

Women's Ordination

Have we considered this perspective?

To: Anyone who is interested,

Our God is a consistent God

With so much talk about whether the Lutheran Church should ordain women or not, I am writing to you with what I believe that God is saying to me about this subject at the moment.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” Hebs. 13:8. God alone created the world and so He alone knows how best to run it. He also knows how best to run the church, as it is Jesus’ (His Son) Body—His hands and feet here on earth. His Body (the invisible church) belongs to Him—to whom we must all give account. He is the Almighty and Sovereign God, so we must stand in awe of Him, and be obedient to Him—whether we understand it or not (Proverbs 3:5, 6) or whether we like it or not (Luke 9:57-62). We must trust Him—that He knows what He is doing and not try to play God and change things to suit ourselves! (Rev. 22: 18, 19)

In Genesis 2 we read that God the Father (He) created the Heaven and the earth. He created Adam (He) first, before He created Eve (she). He put Adam (He) in charge of all that He created, including head over Eve (she) (Genesis 3:16). God then ordained true, Godly Marriage in the Garden of Eden, between Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:24) and says that what God has joined together let no one separate (Matthew 19:4-6). In Ephesians 5, Col. 3:18, 19 and again in 1 Peter 3:1-7 God clearly sets out how best to run a Christian household, with the husband (He) being head over the wife (she) just as Christ (He) is head over the church—the Bride of Christ (she) and the Body of Christ, of which Jesus (He) is our Saviour. Wives (she) are to be subject to their husbands (he) as they (husbands) are to the Lord. Husbands are to treat their wives as Christ treated the church, and gave Himself for it. What wife wouldn’t want to submit to a husband like that?!

The invisible church is the Bride of Christ waiting patiently for the Bridegroom (Jesus—He) to come and take us home to live with Him forever (Rev 19:6-8). Jesus reigns supreme and is the Head over every power and authority (Matthew 28: 18; Col. 2:10), and must be obeyed. We cannot add to or take away anything that is written in the Holy Scriptures (Rev. 22:18-21)

“Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:21 KJV). God appointed *men* of God to write the 66 books of the Bible and chose and used *men* as Godly leaders (including His 12 disciples) throughout Bible history. Don’t get me wrong! God used women in a mighty way too throughout Bible history—such as Deborah the Judge, Queen Esther and Mary the mother of Jesus and many others—but **none** as Pastors/leaders of their synagogues or churches! Sin was also passed down from Adam (he) through the generations and Jesus, true God and His only Son (He) paid the ultimate price to reconcile us with our Heavenly Father.

Throughout the Bible, God called and gave *only* Godly men the huge responsibility of leadership in all sorts of area. Hundreds of men are named in the genealogy in 1 Chronicles chapters 1-9, and elsewhere, so it makes sense that He also calls *only* Godly Christian men to be Pastors of our visible churches these days, here on earth as well. The role of Pastor is the highest of Christian callings. Pastors are directly accountable to God for how they shepherd their flock and how they treat their wives and families, as well as the people that God has placed under them (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Jeremiah 23:1-4). There are severe consequences for those who disobey!

God loves us all dearly and equally as men and women, but He has made men and women very differently and with very different roles to play—in life in general and also in the church. Let's trust God 100% that He knows what's best and has our best interests at heart (Proverbs 3:5, 6). We don't need to be envious of others or try to do things that we are just not made by God to do! He has a special plan for each of us to fulfill our lives, if we just trust Him and seek His face about this.

God has made us as women, the *weaker* sex (1 Peter 3:7), so we must be treated with care and respect by our husbands and the Pastors who are in authority over us. God had given us women roles and gifts and abilities that complement that of men. God wants us to work together in unity and harmony together in our Godly Marriages and churches (Psalm 133; Ephesians 4), and for wives to be submissive to our Godly husbands and Pastors. He wants men to rise up and be the men that God created them to be and take their rightful authority in Christ, as Godly, Christian Pastors and leaders in our churches (and community) and learn how to cover the women (and men as well) in leadership under them appropriately, as Boaz did with Ruth (as in the book of Ruth Chap 1 to 4). Women are more easily deceived (as with Eve in the Garden of Eden), so we must be accountable to our Godly husbands or Pastors (or other Godly male leader) at all times. I believe that God has warned us that in the last days even the *elect* will be deceived (Matthew 24:24). We all must heed God's warning and stand firm on the truth of the Holy Scriptures, so as *not* to be deceived by the devil ourselves and consequently lead others astray as well.

Our God is also a God of order

1. Pray for our Pastors

Pastor means “shepherd” and is more the role of shepherding the flock rather than merely a title. This is a male role of authority and a huge responsibility. I am a woman in Christian Community Ministry and I believe that God is calling us all as women to first of all, pray for our Pastors and leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-6) and *not* try to usurp their God given authority (1 Tim. 2:12 KJV). We are not made for that highest responsibility of Pastor of a church. Let's just accept that and trust God with it and encourage the Godly male leaders that God has placed over us to be the true Godly leaders that God has created them to be! Let's follow the lead of Jesus, who prayed as in John 17: 1-26 and explained beautifully in the attached sermon by Pastor Lester Priebebenow. This is a great guide for praying earnestly for our Pastors in their high and responsible calling—as Jesus did. As I said earlier, each Pastor is directly accountable to God for what happens in his church and is responsible for those placed under Him. This is a huge responsibility and he needs all our prayers and support!

2. Pray for Women in Christian Leadership

Please pray for Godly women who have been called by God into Christian Ministry (other than Pastor) in the church, community and market place, especially those of us who have been hurt by Pastors and other Christian men, who mean well, but who have mowed over our feelings and have treated us badly, instead of treating us with care and understanding. This I believe, is a big part of the problem.

In conclusion

You may argue that this issue of **Women's Ordination** is a complex matter, with all views to be considered. Yes everyone does have the right to share their opinion. The way I see it is that the **Bible must be read as a whole** to get God's overall perspective, so that when situations such as this arise the answer is simple, straightforward and very clear. The facts are that our God is totally **consistent and orderly** and knows exactly what He is doing. He states our instructions clearly in the Bible, which have stood firm since He created the world. He is the one who has ordained that men should take a strong lead throughout Bible history (as I have outlined in this letter), so because of this I am absolutely and totally convinced that His intention cannot be misunderstood in this case, about who the church on earth should ordain as Pastors/Church Leaders either—and that is that He clearly instructs that men **only** are to be the ordained Pastors of our churches! It is the role of us women to trust God and support and encourage Godly men, who are called by God, to be the Pastors and leaders of our churches—to be the Godly **men** that He created them to be.

As Christians who love to follow Jesus we must learn to live in unity and harmony together as **men and women** (Psalm 133; Ephesians 4) and as brothers and sisters in the Lord and not let the devil get a foothold in our relationships with each other and in our churches. We must show true humility and see this from God's perspective (as stated clearly in the Bible) and *not* be divisive, but keep the unity amidst disagreement. We must show true Christian maturity and humility here and get this issue sorted out quickly—God's way, and be no longer distracted, so that we can move on together with the real work of the church that Jesus commanded us to do and that is to “Go and make disciples of all nations.....” (Matt 28:19, 20)—before it is too late! I have also attached a devotion reading, from “Every Day with Jesus” by Selwyn Hughes, which gives some sound advice for resolving difficult situations such as this. While we are wasting precious time in these “End Times” and continue to argue about this Women’s Ordination matter, people are calling out to us “Don’t you care that we are perishing?” How sad is that! The lost need to be saved NOW—before it is too late!

Resolution idea?

I am convinced that to get this issue resolved we need to look at things from a completely different, innovative and creative more positive perspective from now on. Let's concentrate on the **SOLUTION** and NOT on the **PROBLEM**! :

1. What **leadership roles men** can take in the church? and
2. What **leadership roles women can take in the church, instead of what ones they can't take?**.....

Pastors and other Christian men, please support and encourage us women to do well what God is calling us to do (within the guidelines of the Bible) and to be the women that God created us to be too! That way God will get all the Glory in all that we do and we will all fulfill the purpose that He has for each of us in our lives! I know that with God all things are possible and we (together) can do all things through Christ who strengthens us! I will keep praying that this will happen.

Thank you and God bless you all.

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

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