

Women's Ordination

Have we considered the practical side?

To: *Anyone who is interested,*

“Men only Ordination” V “Men and Women Ordination”

As I have been praying, listening to God and thinking more about this issue, I strongly believe that there will be some practicalities that will arise, should the Lutheran Church decide to ordain women as well as men– I believe that they are:

1. If the LCA continues to only ordain men.....

Current and past Pastors were ordained believing that **only men** should be ordained. This has **always** been the policy and belief of the Lutheran Church, since its formation. These men should understand their rightful Authority in God and should want to stand up and put it into practise in a God pleasing way. They should understand their God given responsibility and that although men and women are created equal, God has designed entirely different roles for each of us, all one as important as the other and to be used to give Glory to God and in service to others.

2. If the LCA starts to ordain women as well as men.....

If **women** are to be ordained as well as men, then, to get on well together as fellow students, they will all **have** to agree and be in **unity of belief together**, that women as well as men should be ordained; otherwise there would be total disunity and disharmony in the classroom! I believe that then, the **only** men who will study for the Public Ministry will be those who **do** believe that women as well as men should be Ordained. I also believe that the new groups of students will then **all** also believe that men and women are created equal, but instead of being given different roles by God, they will believe that they can choose whatever role they would like to have themselves.. Is this Biblical?..

I strongly believe that if women are ordained in the future:

1. It will most definitely **deter some men from studying for the Public Ministry**, for fear of going in with a bad and negative attitude against their women fellow students, if they strongly **disagreed** and believed that **only men** should be ordained.

2. It will most definitely cause **overall division in the Lutheran Church**, as the present and past Pastors have been ordained under one belief and new graduates will be ordained under a completely different belief. I believe that if women are ordained, Pastors and church members will then choose one way or the other and form 2 separate groups, as both sides seem to be extremely strong in their insights, opinions and views and will refuse to budge. Only one can be right! Which on is that?

I am deeply concerned about this matter, as I strongly believe that God wants us to stick together until we all decide **together**, as to the direction God wants us to go. If the church **divided** on this issue it would not set a good example to Christians in the LCA, (who are looking for strong direction from our Leaders) those in other denominations and to the lost community in general, who whether they realise it or not are looking for a Godly lead from the church whose Pastors and people practice what they preach and set a good example to others, as to how Christians should live and behave. I shudder to think what the media would do with it, if our church divided! I am convinced that God wants us to live in unity and harmony together as brothers and sisters in the Lord and to promote **unity** at all times, and **not** let the devil get a foothold and cause division in the first place. Eph 4; Psalm 133; Romans 12:18

I do pray for harmony, wisdom and unity for all Pastors, as mature and God pleasing brothers in the Lord and I do pray that they will decide on a strategy, for getting this sorted out and take their rightful Authority in the Lord as Godly Leaders of our church and stay focused– and in unity and harmony stick with the plan at the upcoming Synod in a few months’ time, until all sides of the story are heard (as everyone’s opinion is important) and until there is a win/win outcome for everyone. I urge you all please DO NOT make any final decision to change anything if there is any **confusion or doubt** at all– we are looking for total **consensus** with everyone agreeing in the end (which is most definitely possible with the Lord!). This is NOT an issue for majority wins. If there is not a total consensus then we cannot **all** move forward together, into the future as one body to get on with our highest calling to “Go and make disciple of all nations...” Matthew 28:18-20, which is our TOP priority in the church. As I said earlier, there is no rush with God. Proverbs 19:2. If it can’t be resolved **easily** this year, please... for the sake of **peace, harmony and unity**, please just shelve it again until next time, so that you, as our Pastors can all report back to us in your congregations with more insight and information, so we can all pray, think and discuss it a bit more. I am sure that it is much better to have NO decision, than to have the WRONG one! I am convinced that a balance of patience and persistence is what is needed to get a God pleasing outcome with this issue, –which I am sure is what we all–as well as our God requires too. I am praying for God’s mighty protection against any wrong decision being made in haste! This is a huge responsibility for Pastors– which can’t be taken lightly, as a wrong decision could lead the LCA down the wrong track entirely– with serious consequences–which we will regret in the future, I am sure!

I strongly believe that we must proceed with **extreme** caution on this matter, so please stop now and think of all possible consequences and then be 100% certain that we are on the right track with God and following His lead before changing anything that has been in place since the **beginning of time**. We are at a fork in the road at the moment and surely we want to choose the right, God pleasing way rather than the wrong man pleasing one? We as members of the congregations of the LCA are looking for our Pastors to rise up and take a strong, mature and Godly lead with this and see that this issue is so important to the **unity of our church** that we cannot rush ahead of God, due to pressure from people or to get this sorted out in a hurry. We must **wait** for God before moving on with this, as it is a sin to run ahead of God, and miss the way completely! Prov. 19:2

Thank you and God bless you all.

From: *Lyn Wicks, a concerned Sister in the Lord*

June 30, 2015