

“Christianity is Only For Men? Seriously??!!”

**Dear Antwort Mann,**

**I have three females in my family that have stopped going to church because they believe that religion is for men only. They say that the Bible was written by men and for men in order to have control over women. Really? What would you tell them?**

**Signed, “If Mama Ain’t Happy”**

Dear “Ain’t,”

If what you say is accurate, it sounds like the ladies in your family have been “drinking the KoolAid” of radical feminism. What I find humorous is that there are a lot of men who say that religion is just for women, and that the Bible turns men into “sissies.” Well, if both sides are ticked off, God and His Word must be doing something right!

Laying aside any cultural or ecclesiastical abuses men may have perpetrated against women over the years, the fact is that the Bible, and Christianity itself, has done more to liberate women in all spheres of life, and regard them equally to men – equally as sinners who need redemption; and equally as those for whom Christ died to redeem and make His own. Men and women share the same human nature (fallen), the same Savior (Jesus), and are sanctified and live in newness of life by the same power (the Holy Spirit) who gives His gifts to all.

If the Bible was written for men to control women, then why are men told to “love your wives even as Christ loved the Church (Eph. 5:25)?” How did He love the Church? He died for her! Husbands are called to exercise that same commitment and sacrifice for their wives. That passage hardly sounds misogynistic or “male domineering” to me.

And if the Bible viewed women as bubble-headed incompetents, then why does it describe the intelligence, industriousness, compassion and talent of women in such glowing terms as found in Proverbs 31?

Why, if the Bible was made up by men to control women, would the first witnesses of Christ’s resurrection be women, while the men were cowering in a locked room for protection? If men were writing this to elevate themselves above women, don’t you think that Peter and John would have been the heroes of the day instead of Mary and the other women?

And why, if the Bible and Christianity view men as being superior to women, does it tell all of us to “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Eph. 5:21)?” Why would it say that the gifts and calling of God are given equally, without regard to sex (“...There is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” Gal. 3:28)? Though for this life God has created differences between the sexes and their vocations according to His will, there is complete equality in the forgiveness, life and salvation that Christ has won for us, and in the love and respect men and women are to show one another.

In light of these truths, the idea that men wrote the Bible and established Christianity for the purpose of controlling women is complete hogwash! If some men have twisted the Scriptures in order to dominate women, that error needs to be strongly condemned. But so does the equal and opposite error of some women who dismiss, or twist what the Scriptures say about God’s design and will for the sexes, especially in the Church, in favor of the ever-changing opinions of “fairness” and “equality” that this world promotes.

I would bet that your ladies’ beef with the Bible and the Church is really over the issue of Women’s Ordination. The Church historically, and many denominations presently, follow the Biblical mandate of only ordaining men to the Pastoral Ministry. If that is why your ladies reject the Bible and “religion,” their objection collapses in light of the fact that there are some churches that (wrongly) reinterpret the Bible and (wrongly) do ordain women. Your ladies could go to one of those “female friendly” churches, though by doing so, they may just be jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

The reality is that, whether one likes it or not, God has created men and women differently. One is not

*better* than the other, just different. We have different ways of looking at things, different vocations in God's design, and bodies designed for different purposes. Yet we are all part of the Body of Christ through faith. As such, God (not men or women) determines where He places us in His Body, just as He has determined where the parts of our physical bodies should be and what they should do (I Cor. 12). No one should be jealous or bitter about where Christ has placed us in His Body in relation to others. Instead, we should be thankful that He has redeemed us, joined us to each other in His Church, and is preparing a place for us to dwell with Him forever.

Ultimately, what this really boils down to is – again assuming that what you said about the ladies in your family is true – these ladies have some repenting to do. Their “Male Dominant Bible and Church” criticism is simply an excuse for them not to have to deal with their own sin and, together with men, repent and receive the mercy and forgiveness of Christ that He offers to all in His Word and Sacraments. They need to repent for not reading the Scriptures rightly (or reading them at all), but listening instead to the Serpent's age-old question: “Did God really say?” They need to repent of their rejection of God's creative design for men and women. Feelings, opinions and cultural expectations must take a back seat, or be discarded altogether so that the Truth of God's Word may prevail – especially the Truth of our forgiveness and life because our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, gave Himself over to death to redeem His Bride, the Church (which includes men and women), that we would be His own Beloved forever.

That's what I would tell the ladies in your family (while wearing full body armor, of course).

***“Male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:27***

Best regards,

**Der Antwort Mann**