

The Dignity God Gives to Women

Grace Wheeler

Introduction

1. Challenge to Christians – *Conformed VS. Transformed* (Rom. 12:2).
2. God designed selfless gender-roles that complement each other, maximizing strengths and minimizing weaknesses (Gen. 3:16,17-20; 1 Pet. 3:7).
3. The world rejects God's plan for women in favor of a self-promoting agenda (as summarized in *Newsmax*, Nov 2009 issue, "The Newer Feminism").

I. It Is a Common Misperception That Women Are Debased and/or Obscured in God's Eyes Because of Eve's Sin. But a Closer Look at the TABERNACLE Reveals That Even in the O.T. God Pays Homage to the Rare Beauty and Value of a Wife Devoted to Her Husband.

- A. God described in explicit detail how the tabernacle was to be constructed and adorned (Ex. 26:31). Compare to God's prescription for woman's BEAUTIFICATION (1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:3-4).
- B. Access to the tabernacle was highly restricted (Ex. 40:8); the recipe for anointing oil and smelling of incense was off-limits to all but God (Ex. 30:22-33, 34-38). Women are to be DISCREET/CHASTE (Tit. 2:5).
- C. The tabernacle was stationary except when God moved (Ex. 40:36-37). Women are to be KEEPERS AT HOME (Tit. 2:5).
 1. Dinah was going "to town" when tragedy struck.
 2. Compare to Ruth's stated desires (Gen. 34:1; Ruth 1:16-17).
 3. "...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (Jas. 4:4).
- D. God dwelt behind the veils of the tabernacle whenever He so desired and all others were excluded (Ex. 40:34-35; Lev. 20:2-3). A wife is to be in submission (AVAILABLE) to her own husband (1 Pet. 3:1).
 1. Regarding the veil (Gen. 24:65; 29:23-25; 38:14-15; 1 Cor. 11:15)
 2. Regarding submission (1 Pet. 3:7; 1 Cor. 7:3-5)
- E. Beware: the tabernacle is destroyed when defiled (2 Chron. 36:19; John 2:19; 2 Cor. 5:21). A wife must be FAITHFUL or suffer the consequences; for she is bound to her husband as long as he lives (Rom. 7:2-3).

II. In the New Testament, a "Bride Adorned for Her Husband" Is the Analogy God Chose to Represent the GLORIOUS CHURCH of Christ (Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 21:2-3). What an Honor Bestowed on Us! But That Honor Is Not Without Its Requirements.

- A. As Adam (Gen. 3:19), Christian men remain obligated to provide (1 Tim. 5:8).
- B. As Eve (Gen. 3:16), Christian women remain obligated to husbands and children (1 Tim. 3:14). Even a destitute woman is not to be fed routinely by the church UNLESS she is a **widow, age 60+, raised children, lodged strangers, washed saints' feet, relieved afflicted and diligently follow every good work** [as Mary...not Martha] (1 Tim. 5:9-10).
- C. Beware: "*For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ*" (2 Cor. 11:2-3). Satan would have us believe that the "equal-opportunity" tree is what we need...but he lies (1 Tim. 2:11-15).

Conclusion

1. By following God's BEAUTIFUL pattern/design for her life, a woman will teach others without speaking a word (1 Pet. 3:1-2), be saved in child bearing (1 Tim. 2:15), be remembered for her kind deeds and help the church to grow (Acts 9:36-42).