

Overcoming the Present Apostasy (3)
How do we view the God's Order for Leadership?
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Introduction: All apostasy is driven by a failure of leadership.

- A. As we have seen it begins with a failure of the home. We live in a culture where the role of men is under relentless attack.
 - 1. Sadly, the church is seeing a feminization of the role of men. What does God want? **(Eph 6:4)**
 - 2. Many godly women are forced by the abandonment of their leadership to step up and lead.
 - 3. It is from our homes we “grow” elders.
- B. When God's people fall away the first ones to be called into account in the leadership
 - 1. This was true in the nation of Israel. **(Isa 3:14; Ezek 8:11-13)**
 - 2. This was true in the Lord's church. **(Heb 13:17; Acts 20:26-32)**
 - 3. The people of God must not tolerate the wrong kind of leaders. **(Jer 5:29-31)**
- C. Those who seek to change the church into the image of the current culture know very well that the change of the leadership is a first priority!

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 is 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. Problems can be caused in local churches when men fail to be heads of their home.
 - 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 strengthen 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.

II. Understanding the role of women

A. Where does God place the priorities for women? (1 Peter 3:1-7)

1. There is something you can do to have a very powerful impact upon your husband! (**v1-2**) Rather than demand your rights, build a good character.
2. Rather than the outward, a woman that is not constantly challenging their husband, but rather showing honor and confidence in his leadership, will build strength in him. (**v3-4**)
3. God places a great value on this spirit, do you?

B. Men and women have different roles. (1 Tim 2:8-15)

1. Here this is specific to men (**v8**)
2. What is proper for women? (**v9-10**) We need to give emphasis to subjection and a Godly spirit than fashion.
3. Here “all submission” is not just to the husband!
4. Because she is not to be in authority does not mean that women should not become good Bible students. (Some mates let the other do all the studying!)
5. The silence here is not an absolute silence. (**v12**)

hesuchia AV - silent 3, quietness 1; 4 - 1) quietness 1a) description of the life of one who stays at home doing his own work, and does not officiously meddle with the affairs of others 2) silence

6. There are circumstances where women may teach men. (**Acts 18:26**)
7. The reasons for subject are as old as creation. (**v13-14**)

C. Women are limited in their participation in the assembly. (1 Cor 14:33-37)

1. This is not just any gathering of Christians. (**1 Cor 14:23**) (Not a Bible Class)
2. This silence involves the addressing of the assembly. (**1 Cor 14:28, 30**)
3. When a woman follows this rule they are showing submission whether married or not! (**v34**)
4. This is a command of God to be followed, not some social order by man. (**v37**)

D. Some important applications.

1. There cannot be women elders and deacons. (1 Tim 3:2, 11)
2. 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.

III. How the world is winning over “mainstream” churches of Christ

- A. The foundations of the local congregation are now under assault.
 1. Many will use the terms “traditional position” and “Legalism” to intimidate others from an unprejudiced study of the role of women.
 2. Consider the “Jubilee” meetings in Nashville and their fruit. Here are some excerpts from an article written by Virgil L. Hale.

As I understand, many congregations in the Nashville area cooperated in this endeavor....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." --- Contending for the faith October 1989

- B. In Texas a good friend witnessed how a man who was to speak to the assembly decided to turn it into a Bible class by saying “everything we do is worship anyhow!”
 1. The more disturbing element was that the Elders did nothing!
 2. The house church movement appeals to those who wish to ignore God’s order.

IV. How weak elderships are destroying local churches

- A. What do leaders do?
 - 1. A shepherd knows the sheep. (**John 10:3-5**)
 - 2. A leader is concerned for the real welfare of the sheep. What comes first? (**John 10:11-12**)
 - 3. A leader will lead by principle and not by convenience.
 - C. There are “leaders” who allow the flock to be plundered by wolves.
 - 1. As with most movements there is a difference between the leadership and the membership. Often the membership is in the dark!
 - 2. The leadership has a course they wish to plot, while the membership is a mixture of special interest which can be played one against the other.
 - 3. The real truth is that they stand for little. The leadership however will use the most carnal attacks against the “patternist.” Consider the kind of men who are brought in to speak. (Ex. After I left and then begin reading. I then learned of what these men really believed.)
 - 4. Even though a congregation may have elders, in some cases the preachers are the real leaders! (Ex. Weak Elder who wrings his hands and complains in the background)
 - 5. Some have been taught by others to “weave,” that is disguise your beliefs until the time is right. This is not honest! (**Eph 4:14**)
 - D. Some elderships let preachers and members continue in an undermining of faith. (**Titus 1:9-11**)
 - 1. Some men are allowed to preach who do not believe instrumental music is wrong.
 - 2. Some men have openly taught false and destabilizing doctrines and never had to correct them. (Ex. We should have the Lord’s Supper as we would a meal and visit and laugh and talk.)
 - 3. There will be “underground” movements with thus kind of a church that will gain followers. (**2 Pt 2:1-2**)
 - 4. Often there is an intellectual pride that considers all controversy as unspiritual.
- Conclusion:** The issue of authority must be applied to all areas of life.
- A. Once we let go of this concept there is no stopping!
 - B. Because of our desire to follow “all things” (**Matt 28:20**) we can correct our inconsistencies in time.
 - 1. One brother tried to justify his move with the culture because “brethren have been inconsistent”. A good man replied: “That may be so, but you have pulled up your anchor altogether!. While we maintain the landmarks to keep ourselves in the will of God, you are adrift without an anchor. You have achieved consistency at the sacrifice of principle!”
 - 2. Are you walking by faith?