes

- back up at the next meeting then there is likely trouble at home.
- f. If you find a good church with a loving spirit, you will find a church with godly women. The atmosphere of the home and also of the church is greatly influenced by Godly women!
2. God has given men a leading role and equipped them for that task.
 - a. He is to be the breadwinner. **(1 Pt 5:8)**
 - b. Only men are to be elders and deacons. **(1 Tim 3:2, 11)**
 - i. Phoebe was a servant but not one who served in the office of a deacon! **(Rom 16:1)**
 - ii. The word apostle has both a specific meaning and a general one. **(Acts 1:2, 26;14:14)**
 - iii. Sadly some may be saying as the old Baptist manual “now it is different.”
 - c. When men do not take a leadership role then the church is affected.
 - d. We must not exalt “relationships” over doctrine! **(2 Jn 9-11)**
 3. It is unwise to have women in business meetings.
 - a. There were occasions for the whole church to hear discussion. **(Acts 15:6, 22)**
 - b. Why would we want to have women in the business meeting? What would they do?
 - c. In the Bible it was men who were to be the leaders. In our business meetings the men are to make the final decision.
 - d. To have women attend the business meeting but not speak would be like inviting someone to a dinner table filled with food and not let them eat. Temptation will likely prevail.

Conclusion: Are you willing for Jesus to be the Lord of your life?

- A. We can exalt our own wisdom and decry the legalists but we still will one day give account to the Lord. **(Rom 14:11-12)**
- B. God’s way will work for those who will walk by faith!

What Will Be Next?
Virgil L. Hale

It is most disheartening to hear of things that are being done among brethren --- things that would have been unheard of just a few years ago. A case in point is the recent much publicized "JUBILEE" that took place in Nashville, Tennessee. As I understand, many congregations in the Nashville area cooperated in this endeavor. However, reports of the events that transpired are most discouraging. Let me give you some quotes from a letter that I have a copy of, where one brother wrote: "Not only was Truth compromised in most of the messages at the Jubilee meeting, some of the practices were so unscriptural as to be almost blasphemous. I will mention only those things I know personally to be factual." He began his list. "(1) Though there were several women teachers there were no women's classes as such; all classes were open to both men and women regardless of the

gender of the teacher." He then pointed out that his wife, who was one of the invited teachers; refused to speak with men present, and saw to it that only women were present in her class. As a result, he said, "Most of the women thought it "quaint" and "old fashioned" but many publicly called it "legalism," "lack of love," "enforcing the letter of the law instead of the spirit," etc. One young woman did everything but curse her in a bitter display of uncontrolled temper. When other women teachers were asked how they felt about men in their classes such replies as "it's an honor to have them" or "it's about time" or even "I'm so used to it I didn't even give it any thought." He went on to say that "When asked to explain 1 Timothy 2:11,12 there was always a refusal to discuss scripture and the remark, "The freedom Christ gives us looses us from the letter of the N. T. and lets us walk only by its spirit." The phrase "old traditions" was often heard. He goes on with point number "(2) The women who taught classes had full control over the classes. Since classes taught by other women had many men present almost without exception the woman teacher called on a woman to lead a song and a woman to lead a prayer. (3) One of the male speakers did not show up for a major lecture and one of the women teachers was asked to speak in his place. (4) Jack Evans, one of the keynote speakers before the entire assembly, asked his wife to sing a solo before the congregation. After the first verse he asked the assembly to join her in singing the rest of the song. She was then the song leader. (5) The Truth was compromised in practically every speech made. The sentiment was often expressed that every baptized believer was saved regardless of how little he understood or believed, where he went to church or how he worshiped. Landon Saunders said environmental organizations were as necessary as the church and that "saving the whales" was "as necessary for one to go to heaven as was baptism or the Lord's Supper." Unquote.

Now I ask you, as the title of the article suggest ---WHAT IS NEXT? With this kind of disregard for Bible authority, what will some dream up next? Will it not soon bring about women preachers in the church; women elders and deaconesses (as some have advocated for years); women song leaders, and on and on we could go? Where will they find a stopping place? You can mark it down ---when people start disregarding God's word - there is no stopping place! This has been seen in the Christian Church for years. Disregard for Bible authority for the instrument, has led them further and further away from the truth. It seems that "It is later than you might think" in the Lord 's church today. The only way to stem the tide is to stand up and speak out for the truth.