

# **NO APOLOGIES**

**A Biblical Teaching  
on Godly Womanhood**



**Joseph Herrin**

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By Joseph Herrin

## **No Apologies, A Biblical Teaching on Godly Womanhood**

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## **Chapter Index**

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Jezebel and Idolatry](#)

[Jezebel and Sensuality](#)

[Jezebel and Masculinity](#)

[Casting Down Jezebel](#)

[Dissolving the Marriage Partnership](#)

[The Worth of a Woman](#)

[Keepers at Home](#)

[Labor Outside the Home](#)

## Foreword

A word of explanation is necessary at the start of this book. In this work you will find this writer using names in reference to God the Father and God the Son that are more faithful to their Hebrew original than the names and titles generally in use by the church today. The name Yah, or Yahweh, will be found in reference to God the Father, and the name Yahshua will be utilized when speaking of the Son.

This usage is not intended to be divisive, nor does it serve as a renunciation of the usage of titles such as Lord or God. Neither is it a condemnation of those who choose to call the Son of God Jesus. My intent as a teacher of the Bible is simply to illumine and instruct. There is great meaning in the Hebrew names of the Father and the Son, and these names are directly related to one another, as well as bearing many significant relationships to other historic figures from the Bible, some of whom serves as types and shadows of the Son of God.

For example, Joshua, the Israelite leader who led the people of God across the Jordan and into battle to take possession of the land of Canaan bears the same name as the Messiah. They both were called Yahshua. The Son of God also began His ministry at the Jordan River as He was baptized by John. Both men labored to establish a kingdom dedicated to Yahweh, the first external and natural, the latter internal and spiritual.

Yah is the name used in reference to the Father on forty-nine separate occasions in the Old Testament. Most Christians have utilized this name of God without knowing that they were doing so. Whenever the word hallelujah is uttered, the speaker is literally exclaiming "Praise Yah," for this is the meaning of the Hebrew word from which it is derived. The longer name Yahweh is found an additional 6,828 times.

The name of the Son is likewise significant, for Yahshua is understood to mean "Yah's Salvation." The Gospel writer indicates that this is the meaning of the name given to the Savior at His birth.

Matthew 1:21

"And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Yahshua, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."

It has been the practice of this writer for many years to use these names, which more clearly represent their Hebrew originals. It is my hope that their employment in this book might aid the reader by bringing forth light on relationships that are obscured, as well as promoting an increased intimacy with God the Father by calling Him by His memorial name, instead of a title which men have substituted.



# Introduction

You may wonder why I chose *No Apologies* as the title of this book. During my entire adult life I have been made to feel as if I must apologize for teaching a Biblical view of womanhood. What God has to say to women is highly unpopular today. Yahweh's instructions to wives, and all women in the church, flies in the face of political correctness and current societal norms. The Biblical definition of a godly woman is offensive to the fallen human nature. God's instructions to women in both the Old and New Testaments are viewed as backward, chauvinistic, and the undesirable offscouring of an ancient patriarchal society.

Having served as a Bible teacher for many years, whenever I have taught on this subject I have felt as if I needed to justify doing so. My approach has been one of much timidity, fearing the backlash that I expected to come, and it has come time and time again. I was like a man who had been injured by an exploding object he had been working on. Forever after he would approach similar objects with timidity, inching forward, reaching hesitantly to touch them, fearing lest he should experience an explosion once again.

It is impossible to fulfill God's call on my life to teach faithfully the truths of His kingdom if I am afraid of the reaction with which I will be met. I am reminded of Paul's words of exhortation to Timothy.

II Timothy 1:6-8

For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...

Christ has appointed me to be a teacher to the body of Christ, to women as well as to men. There is much in the testimony of Christ that offends, but I will not be ashamed of His words. I will own them, proclaim them, defend them, and I will make no apologies for teaching Christ's counsel on this, or any other topic. Those women who desire to know the mind of Christ deserve no less than the complete truth.

My aim is to be bold, but not brassy, courageous but not crass. The goal before me is to speak the truth in love. I wish to avoid a watered down truth. I would resist the temptation to embellish, or to diminish, the counsel of God; eschewing all pressure to make truth more palatable by altering, or removing, that which offends.

Many were offended by Christ's words spoken in the days of His earthly ministry. The Son of God did not change His message to make it agreeable to the heart of sinful and selfish men and women. On one occasion when great multitudes were following Christ He spoke a very difficult word. Many were offended. Most deserted Him. Even among His disciples a large number left and would follow Yahshua no more.

John 6:60-63

Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can receive it?" When Yahshua knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you? What then if you should see the

Son of Man ascend where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”

God’s ways are not man’s ways. That which mankind esteems is detestable in the sight of God (Luke 16:15). The opposite is also true. That which Yahweh esteems is detestable in the sight of man. Should I then apologize for teaching accurately the things of God because they offend? Christ did not. The Son of God was not timid in proclaiming the mind of the Father. Neither must His appointed ministers be.

Philippians 1:27-28

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ..., in no way alarmed by your opponents...

At the same time, I would be humble in setting before you the truth. I recognize my own weakness. There are things Christ speaks that are uncomfortable to **my** soul. Christ’s testimony to me requires the crucifixion of my own flesh. I can only take up the cross after having crushed my soul with its passions and desires. This is accomplished with great difficulty. I know the battle. I would show empathy, and manifest patience, toward others who struggle.

On the cover of this book you will find the image of a hand extended as if to offer the word of God to others. This is what I seek to do here. The Scriptures contain many admonitions for women in the church. Following is an example.

I Corinthians 14:34-38

The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church. Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only? If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment. But if anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.

Paul’s words appear a little testy. He speaks in a harsher tone than I would normally choose in my communications. Yet, I am persuaded that Paul did so for a purpose, and that his words and attitude were approved by God. They have been included in the Bible. Peter in another place calls Paul’s words “Scriptures.”

II Peter 3:15-16

Our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

Paul was gentle when gentleness was all that was needed to persuade the people of God of the counsel of Christ. Yet, when there was stubbornness and opposition, Paul wrote with greater force and emphasis. The subject of women’s roles and proper conduct among the body of Christ has always been one that has elicited protests. The spirit of Jezebel has

found a home in the church (Revelation 2:20). When Paul encountered this spirit he dealt with it forcefully. Like Jehu in the Old Testament, he did not bandy words with Jezebel. He simply commanded that she be cast down.

The apostle Paul has had more than a few detractors over the years, and they continue to this day. Many decry him as a misogynist, a hater of women. This is an unjust judgment. Paul was zealous for the truth. Paul had equally harsh words for men who were rebellious and obstinate. This did not make him a man-hater. He labored to see carnal men and women transformed into spiritual beings. This transformation requires hard labor, more than a little suffering, and a willingness to sink lower. We must decrease that Christ might increase in us.

Many reject the suffering of the cross wherever they encounter it. If they cannot distort the message of Scripture to make it less painful to the human nature, they will instead attack the messenger. The faithful Bible teacher has three possible responses: He can be intimidated, and retreat into silence; He can change the message to conform to the desires of carnal men and women; or he can face those in opposition to the truth with boldness and courage. The latter was Paul's response. He gave no apologies for speaking Christ's commandments, even when carnal men and women opposed them. After giving instructions for the conduct of women in the church, Paul says:

I Corinthians 11:16

But if one is inclined to be contentious, we have no other practice, nor have the churches of God.

In other words, the contentious can object all they want, but there is no other practice that the apostles of Christ have delivered to the churches of God. Paul would offer no concession to those who found the counsel of Christ disagreeable. Take it, or leave it.

I do not wish to appear crass, for I do care very much whether a woman accepts the counsel of Christ, or rejects it. There is a tremendous amount at stake. I would do all in my power to persuade my sisters in Christ to embrace the afflicted path that leads to life. Regarding this path Christ said, "Few there are who find it." The path to life is the low road. It is the path of servitude, of humility, of voluntary suffering, requiring the exercise of much patience and self-control.

To teach the truth to my sisters in Christ I must lead them to the cross. It is not the cross Christ bore that I refer to, but the cross Christ invites His disciples to bear.

Luke 14:27

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

On the cover of this book, there is a cross on the Bible in the hand of the man. I know what I am offering to my sisters in Christ will require them to bear the cross. It is because Christ's instructions require a woman to die to the desires of her soul that these words offend. The cross is an affront to mankind. The fleshly nature does not want to die. To the mind of the natural man the preaching of the cross is folly.

I Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.



Many have judged the teaching presented here to be “foolishness.” To the majority this book will reek of the stench of death. Yet, a remnant will perceive in this teaching the aroma of life. The latter understand the necessity of dying to self, they recognize that humility always precedes honor. These few will find wisdom and life in what is set forth.

II Corinthians 2:15-17

For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things? For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

Paul was not trying to sell people anything. He offered them the truth. Some were of the opinion that his message had in it the stench of death. In today’s vernacular some would say that “It stinks!” I do not refute this opinion, nor do I believe Paul would do so. There is truly in God’s counsel to women the smell of death. The Adamic nature must die. Some see only this experience, and being carnal they refuse to die. They do not look beyond death to that resurrection life that awaits those who embrace the cross. There can be no resurrection without a death first. The woman who refuses to die to her own will and desires will not enter into that resurrection life found in Christ.

So here, in a straightforward and unapologetic manner, I set forth before you the counsel of God recorded in the Scriptures for all women who aspire to godliness. I invite you to be courageous, and humble, in examining the message before you. It will require courage to walk contrary to the ways of a dark and sinful world. It will also require much humility, that much despised and maligned virtue that finds great favor in the eyes of God. Do not be afraid of what you will encounter here. Perfect love casts out all fear.



## Jezebel and Idolatry

Writing about Jezebel may seem an odd way to begin a book on godly womanhood. In Jezebel is seen the antithesis of everything that Yahweh finds praiseworthy in a woman. Yahweh has chosen to teach us much through contrasts. He sets before His daughters the lives of the godly, as well as the ungodly. Sarah's life and attitude is set forth as an example of a godly woman.

I Peter 3:5-6

For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

Yahweh has similarly provided the details of the life and attitudes of Jezebel in the Scriptures that all might understand what is odious and detestable to Him. Among women, there is no name so reviled and full of divine reproach as Jezebel. In this chapter I want to set forth before you Jezebel's relationship to idolatry, which Yahweh hates. In subsequent chapters we will look at other matters of great importance as the life of Jezebel is further reviewed.

The Scriptures reveal that one reason Jezebel received divine reproach, resulting in severe judgment, is that she embraced and promoted idolatry. Before you determine that you could not, or are not doing the same thing, I encourage you to consider carefully that which follows.

In the book of Revelation we find Christ pronouncing judgment upon the spirit of Jezebel that has infected the church.

Revelation 2:20-23

"I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and ***she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.*** I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds."

The book of Revelation is a book of parables. Truth is communicated through types, symbols, and signs. Christ is not speaking of an individual by the name of Jezebel that attended a certain church. The reference to Jezebel is to be understood spiritually. There was a spirit tolerated among the church that bore great similarity to the woman named Jezebel in the Old Testament. At this time, I would specifically focus upon Jezebel's promotion of idolatry and its practices.

Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians. As you might guess by

Ethbaal's name, the people of Sidon were Baal worshipers. The first of the ten commandments condemns the worship of Baal, or any other false deity.

Deuteronomy 5:6-9

"I am Yahweh your God... You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God..."

Jezebel was a citizen of an idolatrous nation. She was also an ardent promoter of this idolatry. When Ahab, the king of Israel, took Jezebel to be his wife, she immediately induced the king to embrace the worship of false deities.

I Kings 16:31-33

[Ahab] married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went to serve Baal and worshiped him. So he erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal which he built in Samaria. Ahab also made the Asherah. Thus Ahab did more to provoke Yahweh God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

I Kings 21:25-26

Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of Yahweh, because Jezebel his wife incited him. He acted very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom Yahweh cast out before the sons of Israel.

Alongside Baal, the Sidonians worshiped Asherah. Asherah was a fertility goddess. The following historical information is provided that you might be able to discern the continuation of the Jezebel spirit in the church today, and thereby separate yourself from all that Yahweh detests.

Jezebel induced her husband Ahab, king of the ten northern tribes of Israel, to embrace the worship of Baal and Asherah. As Ahab embraced this idolatry, the citizens under his rule followed. The vast majority of the nation entered into idolatry, but Yahweh reserved a remnant unto Himself.

Romans 11:2-5

Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, "Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"? But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

The passage just cited is written in the New Testament, yet it is referring to events in the Old Testament. The apostle Paul is revealing that the same spirit that was at work among the natural people of Israel in the days of the kings is still at work today in the church age. In a parallel truth, Yahweh is still at work to reserve a remnant unto Himself who have separated themselves from the rampant idolatry embraced by His people. In the

days of Ahab and Jezebel, only seven thousand men could be found among the entire populace who had not embraced Baal and Asherah. Similarly, there is a remnant among the body of Christ today who have separated themselves from idols.

I John 5:21

Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

Jezebel spread idolatry throughout the land of Israel. The spirit of Jezebel continues to spread idolatry among the body of Christ. Alexander Hislop in the book *The Two Babylons* does an excellent job of tracing the proliferation of idolatrous practices among the nations back to ancient Babylon (Babel), which Nimrod founded.

Genesis 10:10-12

The beginning of [Nimrod's] kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

At Babel, the "Mystery Religions" originated. When God came down and visited Babel and confused the people's languages, they spread throughout all the earth taking the idolatry introduced at Babel with them. Because their languages were now different, various names came to be associated with Baal and Asherah, which in their first origins were Nimrod and his wife (and mother) Semiramis.

Historical accounts, and religious traditions that have been preserved to this day, reveal a sordid tale of sexual immorality and idolatrous practices originating in Babel. That this is so should not be surprising. Nimrod was a descendant of Ham, one of the three sons of Noah. Ham and his descendants were cursed by Noah because Ham uncovered the nakedness of his father.

Genesis 9:20-25

Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. So he said, "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants he shall be to his brothers."

It was a disgraceful thing for a son to see the nakedness of his father. Rather, than covering his father, Ham went and broadcast his father's nakedness to others, demonstrating great dishonor. Ham had a son named Cush. According to tradition, Cush married a woman named Semiramis from whom was born Nimrod. When Cush died, Nimrod took his mother to be his wife. Thus, like his grandfather before him, Nimrod dishonored his father by uncovering his nakedness.

Leviticus 18:7-8

"You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, that is, the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother; you are not to uncover her nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness."

Nimrod founded Babel, the beginning of his kingdom, and it was there that the mystery religions were birthed. Nimrod was figured as the sun, and Semiramis as the moon. Together, they became the deities of the people. History reveals that ancient kings often perpetuated the myth that they were divine. In Egypt, the Pharaoh was worshiped as god, and in Babel Nimrod was Baal (meaning "Lord") and Semiramis was figured as the goddess of fertility, the mother of all.

As the people of Babel scattered across the face of the earth, they took their idolatrous practices with them. The names changed, for the languages had been confused by God, but their rites and practices continued. Semiramis became known by many names. In the Bible she is called Asherah, Ashtoreth and Astarte, as well as the moon goddess. Nimrod, as Baal, also became known by a great many names.

Nimrod was eventually slain. After Nimrod died, Semiramis became pregnant. Nimrod had been dead a sufficient time that the child could not be his, and Semiramis had no other husband. To continue the mythos of her divinity, Semiramis claimed that she had become pregnant by the rays of the sun god (Nimrod ascended). The child born was named Tammuz. He too is mentioned in Scriptures as one of the false deities whose worship was introduced to Israel, provoking the wrath of Yahweh.

Ezekiel 8:14-15

Then He brought me to the entrance of the gate of Yahweh's house which was toward the north; and behold, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz. He said to me, "Do you see this, son of man? Yet you will see still greater abominations than these."

Weeping for Tammuz continues to this day among those who call themselves Christians. The forty days of Lent that lead up to Easter are a continuation of this idolatrous practice. The days of Lent are considered days of mourning. They are observed with fasting, and also putting ashes on the forehead. Tammuz, like his father before him (he was claimed to be Nimrod reborn) was a great hunter. One day while hunting, a wild boar gashed him across his thigh and Tammuz bled to death from the injury.



**Ancient Statue of Tammuz Dying - Note Gash on Thigh**

Christmas and Easter are both traceable back to ancient Babylon. This worship of the fertility goddess, and her son, who is figured as her husband reborn, is found throughout the nations of the earth.

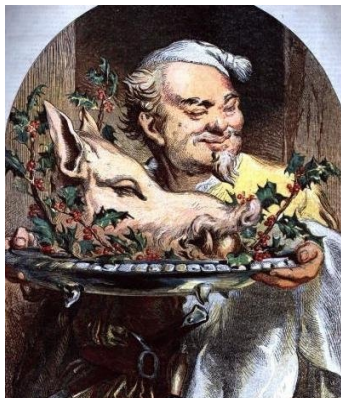


### Images of Semiramis and Tammuz Among the Nations

(From top left, and continuing clockwise are pictured Semiramis and Tammuz from Babylon; Devka and her son Krishna from India; Isi and the infant Iswara from India; the many breasted goddess Diana from Ephesus; the Roman Catholic Mary and infant Jesus; and the Egyptian goddess Isis and her son Horus)

What all of these images hold in common is an elevation of the woman to a place of worship; to a position that is ultimately higher than the man. The man is always pictured as a child, subordinate to her. Even as there is a holy trinity in the Bible consisting of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Satan has offered a counterfeit trinity. Its original members were named Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz.

Because Tammuz was slain by a boar, a boar was traditionally slaughtered on high holy days associated with the worship of this Babylonian trinity. The tradition continues to this day as ham is eaten at both Christmas and Easter.



No one should mistake the eating of swine's flesh for a symbol of the birth, or of the death and resurrection of the Messiah. Swine were declared unclean in the Law of Moses. The Messiah is figured as the **Lamb** of God slain for the sins of the world. On Passover, Yahweh instructed His people to eat lamb, but the church today celebrates Easter by eating ham. (It seems oddly prophetic that all these things began by **Ham** uncovering the nakedness of his father.)

I mentioned previously, that Easter NEVER falls on the same day as Passover. The Roman Catholic Church made certain of this. The date of Easter is based upon the phase of the moon, and the position of the sun. It falls on a SUNday, the day the Roman Emperors set aside for the worship of the sun. Baal is figured as the sun god, and Tammuz is supposedly Nimrod reborn. Those who worshiped the sun, and the deities associated with it, made certain that their high days of worship fell on the day of the week devoted to the sun. Yahweh warned the Israelites against worshiping the heavenly bodies, or associating them with deities to be honored.

Deuteronomy 4:19

"And beware not to lift up your eyes to heaven and see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, and be drawn away and worship them and serve them..."

The date of Christmas, like Easter is determined by the position of the sun, being observed at the winter solstice as the sun passes through the shortest day of the year (the day of least sunlight) and begins to ascend once more to rule the heavens. The Bible does not state specifically when Christ was born, but many Bible scholars have concluded that it was most likely during the time of the fall feast established by Yahweh, which is commonly called the Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkot. I find much merit in this view. What is certain is that the early church did not hold any celebration during the winter solstice, but the pagan worshipers throughout the Roman Empire had been doing so for centuries. (Some might argue that the Jews celebrated Hanukkah around the time of the winter solstice, but neither Christ, nor the apostles gave commandment to the church to observe this date; Neither is Hanukkah among the feast days (moedim) established by Yahweh in the Old Testament.)

The Emperor Constantine was a sun worshiper. At the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., he presided over a gathering of hundreds of bishops from the Roman church. This council established dictates by which the church should operate. The council codified the practice of SUNday worship, and forbade worship on the Jewish Sabbath. It also established formulas for determining when Easter should be observed, forbidding the use of any Jewish influence in the matter. Constantine and the Roman Catholic Church adopted idolatrous practices and beliefs while rejecting the appointed times (moedim) that Yahweh had delivered through the hands of His holy prophets. Referring to the date of Easter celebrations, the Council of Nicaea stated:

"At the council we also considered the issue of our holiest day, Easter, and it was determined by common consent that everyone, everywhere should celebrate it on one and the same day. For what can be more appropriate, or what more solemn, than that this feast from which we have received the hope of immortality, should be kept by all without variation, using the same order and a clear arrangement? And in the first place, it seemed very unworthy for us to keep this most sacred feast following

the custom of the Jews, a people who have soiled their hands in a most terrible outrage, and have thus polluted their souls, and are now deservedly blind. Since we have cast aside their way of calculating the date of the festival, we can ensure that future generations can celebrate this observance at the more accurate time which we have kept from the first day of the passion until the present time...."  
[Emperor Constantine I - Following the Council of Nicaea]

With these words, the Roman Catholic Church rejected the Biblical observance of Passover, the date on which Christ was crucified, and adopted the pagan observance of Easter. Thus the holy was replaced by the profane, and the body of Christ was induced to eat foods sacrificed to idols.

Revelation 2:20-21

"I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and ***she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they*** commit acts of immorality and ***eat things sacrificed to idols***.

Remember, the words of Revelation are spiritual words. Even though there is a very real sense in which the people of God eat physical foods in honor of false deities through imbibing Christmas and Easter ham, Easter eggs, hot crossed buns, and various associated treats, it is the spiritual substance of these words that is most important. Eating things sacrificed to idols is a spiritual reference to the church feeding on doctrines of demons.

Hebrews 13:9-10

Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

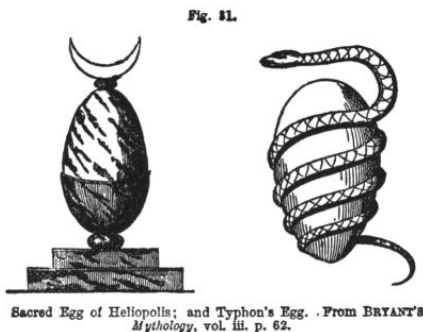
Observe in these words how the phrases "various and strange doctrines" and "foods which have not profited" are used in parallel to one another. The church feeds itself on doctrines. The Jezebel spirit teaches and leads the bond-servants of Christ astray so that they eat things devoted to idols. The church observes dates and practices that formerly were associated with the worship of Baal and Asherah.

The mystery religions teach that Semiramis was immaculately conceived, being lowered from the heavens to the earth in a giant egg. This egg came to rest in the waters of the Euphrates river. Eggs are symbols of fertility, and as Semiramis was a fertility goddess the symbol of the egg became thoroughly associated with her worship. Those who knew Semiramis under the name of Ishtar spoke of Ishtar's egg, from which we get our current Easter egg.





## Mystic Egg of Astarte



## Sacred Egg of Heliopolis and Typhon's Egg

Heliopolis is a city of Egypt. Its name means “City of the Sun.” Semiramis was known there by the name Isis. Semiramis was a moon goddess, and therefore we see an image of the moon atop her sacred egg. A vast amount of additional information could be provided to further establish the association of Christmas and Easter with the worship of Baal and Asherah. To do so is beyond the scope of this book. One need only ask themselves where did all of these symbols, and practices arise?

Why do we not find in the Scriptures any mention of Christ's disciples, or the early church observing Christmas celebrations? Why do we not find the apostles teaching along with the traditions of the church the giving of gifts on December 25<sup>th</sup>, or bringing decorated trees into the home? Why is there no admonition in the New Testament to celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of Christ with Easter Eggs, bunny rabbits, baskets of straw and flowers, SUNrise services, or ornamental bonnets? It is because all of these things find their source in the worship of Baal and Asherah, which the church has now almost universally adopted. Nevertheless, Yahweh has reserved unto Himself a remnant who will not bow the knee to Baal.

My purposes in sharing these things are several. First, I would have you to see the pervasiveness of the Jezebel spirit. Second, I would have you understand its attraction. Third, I would have you see how it enters the church, and how its influence is spread.

The most commonly identified characteristic of the Jezebel spirit today is observed in a woman who will not submit to man, who seeks rather to usurp authority over man. This is truly a characteristic of the Jezebel spirit, but if I were to ask most Christians how widespread this spirit is in the church a great many would say it is rare. They might point to a few extreme examples, such as women seeking to be ordained as ministers. Few

actually realize how pervasive the Jezebel spirit is.

By looking at the promotion of idolatry, and specifically those practices associated with Baal and Asherah, it is possible to discern more accurately the influence of this spirit. If I were to ask you how many churches celebrate Christmas and Easter, it becomes obvious that the influence of the Jezebel spirit is much greater than most have understood. Rare is the voice today that will declare the uncleanness of these practices. Can you imagine the response in most congregations today if the minister would preach from the pulpit the truth of these things? Jezebel's influence has slain, or forced into hiding, the true prophets of Yahweh. As was the condition of Israel in the days of king Ahab and his wicked queen, so too is the condition of the church today. The majority have bowed to Baal.

Such success in leading the people of God into idolatry was achievable because it appealed to the desires of the natural man. Is there not in the celebration of Christmas and Easter that which is very attractive to the soul? Do not even the lost members of society, those with no profession of faith in Christ, enjoy these celebrations?

Christmastime has become a period when the world goes mad with a lust for consumer goods. It is a time when the love of the world, and the things in it, reaches its highest peak of the year. Merchants count on an orgy of consumer spending at Christmastime to achieve profitability. They can count on people everywhere spending inordinate amounts of money on every imaginable product. The church under the influence of Jezebel drives this process, for they have claimed Christmas to be a Christian holiday. Even as Jezebel induced Israel to adopt the idols of Sidon, she has led the church to adopt the idols of this fallen world system. The saints of God are feeding on the doctrines of demons.

Let me interject at this time, a definition of idolatry. You do not have to bow before a statue, or make a sacrifice to a false deity, or pray to a god other than Yahweh to be an idolater. Idolatry is an issue of the heart. It is setting anything next to God that commands your devotion, love, or actions. The spirit that abounds at Christmas is a spirit of covetousness. The apostle Paul declares that the covetous man (or woman) is an idolater.

Ephesians 5:5

For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

The pervasiveness of this idolatry is undeniably extensive. Covetousness is the driving force behind the prosperity gospel that has replaced the preaching of the disciple's cross in this hour. The Jezebel spirit extends as far as those churches that have embraced Christmas and Easter, the rites and symbols of Baal and Asherah.

Consider now the great attraction of these things. I know of a few men who have become convicted of the error of mixing the holy and the profane, of merging the worship of Yahweh and His Christ with that of Babylonian mystery religions. When they have suggested to their wives and children that they must put away these things, some have encountered a firestorm of protest. Some men have backed down immediately. They feared their wives and children more than they feared God.

What if the man had said to his wife or children that they were no longer going to practice some Christian discipline that had formerly been their custom? Would there be a great protest, even threats of divorce? It seems unlikely. The rites introduced by Jezebel, however, appeal to the flesh. They satisfy the lusts of men and women. Those who act to

cast these things down must be prepared for resistance.

I have considered at length the testimony the Scriptures provide of Solomon's life. Here was a man who loved God, and who was greatly loved by Yahweh. Solomon also loved many women. Many of Solomon's wives were foreign women who were brought up in the worship of other gods. These women were accustomed to their annual celebrations, feast days, and rituals. They urged Solomon to let them continue to observe those things they had loved since childhood. What harm could it do to decorate a tree at the winter solstice, and give gifts to others? What was the real harm in painting and decorating eggs during the spring equinox, or letting the women dress up in special festive clothes and hats? What was wrong with baking cakes for the queen of heaven, or setting out offerings of food and drink for their deities? (This is where the practice of leaving out cookies and milk for Santa originated.) With such arguments the heart and mind of Solomon was won. He wanted to please his wives, and he brought the worship of the Baal, Asherah, and other deities to Jerusalem.

I Kings 11:4-8

For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to Yahweh his God, as the heart of David his father had been. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. Solomon did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh, and did not follow Yahweh fully, as David his father had done. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

Sisters in Christ, what is your influence upon your husbands and fathers? Would you encourage them to follow the idolatrous practices that have infiltrated the church as Solomon's wives urged him? Is there in you a heart of covetousness? Would you be content to abstain from Christmas and Easter celebrations when all around you are partaking of them? The Jezebel spirit does not always appear as an enemy. It can be very attractive. It will dress itself in whatever adornment that is most appealing in order to allure you. The Jezebel spirit appeals to the lusts within your own heart.

Are you willing to stand out from the crowd, and to walk alone? The seven thousand in Israel who were faithful to Yahweh had a very lonely walk. Few will surrender to be led of Christ out of Babylon that they might arrive at Zion.

Jeremiah 3:14

"Return, O faithless sons," declares Yahweh; "For I am a master to you, and I will take you one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion."

Observe a hidden mystery in these words. Jeremiah was speaking to a people who had fallen far into idolatry. Baal was worshiped widely. Baal is a Hebrew word that means "lord," or "master." The people of Israel worshiped a lord after the fashion they had adopted from the nations around them, but they were not worshiping the one, true Lord in holiness according to His commandments. If you read the above passage in the original Hebrew you will see that it states, "Return, O faithless sons... for I am a **Baal** to you."

There is more than one way to understand this statement. One understanding is that the people of Judah and Jerusalem had transformed the worship of Yahweh into the worship of Baal. They substituted the rites and doctrines of Baal worship for those of Yahweh, while still claiming to be followers of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Yahweh had become Baal. Has not the church done the same today as they claim to be following the God of the Bible and His Son Jesus Christ, Yahshua the Messiah, while all the time they are practicing pagan rites and have adopted teachings that appeal to the flesh?

The Jews claimed to worship Yahweh, but they did so according to practices adopted from Baal worship. The Jews went up to the Temple of Yahweh to worship, but they had built an altar for Baal alongside the altar of Yahweh. Their worship was actually Baal worship, but it took place in the house built for Yahweh. Do you see a parallel in the church today?

In external acts, have you adopted the rites and practices that originated with the worship of Baal and Asherah? Are you emotionally bound to the celebrations of Christmas and Easter? Internally, do you have idols in your heart? Do you covet the world and its goods? Are you under the influence of the spirit of Jezebel? Yahweh declares:

II Corinthians 6:15-18

What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? ***For you are the temple of the living God.*** As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty.

During the reign of Ahab and Jezebel, Yahweh sent a prophet named Elijah to the people. He demanded of them, "How long will you halt between two opinions. Choose you this day whom you will serve. If Baal is god, serve him. If Yahweh is God, then serve Him." Jezebel promotes mixture. She does not mind if you worship more than one god, but Yahweh does. He will have no other gods before Him, that is to say, He will have no other gods in His presence.

The spirit of Jezebel seeks to seduce every daughter of Christ. She is very successful, for few recognize her when she comes. She is a face painter. She will alter her appearance to make that which is detestable to God appear acceptable.

Few are those Christians who have even discerned the error of celebrating the resurrection of Christ on a day that bears the name of a pagan fertility goddess (Easter). Few have recognized the corruption of mixing Easter eggs, bunny rabbits, and Easter ham with the celebration of Christ's Passover. How then will they see Jezebel in their own hearts?



## Jezebel and Sensuality

It is fitting that a teaching on godly womanhood provide some instruction on the topic of a woman's dress and external appearance. The Bible has a significant amount to say on the subject. Some years ago I was led to meditate upon the following questions:

Seeing that Christ's disciples are described as "aliens and strangers" in this world, should not their outward appearance provide testimony that they are part of the Kingdom of God, and have been translated out of the kingdom of this world which lies in the power of the evil one? Knowing that Christ testified repeatedly that He never did anything of His own initiative, but that He always did the will of the Father, I wanted to know whether Yahweh has a specific desire for the appearance of His children.

Would walking by the Spirit lead a man, or woman, to dress differently, and to appear differently than those in the world around them? The world does not seek the mind of Christ in matters of dress and appearance, but the saints of God ought to do so. Is it not likely that those led by the Spirit of Christ, and those led by their souls under the influence of this fallen world system, would arrive at very recognizable differences?

At the time, I was primarily considering these things as they related to the man. Christians are not encouraged to ponder such things today. Most make their daily life decisions independently of the Holy Spirit. They dress as their parents taught them to do, or as their peers have influenced them to do. They are influenced by current fashion, advertising, and the media, but rarely consider whether God has an opinion in the matter. As I contemplated these things I became convinced that God did have a specific will regarding my outward dress and appearance.

In the Old Testament we find the following instructions in the Law.

Deuteronomy 22:5

A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to Yahweh your God.

The spirit behind this command seems to be that it is God's will that gender distinctions should be maintained between the dress of men and women. It is not the will of Yahweh that men make themselves appear effeminate, nor that women make themselves appear masculine. I considered my clothing, and felt confident that I was conforming to the spirit of God's commandment. No one had ever accused me of dressing like a woman, but what about other aspects of my appearance?

The Bible also has somewhat to say about a man's hair.

I Corinthians 11:14-15

Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her?

Oftentimes today one sees depictions of Christ that portray him as having long hair

and a short beard. This is actually a reversal from the truth. Paul was speaking just a short time after Yahshua's earthly ministry. Writing by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Paul declares that it is a dishonorable thing for a man to have long hair. The Scriptures also reveal that Christ had a substantial beard, for at His arrest the Roman soldiers were pulling it out by the handfuls.

Isaiah 50:6

I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard...

One cannot easily pluck out a man's beard unless it has some length to it. The trendy five o'clock shadow beards of today are not typical of those worn by the Jews in the time of Christ. I gave considerable thought to this matter, and eventually wrote an article titled *The Significance of the Beard*. Following is an excerpt:

The Hebrew word for beard is zaqan (zaw-kawn'). We are told in *Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* that zaqan comes from the related word zaqen (zaw-kane'), which is a primitive root meaning *to be old*. The correlation to this second word for age is so clear that *Strong's Dictionary* defines the Hebrew word zaqan as "the beard (as indicating age)."

To the Hebrew mind the beard was a symbol of maturity. This was not a cultural viewpoint, rather it was an understanding of God's design in placing a beard on mature males. A boy cannot grow a beard. A boy is one who is not mature. When a young male passes through the time in his life defined as puberty some distinct outward signs accompany this advancement to maturity. The voice takes on a deeper timber, it becomes more commanding. Another obvious sign is the growth of body hair and, for a male who is modestly arrayed, the only part of this growth that is seen is that which is on the face.

*Webster's 1933 Dictionary* defines puberty in this way: "the age of maturity; manhood, adult; the time a plant comes into flower." Is not the beard of a man a sign of the flowering of his manhood? Even as the flower is the beauty and adornment of many plants, so is the beard the beauty and adornment of a man as he crosses the line of puberty and comes into the age of maturity.

God gave the beard to man for beauty and glory. Older men whose beards had turned grey were to be accorded special honor because the grey beard was a sign of advanced maturity. We find this understanding in the following verse.

Leviticus 19:32

Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.  
(KJV)

The phrases "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head" and "and honour the face of the old man" are parallel expressions denoting the same truth. The hoary, or grey head, directly corresponds to the phrase "the face of the old man." The hoary head certainly could include the grey hair found on top of the head, but it most specifically refers to the grey hair of the face which is the beard...

To those who would say that the beard is just an external matter and it holds no real

value, I would ask “Why do you want to throw away that which God has ordained to cover the face of man?” Yahshua had a beard and we know that He only did what He saw the Father doing. Christ did not wear a beard because it was a social standard of the time. The only standard Yahshua conformed to was the standard of His Father. He did not see the Father cutting off the beard, so he did not cut off the beard... Furthermore, Yahshua said that He came to fulfill the Law and the Law has these commands concerning the beard:

Leviticus 19:27

“You shall not shave around the sides of your head, nor shall you disfigure the edges of your beard.”

Leviticus 21:1, 5

Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them... "They shall not make any baldness on their heads, nor shave off the sides of their beards.”

What is referred to in the preceding verses is the practice of Egypt where men wore a long goatee from the chin, but they shaved off the beard from the sides of the face. I concluded, that it was not Yahweh’s will that I wear a goatee. (I am a sheep, not a goatee.)

*Nelson’s Bible Dictionary* has this to say about the beard.

*In biblical times most adult males of Israel wore full beards... The Law of Moses required Israelite men not to "disfigure the edges" of their beards (Lev. 19:27), a common practice of Israel's pagan neighbors.*

*To shave or pull out part of the beard was a sign of grief (Jer. 48:37-38), and to cut off someone's beard was to insult him (2 Sam. 10:4-5). Isaiah 7:20 pictures God's judgment on Israel as a shaving of the nation's beard, an intentional disgrace.*

(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

In Isaiah God symbolically spoke of shaving off Israel’s beard as a sign of their disgrace.

Isaiah 7:20

In that day Yahweh will use a razor hired from beyond the River - the king of Assyria - to shave your head and the hair of your legs, and to take off your beards also.

To have the beard shaved off was a sign of great disgrace. This is shown in the story of King David’s ambassadors who were disgraced by the Ammonites by having their robes cut in two at the waist and having half of their beards cut off. David was so enraged that he declared war on the Ammonites and destroyed them. So deep was the shame of David’s ambassadors that David told them to not return to Jerusalem until their beards were grown back, but to stay in Jericho.

II Samuel 10:5

When they told it to David, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly humiliated. And the king said, "Stay at Jericho until your beards grow, and then

return."

Is it not a great delusion that has led men today to so carelessly cast off that which God designed to... distinguish men from boys and from women?  
[End Excerpt]

As I thought on these things, I considered that the man who cuts off the beard is altering his appearance to be like the woman. God created the adult woman to have a smooth, hairless face, while He caused hair to grow on the face of the adult male. I wanted to be a thoughtful Christian, giving heed to all of my ways. The decision to wear a beard, or to shave it off, should not be made according to the counsel of the world, a world which lies in the power of the evil one. I wanted my decision to be based upon the Spirit and the word.

My point is this, if we are being led of the Spirit, rather than being led by our souls and the counsel and patterns of a fallen world, we will think, act, and LOOK differently than many in the world. It has been nearly thirty years since I last did not wear a beard. Does it not reveal a blind spot in man's thoughts that many would not think of wearing women's clothing, but they shave the beard off without any consideration at all? Whether consciously, or not, they are altering their appearance to be like that of the woman. Where does the motive, or inspiration, come from that leads men to do this? I have talked to many men and none have told me that God directed them to cut off the beard, or that they read in the Scriptures that removing the beard is the will of God.

Is it not possible, that the same Jezebel spirit that seeks to elevate women, and to emasculate men, is the driving force behind this trend? Consider how much more distinct men and women would be in appearance today if men did not daily remove the beards God causes to grow on their faces. Is not something altered in the psyche of men and women when men go about smooth faced, and they do so deliberately by daily removing the beard by shaving? Many hidden spiritual truths are revealed through outward testimonies in this world.

Over the years, the most common reason I have heard men give for not wearing a beard is that their wife does not like them to have a beard. Sisters in Christ, if this is your influence toward your husband, let me suggest to you that there is a lot more behind your attitude than the fact that you find beards to be scratchy, or think your husband to be unattractive in one. There is a spirit in this world that ever seeks to confuse the genders, and to diminish the authority of the man. There is a spirit that pressures men and women to conform to the ways of Satan's kingdom, rather than the kingdom of God.

As a son of God, I want to conform to that image He has chosen for me. If all the world is doing one thing, but God is directing me to do something different, then I will appear like the alien and stranger that I truly am. I encourage my sisters in the Lord to seek out the mind of Christ to know what His will is for them regarding their dress and appearance. Is it not reasonable to conclude that the woman who is led by the Spirit of God will in many ways think, act, and LOOK differently from the women of this world? It is a privilege given to the body of Christ to be able to model before the world that which is pleasing to God.

Following are two passages from the New Testament in which Christ makes known His will regarding the dress and appearance of women in the church.

I Peter 3:3-5

Your adornment must not be external - braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry,



or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands...

I Timothy 2:9-10

Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

As I observe girls and women, young and old, in the church today, I see that the majority are giving much attention to external beauty and appearance, and very little thought to that beauty that God commends. The apostles are expressing the mind of Christ. In the eyes of Christ a woman's beauty arises from within, from "the hidden person of the heart." The woman who aspires to godliness will be beautifully arrayed as she clothes herself with a gentle and quiet spirit, with reverence and honor toward her husband, and with good works.

Many girls and women today are like the Pharisees whom Christ condemned. They are giving great attention to external appearances, but inwardly they are full of sin and corruption.

Matthew 23:27-28

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

Luke 11:39-41

"Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also?"

Yahweh searches the inner parts. He knows the thoughts of men and women. He judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). What are the thoughts and intentions that drive Christian women's fashion and appearance choices today? Are they not the same thoughts and intentions that motivate women in the world?

Let me phrase this question another way. What spirit is "inspiring" women in their decisions relating to dress and appearance? The word "inspire" literally means "to put spirit into." In the world, the spirit driving the women's fashion and beauty industries is the same spirit observed in Jezebel thousands of years ago.

II Kings 9:30

Then Jehu went to Jezreel. When Jezebel heard about it, she painted her eyes, arranged her hair and looked out of a window.

Jezebel was not a godly woman. Inwardly, her life had no beauty. The beauty of Jezebel was strictly external. She adorned her flesh, coiffed her hair, and painted her eyes. She put on expensive clothing, gold and jewels. Jezebel knew only one kind of adornment,

that of the outward, physical body. Tragically, many women in the church find inspiration in the same spirit that inspired Jezebel. This was true in the days of Peter and Paul. If it were not, they would have had no need to give the instructions they gave. In essence, they said, “Don’t let your adornment be like Jezebel’s. Let your beauty be that of your spiritual life.”

In the previous chapter we noted how rampant the spirit of Jezebel is by observing its relationship to Christmas and Easter, the worship rites of Baal and Asherah. Consider now how rampant this spirit is as its influence is seen in the attire and appearance of women in society and in the church.

Fashion magazines are among the most popular genre of periodicals sold today. Millions of women scour the pages of fashion magazines to get “inspired.” They want to find some new way to make themselves appear attractive, seductive, successful, or powerful. In America entire industries have arisen that are devoted to beauty care products, clothing fashions and accessories, hair care, jewelry, fingernail and toenail painting, achieving the perfect tan, body fragrances, etc.. In the present generation there has also arisen a tremendous commerce in body piercing, tattoos, and cosmetic surgical procedures such as breast augmentation, liposuction, Botox injections, face lifts, tummy tucks, and the list goes on and on. Every year in America, tens of billions of dollars are spent as women seek to make themselves outwardly beautiful, desirable, or impressive.

What spirit is behind this massive societal tsunami? It is not the Holy Spirit. Stand outside most churches on a Sunday as the congregation leaves the building and observe the sensual dress of the young girls and the adult women. Their plunging necklines, short dresses, tight pants, high heels, hosiery, hairdos, cosmetics, painted fingernails and toenails, perfume, ankle bracelets, earrings and other jewelry are all on display. Yet no one notices Jezebel’s presence. No one protests the emphasis placed upon that which is physical, sensual, and provocative.

A discerning appraisal of the practice of the majority of Christian women reveals that the beauty they seek to project is external, rather than internal. Purity, innocence, gentleness, humility, honor, and holiness are not the image most girls and women are seeking to convey. They want to appear desirable, or powerful, or sophisticated. Their dress, bodily array, and conduct are designed to elicit a response of admiration; to stir up sexual desire in others; to promote an air of worldly success and glamour.

Sisters in Christ, I ask you to consider what motivates you in your choice of dress and appearance? Have you searched the Scriptures, and prayed to the Father, to understand what His will is for you? Or did you make your choices independently of God? Is your appearance in conformity with this world, or do you walk as an alien and stranger in this land?

I have a lovely daughter who recently celebrated her 24<sup>th</sup> birthday. When Kristin was fourteen she experienced a spiritual awakening in this area of her life. She began to consider what Yahweh’s will was for her in the realm of dress and appearance. Formerly, Kristin had always been what some would describe as a tomboy. Her favorite fashions were camouflage shirts and pants, cowboy boots, and other fashions that are associated with masculinity.

When Kristin was fourteen, she became convicted as she studied the Scriptures that she needed to begin wearing a covering over her long blonde hair. Soon after this she also began wearing long skirts and dresses. Kristin has continued this practice to this day. She is very modest in her appearance, and she is careful not to provoke lustful thoughts in men by dressing sensually.

Kristin has on occasions asked me for counsel concerning clothing. One thing that is popular among young women today are t-shirts that have some image or message written right across the breast area. I have advised my daughter to be aware of the subtlety of Satan in such fashions. Even if the message or image is innocent, it draws the eyes to the breasts of a woman. Men don't need much encouragement in this area. A young girl, or woman is doing her brothers in Christ a disservice if she is by her dress and appearance causing them to have thoughts of a sexual nature stirred up inside them.

Kristin has many Mennonite friends, and they too dress modestly, and eschew jewelry, and elaborate hairdos. I cannot remember seeing any of them with their nails polished, or cosmetics on their faces, yet they glow with a different type of beauty. They have the beauty of purity and innocence.

There are a few denominations and groups like the Mennonites and Charity Churches that have chosen to array themselves in a manner that is altogether distinct from the sensual fashions of this world. Some refer to themselves as "plain people." Such a description is offensive to the woman who wants to appear worldly in order to have the admiration and respect of the world. To be "plain" is to be humble. Jezebel is not humble, but the woman whom God favors is.

I have had a fair amount of interaction with some of the women and young girls in these churches. One thing that has impressed me is that the beauty of the inner life is much more readily evident in these ones than in women from churches that dress according to the fashions of the world. I see a greater honor in the homes. The children are respectful and courteous. The women submit themselves to their husbands, and they are renowned for their good works.

Although there are exceptions, I have noted a contrast among those Christian women who dress in worldly fashions. The women are much more likely to be outspoken, to seek equality with their husbands. Rather than being keepers at home, they are often career women, and many are addicted to shopping and entertainment instead of being devoted to good works.

In effect, the women who focus on adorning the outside of the cup are more selfishly minded. Those women who have adopted plain attire while pursuing an inner beauty are more likely to exhibit a selfless attitude, focused on serving others.

The apostle Peter, while contrasting the carnal and the spiritual woman, declared that the beauty of the spiritual woman is "imperishable." No matter how much success a woman has in making herself outwardly attractive and desirable, she will soon find her beauty fading. The glow and vitality of a youthful body soon loses its luster. In contrast, the woman who has beauty of spirit finds that her attractiveness never grows old.

Surely my words and counsel on these things will strike many as alien. If so, then perhaps I have conveyed some of the difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world. Few ministers will speak forth these things today. Jezebel is renowned for slaying prophets and righteous men. Those she cannot destroy, she will drive into hiding.

I Kings 18:13

"Has it not been told to my master what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of Yahweh, that I hid a hundred prophets of Yahweh by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water?"

This brazen spirit cows the most courageous spiritual men, leaving them no spirit to fight.

I Kings 19:2-4

Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O Yahweh, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."

As many pastors and teachers today are cowed into fearful submission to this unclean spirit, the effect is observed throughout the church. The purity and innocence of the virgin bride of Christ has been lost. Christ is soon to return. It is time for His bride to make herself ready.



## Jezebel and Masculinity

The most commonly recognized attribute of Jezebel today is her spirit of usurpation. To usurp means “to take a position of power or authority illegally or by force.” In the Old Testament we read of Jezebel taking the authority of her husband, the king of Israel, to herself, and ruling in his place. In one of many sordid events recorded about the reign of Ahab and Jezebel, we find Jezebel engaging in lies, deception, perversion of justice, and murder, to wrest a vineyard from the hands of an Israelite that her husband might have it.

In the Biblical account, we find Jezebel chiding Ahab for not using his authority to gain what he desires. She then tells Ahab that she will deliver to him what he wants. She proceeds to do so by acting in his stead. Jezebel takes upon herself the authority of her husband, stepping into the role of ruler of her household, and sovereign of Israel.

I Kings 21:7-8

Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you now reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent letters to the elders and to the nobles who were living with Naboth in his city.

Thinking her husband was a bit of a Milquetoast, having no spine, Jezebel stepped in to do that which he would not. Such actions never strengthen a man. They have quite the opposite effect. A man learns to be compliant, while allowing his wife to manifest strength and project authority in his place. The Jezebel spirit unmans men, while taking to itself those masculine characteristics and roles that Yahweh gave to the male.

A revelatory detail emerges from an account at the end of Jezebel’s life. I have quoted this passage previously, but I want to draw your attention to the highlighted words at the end of this section of Scripture.

II Kings 9:30-32

And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and adorned her head, and looked out at a window. And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? Who? **And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs.**

Jezebel was surrounded by **eunuchs**, men who had been sexually emasculated. These were men who could no longer function as men. A eunuch is a castrated male. One of the visible signs that a man has been physically emasculated relates back to the previous chapter. Due to an absence of the male hormone testosterone, the eunuch is unable to grow facial hair. Eunuchs were often recognized by their smooth faces. In a society where men wore full beards, the eunuch was easily recognized by the absence of a beard.

Consider the passage above. When Jehu called up to the tower where Jezebel was, we are told “there looked out to him two or three eunuchs.” How was it known these were eunuchs, since only their faces would have been seen from the window? It was evident that

the men did not have beards, therefore they were identified readily as emasculated males, or eunuchs.

Woman was created to be man's helper, to be subordinate to the man. In the third chapter of Genesis God declares to the woman, "Your desire shall be toward your husband, and he shall rule over you." This is a declaration of Yahweh's governmental order. Paul states in I Corinthians chapter eleven, "Christ is the head of man, and man is the head of woman." Jezebel is in rebellion against this order. She does not want man to rule over her. She wants to rule over men. This is what Jezebel did. By acting in her husband's stead, writing letters in his name, and using his seal (the symbol of authority), commanding his elders and nobles, and by surrounding herself with emasculated males, she turned men into effeminate drones, compliant to her wishes, willing to serve her.

The woman who acts in this manner, seeking to command men, desiring them to fulfill her will and desires, will find that her actions bear many grievous results. Although Jezebel was successful in turning emasculated men into compliant servants, these men held no love in their hearts for her. When Jehu asked who was on his side, it was these emasculated men who showed their faces. They required no persuading to cast Jezebel down to her death. A deep resentment of what she had done to them made them eager to see her fall. It took a man who was not cowed by Jezebel, to embolden them to act, but act they did. They cast Jezebel down from the exalted position she had taken unto herself. Her body was dashed on the ground and trampled by horses.

A very revelatory experience was shared with me recently, and I believe God made it known to me at this time to give me insight into this subject that I have been led of the Spirit to write about. Many years ago, a sister in Christ married a man whom she had been dating for a couple of years. After they were wed, this man manifested no desire to be sexually intimate with her, though he did father one child with her. This man was ruled by his mother, and his mother hated the young woman he was married to. The mother sought to control everything he did, and told her son how to run his marriage.

This man was very compliant to his mother. He always did what she said, even to leaving his wife for periods of time, and taking their child with them, when his mother told him to do so. This man had no enmity toward his wife. He never acted as if he were personally angry with her. He was simply fulfilling the demands of his controlling mother.

One day, the young woman was told by a spiritual mentor about spirits that influence others to act certain ways. The mentor suggested that perhaps her husband's lack of desire toward her was due to the influence of an unclean spirit. Afterwards, this young woman began to pray for her husband. By the leading of the Holy Spirit she prayed "I rebuke you, you spirit of homosexuality." This woman's husband was in another room, and she was praying quietly so that her husband would not hear her. As she spoke these words, her husband burst through the door, picked her up, slammed her against the wall and said, "Why are you rebuking me? Why are you rebuking me?"

This man was cowed into letting his mother rule his life, and one unanticipated result was a lack of desire in this man's heart to be intimate with women. The offense caused by his mother's domineering actions opened him up to a spirit of homosexuality. Many women today who act to coerce, or control their husbands, find that their husbands have little desire to be sexually intimate with them. This result is unexpected for many women. They do not realize that in failing to show honor and respect to their husband, refusing to submit to their husband's headship, they are quenching the man's desire to be intimate with them.

Many men begin to look elsewhere for the honor and respect that their wives do not

provide. One of the reasons so many male bosses have affairs with their secretaries and the female employees under their authority, is that these employees are in the habit of showing deference and honor to them. They submit where the man's wife does not. The submissive woman appears very attractive to the man. A deep longing in the man's heart is fulfilled as her receives honor from a woman. A desire for further intimacy with the submissive woman at work, coupled with an absence of desire to be intimate with his wife, often leads to marital unfaithfulness.

When these things occur, most men and women fail to identify the forces that set things in motion. Wives do not realize they are quenching their husband's desire to be intimate with them when they are resisting his leadership. Consider, for a moment, the spiritual parable in these things. The Jezebel spirit which seeks to rule over men, emasculates them. A physical eunuch loses desire for sexual intimacy with a woman. So too does the male whose wife manifests the spirit of Jezebel lose desire to be intimate with her, both physically and at deeper levels of the soul and spirit. The woman might be successful in getting her husband to bend to her will, but he will not love her for having done so.

Women, if you want your husbands to desire intimacy with you, then don't emasculate them by resisting their headship and authority. A man need not consciously reason, "My wife does not honor me as a man and the leader of my home, so I am going to hold myself aloof from her." Without giving it any conscious thought, or realizing why it is occurring, the man will find his desire to be intimate with a shrewish wife to have diminished, or to have fled altogether.

In many marriages, the woman sensing that her husband's desire is waning will seek to stimulate his desire through sexual enticement. The wife may begin wearing sexually alluring clothes, things purchased from Victoria's Secret, or some other venue that encourages women to dress themselves as sexual temptresses. Women are often successful in stirring up sexual desire in their husbands through such means, but this should not be misconstrued as the man desiring to be intimate with his wife. Many men will have sexual relations with their wives even as they are envisioning in their minds some other woman whom they imagine to be submissive and manifesting honor to them.

The Scriptures reveal that the needs of a man differ from those of a woman. Women need men to love them, but men need women to honor them.

Ephesians 5:33

Each individual among you is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she honors her husband.

There is an observable relationship between a woman who seeks to usurp authority over men, and the woman dressing provocatively. Jezebel exhibited both of these traits. They go hand in glove. Man has an inner need to be honored by the woman. He will find a natural repulsion in his soul to the woman who seeks to rule him. The soul of man interprets the resistance of the woman to his leadership as dishonor. Consequently, the woman has to overcome this resistance by enticing the man to desire her through an even stronger sexual desire. The woman begins to dress, speak, and act in a manner that incites the man to lust after her. The woman may succeed in stirring up sexual desire in the man, but she has not caused him to love her. The attraction is shallow, and superficial. The man is not attracted to the beauty of the woman's inner life. She has become a physical body to fulfill his sexual desire. She has not become his soul-mate.

As one looks at society today, it is evident that this is the pattern being played out almost universally. Women have become adept at enticing men through external dress and adornment. Adultery and fornication is rampant. Yet there is a corresponding decrease of true intimacy and commitment among sexual partners. Many are falling into a pattern of sexual engagement that is devoid of any spiritual intimacy, or commitment to one another. The person may not know, or even like the person with whom they are being sexually active. It seems a small thing to leave one partner behind, and go find another. This is the fruit of the Jezebel spirit.

I would mention another realm in which this emasculating Jezebel spirit displays herself. This spirit is observed in false religious practices. In the Roman Catholic Church we see the elevation of the woman over the man. Catholics are taught to pray to Mary. Mary is depicted as the queen of heaven. Images of the Madonna with the infant Jesus in her arms reveal the hierarchy of the woman holding a higher office than the man.

Roman Catholic dogma leads those under its influence to view Christ as distant, or angry with mankind. The saints are exhorted to pray to Mary, hoping that she will persuade her Son to answer their prayers. The mother becomes the channel through which the male figure of Christ can be manipulated, controlled, or influenced. Prayers to God the Father are absent among the Catholic Church, yet it is the Father to whom the Scriptures instruct the body of Christ to pray. When Christ's disciples asked Him to teach them to pray, He gave them the following pattern.

Matthew 6:9-13

**“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven,** hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Yahshua told His disciples that after He ascended they would ask Him nothing. They would pray directly to the Father. They would not even ask the Son of God to petition the Father for them. It is the Father who is the ruler of heaven and earth. It is He to whom Christians are to pray.

John 16:23-27

"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, **whatever you ask the Father** in My name **He will give you.** Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full... In that day you will ask in My name, and **I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you,** because you have loved Me...

This is the teaching of Christ. The church is to pray directly to the Father. Mankind, coming in the name of the Son, will be received by the Father. The Father will give the body of Christ that which they request. There is no need to pray to the Son as an intermediary who will relay requests to the Father. Yahshua said “I do not say to you that I shall pray to the Father for you, for the Father Himself loves you.” Those who are in Christ have been given direct access to the throne of God.



Matthew 7:11

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father** who is in heaven give what is good to those who **ask Him!**"

There is no admonition, or pattern anywhere in the Scriptures, where the saints are instructed to pray to Mary. In the Roman Catholic Church we find a religion where the Jezebel spirit reigns even in the heavens. Mary is elevated to the role of God the Father. She becomes the one to whom all men and women make supplication. Prayers to God the Father are replaced with prayers to Mary, which is an act of usurpation.

It should be no surprise that the emasculating effects the Jezebel spirit has upon men are on prominent display in the Roman Catholic Church. This false religion insists that her priests remain celibate. They are forbidden to marry, or procreate. Without physically castrating the men, the Roman Catholic Church has forced them to live as eunuchs. Thus we see that a religion that elevates the woman to a position Yahweh did not assign to her will unman men. The repression these men experience in turn leads many to open themselves up to homosexual spirits. In the recent spate of scandals that have been exposed among the Roman Catholic Church, the prevailing transgression (which was very widespread) was male priests having sexual relations with boys. The Spirit of Jezebel drives men away from the natural desire to be intimate with the woman.

The depiction of Mystery Babylon, the Great Harlot of the book of Revelation, provides an apt description of the Roman Catholic Church. She is pictured as a woman who rules, and who slays the people of Yahweh. This is what Jezebel did.

Revelation 17:3-6

So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Yahshua.

The Roman Catholic Church is all about appearances. Observe the glorious manner in which the Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, and other church functionaries adorn themselves. They are clothed in purple and scarlet, and many precious things. Yet inwardly, they are full of uncleanness. The abominations and the filthiness of her fornication cannot remain hidden. The transgressions of the Roman Catholic Church continue to be exposed in these days as scandal after scandal comes to light revealing a historical pattern of cruel, vile, and immoral behavior. This is what follows when the Jezebel spirit rules over men.

Sisters in Christ, please meditate on these things. It is very important that you understand the consequences of taking to yourself the leadership role God has given to man. Do not let the spirit of Jezebel inspire and direct your actions. Humble yourself. Accept that position of service Yahweh has appointed to you. Yahweh gives grace to the humble, but He resists the proud. The judgment of the Great Harlot is as severe as the judgment of Jezebel millennia ago. The Harlot is described as sitting on a scarlet beast. Yet, it will be this beast that is the instrument of her judgment.

Revelation 17:16-17

And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

What kind of beast do people ride upon? The most common animal used for transportation is the horse. Does not the life of Jezebel provide a great parallel to the harlot of Revelation in that Jezebel was trampled by horses?

II Kings 9:33

So they threw her down, and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her under foot.

Yet, there is a connection to another type of beast in the deaths of Jezebel and the Great Harlot. These beasts are dogs. John writes that the beast will make the harlot “desolate and naked, and eat her flesh.” After Jezebel was cast down and trampled by horses, the dogs came and consumed her flesh. Certainly Yahweh seeks to convey something through these details. Both dogs and horses are considered unclean animals by God for they do not meet the dual criteria of chewing the cud and having a split hoof. Yet man has trained both of these unclean animals and made them his servants.

So too has the Jezebel spirit sought to take that which is unclean and cause it to submit to her service. The Jezebel spirit seeks to make the flesh the instrument for fulfilling all desires. The flesh, however, is not to be trusted. It can be wielded to some effect, but never truly tamed. It is inherently unclean. It will rise up at the end and destroy the one who looks to the flesh to accomplish their purposes.

This is a note of caution for all women who seek to use the flesh to get what they desire. Sisters in Christ, do not resort to fleshly methods to get your way in your marriage, or any other realm of life. Though you may have success for a season, in the end the beast nature will bite you. Do not usurp authority that belongs to another. Humble yourself that God might exalt you in due time. Those who exalt themselves will be cast down by the power of God.



## Casting Down Jezebel

Yahweh has given to the body of Christ a pattern to follow when Jezebel seeks to assert herself and to rule in the midst of His people. The solution is to cast her down.



### Casting Down Jezebel

Let us look once more at Jehu's response to Jezebel.

II Kings 9:30-33

And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and adorned her head, and looked out at a window. And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, "Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?" And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. He said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her under foot.

One thing that stands out to me in this passage is that Jehu did not speak a single word to Jezebel. Jezebel tried to engage Jehu in conversation. With her words she described Jehu as the one who was in rebellion, acting to usurp authority. She compared Jehu to Zimri. Zimri was a servant of Elah, son of Baasha, an earlier king of Israel. He had command of half of Elah's chariots. Zimri conspired against Elah and slew him, an act which Yahweh gave Zimri no commandment to do. Although Zimri's actions fulfilled a prophecy against Baasha's household, the motive in Zimri's heart was not the same as Jehu's. Zimri sought only to wrest control of the kingdom for himself, while Jehu was anointed by a prophet sent by Elijah, and he was given commandment by the prophet to destroy the house of Ahab and Jezebel. Following are Jehu's words of commissioning.

II Kings 9:6-10

“Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, ‘I have anointed you king over the people of Yahweh, even over Israel. You shall strike the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of Yahweh, at the hand of Jezebel. For the whole house of Ahab shall perish, and I will cut off from Ahab every male person both bond and free in Israel. I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah. The dogs shall eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, and none shall bury her.’”

Jehu accepted this commission, and set his heart to fulfill it with zeal. As he was on the way to remove Ahab’s son from the throne, Jehu encountered the godly man Jonadab and said to him, “Come with me and see my zeal for Yahweh” (2 Kings 10:16). Yahweh attested to the fact that Jehu had done well in carrying out His commands.

II Kings 10:30

Yahweh said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in executing what is right in My eyes, and have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in My heart, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel."

Jezebel’s words were not right when she compared Jehu to Zimri. It is possible for men to perform outwardly identical acts, yet one man be approved by God and the other man condemned. From outward appearances, Zimri and Jehu did similar works. Of Zimri we read.

I Kings 16:10-13

Then Zimri went in and struck [Elah, son of Baasha] and put him to death in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and became king in his place. It came about when he became king, as soon as he sat on his throne, that he killed all the household of Baasha; he did not leave a single male, neither of his relatives nor of his friends. Thus Zimri destroyed all the household of Baasha, according to the word of Yahweh, which He spoke against Baasha through Jehu the prophet, for all the sins of Baasha and the sins of Elah his son, which they sinned and which they made Israel sin, provoking Yahweh God of Israel to anger with their idols.

Zimri slew an idolatrous king, and so did Jehu. Zimri destroyed the entire household of the king, as well as the close friends of the king, and so did Jehu. Outwardly their works were the same. They both slew kings that had defiled the land and people of Yahweh through idolatry. Yahweh had prophesied that both kings and their households would be destroyed, yet Zimri did not perform his acts out of obedience to a command of God, nor was he zealous for Yahweh. Zimri’s actions were selfishly motivated. His actions were those of a covetous and rebellious man who sought to elevate himself.

Zimri ruled only seven days after slaying Elah, son of Baasha. Omri, another army commander raised a force against him. When Zimri saw he was defeated he entered into the king’s house and set it afire with himself inside. He perished by his own hand in the fire, a fitting tribute to one who had acted by his own hand to usurp the position of the king.

There was much cunning in Jezebel's words to Jehu as she called down to him from the tower. She sought to sow doubt not only in Jehu's heart, but in the hearts of his followers. Certainly they all knew the history of Zimri, and the results of his treason. It seems remarkable to me that Jehu did not refute the words of Jezebel. He offered no defense. Jehu spoke not a single word to the daughter of Ethbaal. His only command was to cast her down.

There is wisdom in this. Jezebel will not be persuaded by any arguments. Rebellion is thoroughly rooted in her nature. Like the fool of whom King Solomon spoke, there is no profit in arguing with Jezebel, or speaking a word to her.

Proverbs 23:9

Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

Proverbs 26:4

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will also be like him.

The Jezebel spirit cannot be reasoned with. It will never repent of its attitudes and actions. We see this truth declared even in the New Testament.

Revelation 2:20-21

"But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ***I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent*** of her immorality."

The Jezebel spirit will not respond to the words of God or man. She remains defiant in her idolatry, immorality, and usurpation to the very end. There is only one effective course of action. Cast her down. Do not waste words. Actions alone will suffice.

You may well ask, "How does this truth apply to the Christian woman today?" Every woman must confront this spirit at some time. The spirit of Jezebel is part of that sinful nature passed onto all the descendants of Adam. What should a woman do when she finds this spirit of rebellion, of idolatry, of selfishness, and usurpation seeking to assert itself in her life? There will be no profit in conversing with this spirit. Her arguments are endless, and full of cunning. The best course of action is to take these thoughts captive, and to cast down every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

II Corinthians 10:4-6

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

Sisters in Christ, when this Jezebel spirit makes its voice heard in your heart, cast down her arguments. Abase those high and exalted attitudes that seek to assert themselves. Adopt that humble mind that was observed in Yahshua. Accept the role of the servant. Humble yourself before God and man, and in due time Yahweh will exalt you.

The world, and a large portion of the church, have embraced the mind of Jezebel.

Women are declared to be equal to men in every way. The thought of the woman being subject to man is offensive, and derided with every imaginable argument. On every hand you will encounter those in the world who seek to take you captive to the attitude and actions of Jezebel. The philosophy of the independent woman has saturated society. Its advocates are everywhere. It is a mere remnant who have not fallen for the deceptive allure of this self-exalting spirit.

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Jezebel exalted herself. She took to herself a role God had not assigned to the woman. Consequently, Yahweh judged her severely. Her fall was calamitous. Her shame is beyond compare. She ended up as dung upon the face of the earth. Her reputation is one of divine reproach.

In contrast, the Son of God emptied Himself of the glory that was His. He willingly stepped down from His position in the heavens. Yahshua accepted a position of a servant, ever living to do the Father's will. Christ even washed the feet of the men whom He had created.

Philippians 2:5-9

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Yahshua: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name...

The humble spirit of Christ is exceedingly pleasing to the Father. There are great contrasts to the death of Jezebel and that of Christ. Jezebel was cast down in her death. Christ was lifted up. It was not possible to cast Christ down, for He had adopted the lowest position possible.

We see another contrast after the deaths of Jezebel and Christ. When Jehu gave the command to bury Jezebel, there was nothing left to bury. The dogs had eaten her. Jezebel had lived in sensual ease and luxury during her life. Though Jehu would have shown her some honor in her death, God did not permit it. There was nothing left to bury. By contrast, Christ lived a life of humility and service. Although He was crucified, not a bone of His body was broken and He was buried in a rich man's tomb. "Precious in the sight of Yahweh is the death of His godly ones" (Psalm 116:15). Those who would be honored by God must humble themselves.

Proverbs 15:33

The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom, and before honor comes humility.

The world and the sinful nature expressed in the passions and desires of the flesh,

wage war with the Spirit of Christ. We will be ruled by one or the other. The empty deception and philosophy of this world says that it is right to assert oneself. The mantra of Satan is "Look out for number one." In contrast, Christ told His disciples they must hate their own lives, and die to the desires of their own souls. Yahshua declared, "The greatest in the kingdom of God is the servant of all."

Those who are ruled by the prideful spirit of this fallen world system will be abased in the end. Being a daughter of God will avail the Christian woman nothing if they have manifested the spirit of Jezebel. A notable truth is revealed in the details following Jezebel's death.

II Kings 9:34-35

[Jehu] said, "See now to this cursed woman and bury her, for ***she is a king's daughter.***" They went to bury her, but they found nothing more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands.

Women in the body of Christ are likewise the daughters of a King. Yet, there will be no honor for those who exalt themselves in this life. Yahweh will abase the proud.

Isaiah 2:12

For Yahweh of hosts will have a day of reckoning against everyone who is proud and lofty and against everyone who is lifted up, that he may be abased.

Jezebel had her day of reckoning, and so too will all who follow in her steps. The Spirit and the Word testify that if we will humble ourselves then God will not have to humble us. It is wisdom to seek the low place, rather than to choose honor and position for ourselves. In the Gospels we read a parable through which Christ declared this truth.

Luke 14:8-11

"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this man,' and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Christ was not delivering a sermon on social etiquette here. His subject was not how to behave at parties. Rather, He was presenting a teaching on the proper attitude to manifest throughout one's life. Take the lowest place. Do not seek to elevate yourself. Live humbly at all times.

There is great application of this teaching to the life of the Christian woman. The world would tell you to always seek the highest possible seat. Take honor unto yourself. This is the attitude of Jezebel, the spirit of self-exaltation. In stark contrast Christ speaks the very opposite. Take a lower place than you think you deserve. Be content with abasement and humility. This finds great favor with Yahweh, and in His time He will exalt you. Many years ago, a very godly woman named Hannah spoke the following words.

I Samuel 2:7-8

Yahweh makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with nobles, and inherit a seat of honor...

Adopting a servile role before man appears as an evil thing to many women, even those who are Christians. The rebellion and pride of this fallen world system has infected all mankind. Those who are truly disciples of Christ, following the pattern of His life, are a mere remnant in the earth.

What God requires of the woman is not unique to her. Everything in the creation is under authority. There is a realm of service, subjection, and obedience, appointed to every created being. The apostle Paul shows us the pattern in his letter to the Christians in Corinth.

I Corinthians 11:3

But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of woman, and God is the head of Christ.

Not even Christ lived to please Himself. He lived to do the will of the Father. He shows us by His example what perfection looks like, demonstrating by His words and actions what is pleasing to the Father.

John 6:38

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

Pay particular attention to the words "***I have come down*** from heaven." Christ descended. He had an exalted position, rightfully attained, and He relinquished it when the Father asked Him to do so. In another Scripture we read, "No man takes My life from Me, but I ***lay it down*** of My own initiative" (John 10:18). We must lay ***down*** our lives before we can take them up again in resurrection life. Humility comes before honor.

It is said of Christ that "He humbled Himself... even to death on a cross." To humble oneself means "to go lower." The word humble shares a similar root with the word humus, which is a word for the soil of the ground. To humble oneself literally means to prostrate oneself upon the ground. This is what Christ did. He laid aside His glory in the heavens and descended to Earth. He took upon the form of a bondservant. He was meek and lowly. So too must all those be who would receive praise and honor from God the Father.

Sisters in Christ, if you find yourself in an exalted place at this hour, you must cast yourself down without delay. Follow in the steps of Christ. Empty yourself, and become one who washes the feet of your husband and of others. This is what the godly women of old have done.

I Samuel 25:40-41

When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, "David has sent us to you to take you as his wife." She arose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, "Behold, your maidservant is a maid to wash the feet of my



lord's servants."

This is also the pattern that Christ's apostles set before the women of the church.

I Timothy 5:9-10

A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.

When the Jezebel spirit urges you to rise up, don't argue with her. Silence Jezebel by your actions. Cast yourself down. Wash the feet of others. Take the lower position. In doing so you will prove the truth of the adage that states, "Actions speak louder than words." The Jezebel spirit will flee in the presence of such humble service.



## Dissolving the Marriage Partnership

There is great power in words. George Orwell, in his classic book *1984*, gives a chilling depiction of a government manipulating minds by exerting control over words spoken and written. Words give rise to ideas in the minds of men. By advocating that certain words be used and others suppressed, minds can be influenced, or controlled.

Mankind is aware of the power of words. I have been angered on occasion as I have read of the despotic Orwellian practices of the United States court systems. I have read of numerous cases where abortion issues came before the court. Whether the court was sentencing abortion protestors, or ruling on the legality of various abortion procedures, they have sought to influence the outcome by dictating the language that could be used. I have read of judges banning certain words from being spoken in court such as “baby,” “unborn child,” “infant,” and “murder.” It has been mandated at times that the baby in the womb be referred to as a “fetus,” or “fetal material.” By proscribing what words could be used, the judge was able to shape opinion and arrive at a ruling in favor of the abortionists.

The media employs similar tactics by describing abortion advocates as “pro-choice” while labeling defenders of human life as “anti-abortion.” Those who defend the lives of the unborn prefer the positive descriptor “pro-life.” By disallowing this term, and choosing the negative prefix “anti” to describe pro-life advocates, the media is able to influence thought. The term pro-choice, although it is advocating the careless murder of the unborn, appears positive, while the term anti-abortion evokes a negative image.

I have recently been led to ponder the words “marriage partner.” The word *partner* has become ubiquitous, being employed wherever the marriage union of the man and his wife is spoken of today. Even among Christians, the word partner is used commonly to refer to one’s spouse. This word never appears in Scripture when the relationship between husband and wife is mentioned. I can only surmise that it is the cunning of the great deceiver that has led to this word’s adoption.

Consider what the word *partner* implies. A partner is a person who shares, or is associated, with another in some action or endeavor. Common synonyms for the word partner are “sharer, associate, collaborator.” The word partner is very frequently associated with the realm of business. To be a partner in a firm indicates that a person has achieved a certain status. No longer are they merely an employee. Now they have authority and the perks that go along with it.

Although there are various aspects of the word partner that can be rightfully applied to marriage, it is the overall image that is evoked that is cause for concern. By referring to one’s spouse as their marriage partner there is an implicit assertion of equality of roles, of shared authority, and the combining of the husband’s and wife’s individual goals and dreams into one corporate vision. On the surface this sounds not only reasonable, but highly desirable. God’s ways, however, are not man’s ways.

Let us look at the very beginning of God’s thought for the marriage relationship. In Genesis chapter two we read:

Genesis 2:18

Then Yahweh God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a

**helper** suitable for him."

The word God used to describe the woman is "helper." God saw that the man had a need, and there was no other creature that could meet that need. It was necessary for God to form another being specifically to meet the needs of the man.

Genesis 2:21-23

So Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. Yahweh God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

In the New Testament, Christ's apostles base much of their instruction to women in the church upon creation order. Man was created first. Woman was formed later out of a remnant portion taken from the man's body. Not only was woman created subsequent to man, but she was created "for man."

I Corinthians 11:8-9

For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; **for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.**

In this passage the apostle Paul is establishing the governmental order that Yahweh put in place between the man and woman. The man is given a position of ruling over the woman, and the woman is to subject herself.

Genesis 3:16

To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth. In pain you will bring forth children; **Yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.**"

This testimony of the man being the ruler of the woman is repeated in the New Testament.

Ephesians 5:22-24

**Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.**

I Peter 3:5-6

For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, **being submissive to their own husbands; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord...**

Sarah did not call Abraham "partner." Sarah called her husband "lord," and she is set forth as an example for godly women to emulate. To hear it suggested that wives should call

their husbands lord produces a discordant sound in the contemporary ear. It may be accepted that women long ago called their husband's "lord," but these are modern times. Things have changed. Right? Many women would experience fits of laughter if they were counseled to start calling their husband "lord." "What planet are you from?" might be the response of some. The word of God states that those who belong to Christ are "aliens and strangers" in the earth (I Peter 2:11). It should not be surprising if the counsel of God to women today appears foreign, as if from a completely different culture. The saints in Christ are citizens of a heavenly kingdom that operates upon different principles than the kingdoms of this world.

Philippians 3:20

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Yahshua Christ...

Among the citizens of a world under the dominion of Satan it is common to speak of one's "marriage partner." Sarah stands in stark contrast, for she obeyed her husband Abraham, and called him "lord."

Genesis 18:12

Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, **my lord** being old also?"

After many years of being married to Abraham, having witnessed his faults as well as his victories, being aware that he was a man who had both weaknesses and strength, Sarah called Abraham "**my lord**." The word "my" adds a very personal element to the honor Sarah bestowed upon Abraham. Sarah had great knowledge of her husband, but she did not let familiarity breed contempt. To her, Abraham was, and ever would be, "my lord."

Sisters in Christ, referring to your husband as lord, rather than partner is more than a matter of semantics. The attitude of women toward their husbands has been greatly altered so that the standard held up by the apostles seems absurd to the Christian wife today. A bondservant would never describe his master as "my partner." To do so would be highly disrespectful.

One might object that the wife is not the husband's servant. Why then is she instructed to call her husband "lord"? Yahweh has given us the examples of other women who, like Sarah, showed great honor and submission to their husbands.

I Samuel 25:39-41

Then David sent a proposal to Abigail, to take her as his wife. When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, "David has sent us to you to take you as his wife." **She arose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, "Behold, your maidservant is a maid to wash the feet of my lord's servants."**

If Abigail had been a contemporary Christian woman under the influence of that proud and independent feminist spirit prevalent today, she would not have spoken so humbly of herself, nor would she have joyfully embraced the role of a servant. This is where the woman who aspires to godliness must be transformed in her thinking. To see the

husband as "lord" instead of as a partner goes against everything society teaches.

The influence of society impresses upon women the thought that marriage is an opportunity for the man and woman to jointly pursue life, liberty and happiness. The goals and desires of the woman are put on the same level as the goals and desires of the man. This sounds fair and reasonable, but it is a departure from the image of the woman as man's helper. The modern conception of marriage presents the woman as co-equal to man. Husband and wife are both pursuing individual goals and desires. The wife expects the husband to help her achieve her desires and goals as much as she helps him. The man is viewed as the woman's helpmate as much as the woman is the man's. Does this not sound reasonable?

To suggest that the woman should subjugate her life, her dreams and her desires to that of the man appears preposterous. At times it is hard to perceive the degree to which the world and the church have departed from the will of God. Like the proverbial frog in the pot of boiling water, changes in attitudes have been gradual. People have adjusted themselves to the changes. They do not seek escape, even if the changes are killing them. It may be easier to see the degree to which the church has departed from the ideal set forth in Scripture by observing the parallels between the woman's relationship to man, and man's relationship to Christ.

The apostle Paul states in I Corinthians 11:3 that Christ is the head of man, and man is the head of woman. These are parallel relationships. Let us therefore look at the man's relationship to Christ. It would be dishonoring for me to describe Christ as my "partner." He is my "Lord."

John 13:13

"You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am."

As a man, I am called to set aside my desires and focus upon the will and desires of Christ. My plans for life must be abandoned. I must hate my own soul in order that I might be a disciple of Christ.

Luke 14:26

"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate... even his own life (psuche - soul), he cannot be My disciple."

Matthew 16:25

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

What Christ is expressing in these words is that man must yield up his life, all the dreams and aspirations of his soul, all his personal goals and ambitions, and give his life to a wholehearted pursuit of the will and desires of Christ. This is what Christ did in relation to His Father.

John 5:30

"I can do nothing on My own initiative... I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

This was Christ's attitude to His dying day. In the Garden of Gethsemane the soul of Christ was crushed as His own will and desires had to be put aside in order to embrace the will of the Father.

Matthew 26:38-39

Then He said to them, "***My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.***" And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "***My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.***"

As Christ subjugated His will to that of the Father, man must subject his will to Christ. The parallel is observed further in that the woman is to subject herself to the man.

I Corinthians 14:34

***The women are*** to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are ***to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.***

To do so, the woman must set aside her will, and her desires, and embrace her husband's will as her own. As a man under the headship of Christ, I am to become so surrendered to Him, having no will of my own, that I can say with Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." I am to be selfless, wholly focused on fulfilling the desires of another. This attitude is to be carried over to the wife as she relates to her husband.

In my soul, I have many natural desires. Many of these desires appear noble and right. I would like to have a helpmate who honors me and supports me. I would like to have the intimate fellowship of both of my children, my parents, my sisters and brother. I would like to minister among the people of God and be recompensed with that honor that should be accorded to a faithful servant. My soul has also entertained some more overtly selfish desires at times. I have desired houses and land, money to spend, and many of the world's goods. If I were to write the script for my life, it would be quite different from the script God has written. My script would have been self-focused. Christ would be included, but He would be helping me meet my soul's desires as much (or more) than I was seeking His will and desires.

For much of my Christian life I was not yielded to Christ's lordship. I loved Christ. I was in church every time the doors were opened. I taught Sunday School, preached, cleaned the sanctuary, mowed the church lawn, and looked for opportunities to serve the Lord. Yet I had not surrendered myself to go ***wherever*** Christ would lead me, and to do ***whatever*** He asked me to do. During this time I would have described myself as a disciple of Christ, but I was not one in actuality. A disciple must abandon his life to take up that life Christ has chosen for him.

During these early years of my walk with Christ, into my late thirties, I had all the things listed above that my soul desired. I had a wife who "partnered" with me even as I was "partnering" with Christ. I had children at home who loved me. I had fellowship with my extended family. I received honor in the churches that I attended and labored in. I owned several different homes at different times. I had the things this world offered that my soul desired, including a good job, and money to spend on my pleasures.

This all changed in 1999 when Christ spoke to me. Yahshua told me He could take me no further unless I surrendered to go wherever He asked me to go, and to do whatever He

asked me to do. This thought terrified me. I knew that if I surrendered fully to Christ as Lord, He could very literally require anything of me. I had enjoyed being Christ's partner, for that was not very costly. As Christ's partner, my life remained intact. I could pursue personal goals while walking with Christ. I was sure I would not find it as pleasant to subject myself fully to Christ as my Lord.

A period of wrestling ensued. It was a Gethsemane moment that has been repeated numerous times in the years that followed. Would I die to my will and desires and accept the life Christ chose for me? By the grace of God I did yield. In the twelve years since that time I have been led down an afflicted path I would not have chosen. I have experienced firsthand all that Christ spoke when He said:

Luke 14:26-27

"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

Luke 14:33

"So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."

Relationships that were dear to me had to be laid upon the altar. Fellow ministers cast me out from their midst. The honor I had formerly known among the body of Christ was turned to reproach. I was led to surrender the world's goods that I had accumulated over many years. For a period of time I lived as a homeless man. I ended up as a resident at a Rescue Mission, being led of the Spirit to spend more than three years there. I have twice been put in jail as I have followed Christ. Life has not been a bed of roses. My soul's desires have had to be cast aside that I might pursue the will of my Lord.

Christ made it known to me that we could not operate as partners. There could only be one Head in our relationship. I had to embrace the role of a bondservant. Most Christians today are partnering with God. Death to self has not been embraced.

Women today are mirroring with their husbands the same relationship most men have with Christ. They come into the relationship with dreams and desires of their own, and they expect their partner to help them achieve their soul's aspirations. Christ did not approach the Father in this manner, and neither must we act toward our head in this way.

John 6:38

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

As a man who has been given Christ as head, my confession must be, "I did not become Christ's disciple to do my own will, but the will of Christ." Similarly, the woman who has man as head must say, "I did not enter into this union to pursue my will, but the will of my husband."

In the previous chapters I wrote of the Jezebel spirit's tendency toward self-exaltation. Jezebel made herself a partner with her husband, King Ahab. She did not present herself to Ahab as a maidservant to wash the feet of his servants. Jezebel had her own agenda. Hers

was a life of self-seeking, and self-advancement. The woman who would find favor with Yahweh must abase herself. She must take the lowest seat. She must be humble, laying aside personal ambition, adopting another's will as her own.

The woman was created "for man." She is to be his helper. If the woman seeks to save HER LIFE, she will lose it. The woman who loses HER LIFE will find the true and lasting life that Christ came to give.

If you are a Christian woman, it is unlikely that you approached marriage as an invitation to surrender your life to another. Yet, this is the will of God for the woman who aspires to godliness. Even as a man entering into relationship to Christ is to surrender his life, taking Christ as Lord in everything, so too must the woman be subject to her husband. Paul wrote, "as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything."

The apostles referenced three distinct things that serve as a foundation for their teaching to women: Creation order - man was created first; Creation purpose - woman was created for man; and divine government - "your desire shall be toward your husband, and he shall rule over you." Each of these things finds its parallel in man's relationship to Christ.

Christ precedes man in creation order even as the man precedes the woman. Christ is the firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15). He is the "ONLY begotten" Son of the Father.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the **only begotten** from the Father, full of grace and truth.

For many years I did not understand what was meant by Christ being referred to as "the only begotten Son." It has only been as the Father has opened my eyes to perceive the creation order of all things that I have come to understand this mystery.

The Scriptures testify that Christ came forth directly from the Father. Everything else in creation was fashioned by Christ.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Colossians 1:16-17

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

In the original Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, the words "only begotten" appear as "monogenes." You may recognize "mono" as a prefix meaning "one." "Genes" (pronounced gen-ace) is the root of the words "generate," and "genesis." Christ is declared to be the only direct generation of the Father. Nothing else has come forth from the Father in the way Christ has come forth.

There exists a hierarchy in creation. Yahshua is the firstborn of all creation. He is the



direct generation of the Father. All other things came through Christ. Paul says of Christ, “all things were created through Him and for Him.” As man was created through Christ and for Christ, we see the parallel truth in Scripture that woman was created through man, and for man.

- Christ came forth out of the Father.
- Man came forth through Christ.
- Woman was taken out of man.
  
- Christ has God as head.
- Man has Christ as head.
- Woman has man as head.

The parallels continue. We previously read Christ’s declaration that He came to do the Father’s will. Similarly, man was created to do Christ’s will, and woman was formed to do man’s will, being created “for man.” The woman is instructed to obey her husband as the man is instructed to obey Christ.

A clear pattern emerges as we look at the testimony of Scriptures. Christ modeled before the creation what is pleasing to the Father. Having the Father as His head, Christ laid down His life that He might do the will of the Father. Christ did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant. Man is to follow this pattern as he humbles himself before Christ, laying down his life to embrace the life of Christ. The pattern is completed as the woman humbles herself, taking man as head, laying aside her life to embrace the life of her husband.

As a man, I have fallen short of the perfection of Christ in many ways. Christ NEVER did anything of His own initiative. I have done much of my own initiative. Christ did not seek His own will, but I have often sought my own will. Christ ALWAYS did the will of the Father, but I have often chosen my will over the will of Christ. James declared, “For we all stumble in many ways” (James 3:2). John echoed this saying when he wrote, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (I John 1:8).

Observing the patience Christ has demonstrated toward me, I choose to be patient with others. The saying is true, “By the judgment you have judged others, you will be judged, and by the measure you mete to others it will be measured unto you.” The saying is also true, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy,” and “judgment shall be merciless to the one who has shown no mercy.” I would not judge my sisters in Christ for their failings any harsher than I would judge myself for my failings. If we are humble in acknowledging our failings, we will learn to be gentle, patient, and merciful toward others.

At the same time, I must always point to the standard before us which is Christ. He was perfect, and He has commanded us to be perfect (Matthew 5:48). We are to aim for nothing less. We are always to strive toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Yahshua.

The pride of life would lead men and women to grasp for equality. Man wants to partner with Christ, and woman wants to partner with man. Christ, however, shows us what is pleasing to God. Christ humbled Himself. He set aside His soul’s desires to do the will of the Father. Christ accepted God as His Head and as His Lord. Man must take Christ as Head and Lord, and woman must take man as head and lord. In each instance the soul must be crushed as unto death. All who would follow in Christ’s steps must hate their own life.

The purpose of this age is to give the children of God opportunity to have the character of Christ formed in them. If we refuse to humble ourselves we cannot attain to Christ's character. If men insist on being treated as an equal to Christ, or women as equal to men, then conformity to Christ's image will elude them. Christ was content to be a bondservant.

Our actions, and our words, will declare whether we embraced the self-exalting spirit of Jezebel, or the meek and lowly spirit of Christ.



## The Worth of a Woman

A considerable part of the backlash against the teaching of Yahweh's role and purpose for women is that many people equate status in this world with a person's value, or worth. Many women fear that, if they subject themselves to men, they will be viewed and treated as having a lower intrinsic worth, or value, than the man. Some even fear that in accepting the testimony of Scripture, that woman was created for man, that Yahweh might esteem the woman to be of less value than the man. This latter conclusion is surely false. Yahweh loves women with a perfect love. Yahweh loves His daughters as much as His sons.

Many men treat women as if they were of lesser value, but it is in patiently and humbly bearing up under such injustice that women (and men) find the fruit of the Spirit being formed in their lives. Accepting patiently the injustices of others finds great favor with God.

I Peter 2:18-20

Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

These words apply to women in their relationships to their husbands, as well as servants with their masters. Peter segues from these words directly into an admonition to women in the church.

I Peter 3:1-2

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

A master is not manifesting behavior that is pleasing to Yahweh by acting in an uncompassionate, or harsh manner, to his servants. Similarly, a man is disobedient to the word of God if he treats his wife as if she is of less worth than himself. Rank is not an indicator of value in God's sight.

I Peter 3:7

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and ***show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life***, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

In this present age Yahweh has established a governmental order that places man under the rule of Christ, and woman under the rule of man. Women likewise have a sphere of authority in which they rule, for they are placed in authority over their children, and may have servants under them as well. This gives both men and women an opportunity to

practice conformity to Christ as they learn how to humble themselves under divinely appointed authority, and to demonstrate the gentle and meek nature of Christ as they exercise authority over others.

It will often happen that a person under authority is found faithful and pleasing to the Father even while the one who rules over them is disobedient. This does not cause the one under authority to be disadvantaged. In truth, they have more opportunity to demonstrate faith and obedience to God as they bear up patiently when suffering unjustly. A woman should never declare that she will be a submissive wife only when her husband gets his act together. I have heard numerous women say that they will honor their husbands when they begin to act honorably. This is great error. It is the will of Christ that servants prove themselves faithful when they have wicked masters, and that wives remain chaste and respectful when they have disobedient husbands. As they do so, the wives can gain great favor with God even while their husbands are heaping up judgment upon themselves.

The apostle Peter declared that women are “fellow heirs of the grace of life.” The word “heirs” reveals that Peter is speaking of inheritance. In the Law women did not receive an inheritance with the men. If a man had sons and daughters, the land of his forefathers was to be passed onto his sons. His daughters were not to receive an inheritance in this way. The only exception was when a man had no sons. Then the man’s property went to his daughters (Numbers 27:1-8).

When it came to inheritance, the Law treated women no differently than slaves. Slaves did not receive an inheritance in the land of Israel, neither could a Gentile. Only male descendants of Abraham received the promised land as an inheritance.

The apostle Paul declared that in Christ the rules of inheritance have changed. In the kingdom of God all may share an inheritance with Christ. In the third chapter of Galatians Paul establishes this truth. Both at this time, and in the age to come, men and women, slave and free, Jew and Gentile, can all be accounted as heirs of the grace of life that is found in Christ. When the subject of inheritance comes up, Yahweh makes no distinction based upon gender, societal status, or natural descent. The Law does not determine who will inherit the promises of God in Christ.

Galatians 3:18

For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise...

As Christians, we must not confuse a person’s status in this life with their worthiness in the eyes of God. Christ declared that many who are first at this time will be last in the age to come, and many who are last now will be first in the resurrection of the dead (Luke 13:30). A person’s status in the age to come is dependent upon whether they walked humbly and faithfully before God and man in this age. Many servants cannot escape their servitude, but neither do they accept it with grace. Similarly, many women do not accept their role as helper to their husband with grace. Those who manifest complaint, murmuring, rebellion, clamor, envy, and discontent will not only be last in this age, but in the age to come as well.

Yahweh’s instruction to wives and to servants are the same. Even as wives are exhorted to be subject to their own husbands in everything, servants are commanded to be subject to their masters.

Titus 2:9-10

Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be

well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

Does God view those who are the last in this age as of lesser worth than those who are first? Absolutely not. If a man or woman proves themselves faithful in service to God and others they will be approved by Yahweh and honored in the age to come. Joseph's life provides a type and testimony of this truth. Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt. Joseph's enslavement was unfair. His brothers had sold him due to jealousy. Nevertheless, Joseph proved himself to be a faithful servant seeking the welfare of his master. No one was more faithful than Joseph, and his master promoted him.

When Joseph was falsely accused of trying to rape his master's wife, he was cast into prison. Now he was as low as a man could possibly go. He was not a free man. He was a slave. Yet, he was less than a slave. He was a slave in prison. Joseph had been doubly abased, but even in the prison he manifested an excellent spirit and everything he did prospered. After years of patient and humble service Yahweh placed great honor upon Joseph. He was promoted to the right hand of Pharaoh.

Joseph's life serves as a parable for all those who would receive promotion and honor at Yahweh's hands. If we prove ourselves faithful as servants, the day will come when we receive great honor. The woman should consider the call to serve her husband a great opportunity to exhibit that humility and faithfulness that is pleasing to God. Yahweh has told the woman what His will is. The way before her is clearly marked. Those who manifest an excellent spirit in serving their husband, continuously seeking his welfare, will receive a glorious inheritance and great honor in the ages to come. There will be no distinction at that time between male or female, slave or free, Jew or Gentile.

Galatians 3:26-29

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Yahshua. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Yahshua. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Notice the word "heirs" again in this passage. Many have misapplied these words, suggesting that Paul is negating all differences between the sexes. This is not so. Paul is speaking of inheritance, not governmental order. Paul is declaring that God sees all men and women the same when it comes to inheritance. All may prove themselves worthy of Christ's inheritance in the saints.

Those who contend that Paul was negating any differences in gender roles with the preceding words are doing violence to the Scriptures. They are ignoring Paul's many instructions to women in the church to subject themselves to men. If Paul is stating here that women need not subject themselves to men, then he must also be saying that servants need not subject themselves to their masters. Not only did Paul declare in the third chapter of Galatians that there is neither male nor female, he also said there is neither slave nor free. Paul, however, is speaking of inheritance in Christ. He is not giving a teaching on the proper attitude to have toward government. He addressed the subject of government in other passages.

Ephesians 6:5-8

Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

Even as slaves will receive back from the Lord according to how faithfully they conducted themselves as servants, so too will women receive recompense from the Lord. Yahshua has testified:

Revelation 22:12

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to everyone according to what he has done."

There have been men, like Joseph, who served other men as slaves, and their service found great favor with God. Daniel is another example. As a young man Daniel was taken into captivity to Babylon and made a servant of the king. Daniel did not rebel, nor wallow in self-pity, nor manifest a self-seeking attitude. Daniel was the most faithful of all the king's subjects. Not even Daniel's enemies were able to find fault with his service to the king.

Daniel 6:4-5

Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him. Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God."

Like Joseph many years before, Daniel bloomed where he was planted, even when his life seemed unjust, and his position was one of slavery. Did Yahweh think less of these men because of their status in this world? No! Daniel received the highest praise from God. When Daniel was seeking the Lord with prayers and fasting, Yahweh sent an angelic messenger to speak to him. This messenger declared:

Daniel 9:22-23

"O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding. At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, **for you are highly esteemed**; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision."

The esteem God had for Daniel had no relationship to his position in this world. The same is true for women. I am convinced beyond any doubt that there have been many women who were more highly esteemed by God than the majority of men. Christ chose twelve men to be His disciples and apostles, yet it was not to any of them that He appeared first after His resurrection. The first person to see the resurrected Christ was a woman.

John 20:11-18

Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Yahshua had been lying. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Yahshua. Yahshua said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Yahshua said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). Yahshua said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.

Was it not a great honor to be the first among all mankind to see the resurrected Lord? Those who confuse governmental order with the love of God would certainly think that Christ would reveal Himself first to a man. I am persuaded, however, that the one who loved Christ the most saw Him first. He could not delay in bringing comfort to one who was so grieved at being separated from Him. Notice how she clung to the feet of Yahshua when He appeared. Mary did not want to ever be separated from her Lord again.

Sisters in Christ, I ask you, if rumor had gone out that you had died, and you knew that this saying was causing distress among your family and friends, who would you show yourself to first to demonstrate that you were actually alive? Would it not be the one you knew would be the most grieved to experience your loss? Would not your love for that person compel you to go straightway to them?

I know of no greater testimony in Scripture that women are counted as worthy of the love and favor of God as men than the fact that Christ showed Himself to Mary Magdalene before He showed Himself to any other. Not even John, the beloved disciple, met the resurrected Christ before Mary.

God does not judge as man judges. Man is impressed with position, success, and fame. God, however, looks upon the heart. He knows those who love Him. He sees that it is often those without position, even in the church, who are the most faithful and devoted. The Bible tells us that Christ had twelve male disciples whom He handpicked. Only one of them was mentioned as being present at His crucifixion. All others had fled. Only John was in attendance. Yet among the women who had followed Him, we are told that there was a number present during this darkest, and most sorrowful moment of His life.

John 19:25

But standing by the cross of Yahshua were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

The male disciples of Christ had fled, fearing the persecution of the Jewish leaders and the Romans. The threat was just as imminent for these women, but not even fear for their lives could keep them from the One they loved so dearly. It is significant to note that the one male disciple who was present at the crucifixion of Christ was known for his love of Christ,

and Christ's deep love for him.

John 19:26-27

When Yahshua then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.

Does it not speak volumes about the value of women in the eyes of God that one of Christ's last acts was to appoint John as the caretaker of His mother? Was it not love that drove Him to look past His own suffering, and feel the pain of the sword that pierced His mother's heart.

That women are greatly valued in the eyes of God is further attested to in the fact that the purest religion is described in the following manner.

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: ***to visit orphans and widows in their distress***, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Yahweh has great compassion for women. The widow is ever before His sight. Yahweh does not love women any less because they were created "for man." He does not see them as of less worth than man because they are called to subject themselves. Yahweh's government, and His grace are two separate systems.

The Bible describes the woman as "weaker" than the man (I Peter 3:7). Does it not move the heart with compassion to see those who are weak persevering, overcoming their fears, and going where those much stronger than they are unwilling to go? I am sure the ten male disciples of Christ who were absent at His crucifixion later rued the fact that they were not present when John and a group of women were. Did it not move the heart of God the Father to know that these women were present to provide solace and comfort to His Son in His hour of suffering? I do not doubt that a great reward awaits them.

In the days that followed the crucifixion, the women continued to be subject to men. Christ did not appoint any women to be apostles, or leaders in the church. The governmental order of man being the head of woman continued. At the same time, the system of grace continued. Women were present in the upper room on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given. They became partakers of the Spirit of Christ the same as the men. Women are assured that in the resurrection they will receive inheritance along with men. Many who are the last, the lowest, and the least in this world will be first in the age to come. Such is the marvelous grace of our Father.

Sisters in Christ, there are men in this age who will judge with wicked motives. There are men who will act unjustly. Many will confuse authority with a person's worth. Those who are humble will be taken advantage of. Take comfort in knowing that God sees all things. He weighs the hearts. His eyes roam to and fro throughout the earth that He might strongly support those whose hearts are wholly His (II Chronicles 16:9). Will He not give much grace to those who are lightly esteemed in this age, yet serve with faithfulness and patience?

In the age to come I am convinced that many women who were unknown to the world



will receive honor and praise from the Father. The woman who devoted herself to her husband's welfare, who raised children, who was a keeper at home, who prayed faithfully, who was a model of good works, who washed the feet of the saints; to her will belong glory and honor and praise in the ages to come.

## Keepers at Home

What is the mind of Christ regarding women being homemakers? Is it the will of God for Christian women to pursue careers outside of the home? Is there a norm, a standard role within the home that Yahweh has appointed for women who aspire to godliness? Are there exceptional cases where God will direct a woman to deviate from this pattern to fulfill some other purpose that He has determined?

As I begin to delve into these issues, let me affirm that Yahweh does have a specific plan and purpose for the life of every son and daughter. The Scriptures reveal that God has a predetermined path appointed for everyone who comes to Him. He has prepared every work beforehand that the saints in Christ are to accomplish.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Yahshua for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

A foundational theme that Yahweh has directed me to proclaim to His people (men and women) is that He does have a very specific will and plan for each of our lives. Our success as Christians, as sons and daughters of God, will be determined by our perceptiveness in identifying God's will for our lives, and our obedience to do all that He has determined. To be a disciple of Christ we must lay down our own plans and agendas and embrace wholeheartedly that path God has chosen for us.

The second book which the Spirit of Christ directed me to write was titled *Sabbath*. This book explores the spiritual meaning of Sabbath rest. The church has largely focused on the types and shadows of Sabbath in the Old Testament. They see the laws relating to the cessation of labor one day out of the week. These Old Testament laws and ordinances were given to direct the saints to the substance of Sabbath rest to be obtained in Christ. The Son of God was the first man to ever fulfill the Sabbath rest of God. Paul defines this rest in the following words.

Hebrews 4:9-10

There remains therefore a [Sabbath] rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

True Sabbath rest is defined as ceasing from our own works, those things our soul would direct us to do. Sabbath rest is living daily to accomplish the will of the Father. Sabbath rest is Christ living in and through the people of God.

Yahshua is our pattern man. He always lived to do the will of the Father. He never did any work that arose from His own soul, His own intellect, will, or emotions. He was perfectly surrendered to the leading of the Holy Spirit. He did only those things the Father revealed to Him to do.

John 5:19-20

“Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees

the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.”

Christ was always beholding the Father. The Father showed the Son all things that He would have Him to do. Christ was careful to do all that the Father revealed to Him. Yahshua would do nothing that arose from self, that is to say, from His own soul. He testified to this truth numerous times, and His words are recorded for us by the apostle John.

John 5:30

“I can do nothing on My own initiative... I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

John 8:28

So Yahshua said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative.”

John 8:42

“For I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.”

John 12:49

“For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.”

John 14:10

“The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.”

Christ walked in perfect Sabbath rest. He did no works that arose from His soul. All of His decisions, actions, and words, were determined by the Father. He ever lived to do the Father’s will. If we abide in Christ, and He abides in us, we will find ourselves living the same life of rest.

I John 2:6

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

I can say with all confidence that God does have a specific will for all of His daughters. He does care whether they remain at home, or whether they work; whether they raise families, or pursue a career, or ministry. It is requisite that every daughter of God discern what God’s specific will is for her life. Failing to do so will result in a life of self-direction, personal initiative, and a failure to enter God’s rest.

Hebrews 4:1

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

There is reason to fear falling short of the will of God for our lives. We will reap what

we sow. If our lives were self-directed, God will not judge us to have been conformed to the life of His Son. Christ ever lived to do the Father's will. He was attentive to the Father, inquiring constantly to know what He would have Him do, and He was careful to do all "in like manner" as the Father revealed it to Him.

If a woman chooses employment, or college and career, or even devotes herself to fulfilling some vision of ministry, apart from being directed by God the Father to do so, she will be accounted as lawless in His sight. Consider the message of the following words of Christ.

Matthew 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'LORD!,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'LORD!, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"

Yahshua is not condemning those here who are doing overtly evil actions. He is not saying that adulterers and murderers and liars and thieves will be judged as evil doers. He is speaking of men and women who are casting out demons, prophesying, and performing miracles. Why then are they declared as "lawless"? The answer is found in the opening sentence of this passage. "He who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter (the kingdom of heaven)." If the Father has given you no command to do a work, even an apparently good work, you are out from under authority. To be out from under authority is to be accounted as lawless.

A person's soul can direct them to do good works and God will despise those works. Why? Only that which He commands is approved in His sight. All else is striving and works of the flesh. It is not enough to do good works. We must do those works God has appointed to us.

When Christ went to the Pool of Bethesda we are told that there were a multitude of sick and injured present waiting for the stirring of the waters that they might be healed. Christ healed one man who had lain there for thirty-eight years. He then departed and hid Himself. He left the multitude in the condition in which He found them, for He had no command from the Father to heal all of them. (John 5)

How many Christians today having the power to work miracles and to heal the sick would have acted with such restraint? Many Christians consider only what they are able to do. They do not consider whether God has commanded them to do it. A need does not constitute a calling. In the book of Acts we read that the apostle Paul and those with him had perceived a great need in Asia. There were multitudes of people dwelling there, and the gospel of Christ was unknown. Nevertheless, it was not the will of God that Paul take the gospel to Asia. The Father had other fields of labor prepared for the apostle.

Acts 16:6-10

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia

and help us." Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Is it not evident that God has a specific will for His sons and daughters? Those who are mature are led by the Spirit in all their works.

Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Christ was a mature Son, and He did only that which He saw the Father doing. If we are to follow in His steps we must live as He lived. The invitation of Christ is "Come, take up your cross, and follow Me." We must be equally surrendered to the direction of the Spirit of God in our lives as He was.

Let us return now to the subject of women and their occupations. Many Christian women spend decades of their adult lives working in jobs and careers outside the home. In many cases, indeed the majority of them, the woman was led to this life consuming activity by the counsel of her own soul. She did what seemed good and desirable, according to the reasoning of her mind, rather than seeking the mind of the Father to know what He would command her to do. Christian women in great numbers are leaving their infant children in the hands of daycare services and babysitters while they go off to work outside the home. They have given the training and education of their older children to the godless public schools that promote a humanistic world view. They neglect the nutritional needs of their families, setting before them the dead, heavily processed convenience foods of the stores and restaurants. They neglect to pray for their husbands and children, or to train up their children in the knowledge and admonition of the Lord. Their time is demanded elsewhere. They have given themselves to careers, and activities outside the home, while neglecting to inquire of God about His will for them. Will He say "Well done, good and faithful servant," when they have failed to do His will? What sorrow it will be to stand before Christ on the day of judgment and to hear the words, "Depart from Me you workers of lawlessness. I never knew you."

Before you assume that I have concluded that it is always wrong for a woman to work outside the home, hear what I have to say. I am speaking to those women who have made their life decisions independently of God. I am speaking to those who CANNOT say with Christ, "I do nothing of My own initiative. I only do the will of the Father." The church by and large today knows very little of the cost of discipleship. Pastors and teachers encourage their congregations to envision the dreams and desires of their own souls and pray that God might fulfill all. This is not the teaching or example of Christ. It is "anti-Christ."

James 4:3-4

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?

The Christian woman today who finds her life conformed to that of the world around her should question how she arrived at this condition. Did God give her command to pursue employment outside of the home, to labor to acquire the goods of the world, a nice home, a car, and many material things? Was it the direction of the Spirit that led her to abdicate

her role as homemaker, wife, and mother while adopting the pattern of a world under the influence of Satan?

I do not doubt that there are occasions when Yahweh will direct a woman to work outside the home, to engage the assistance of other teachers for her children, or to give herself to some ministry besides homemaking. Yet, I am equally convinced that there are few women who can testify today that the life they are living is one which Yahweh gave them commandment to live. If you are one who has followed the crowd, following mindlessly the pattern of other women in and out of the church, or you have been self-directed, determining the dreams and ambitions that you will pursue, I would awaken you to your great peril. Paul said, "Let us FEAR lest any fall short of entering into God's rest." It is the one who has ceased from THEIR OWN WORKS that has entered God's rest.

Has God given you commandment to live as you are living?

The Scriptures reveal that there is a general calling for women to be homemakers, devoted to family. This pattern is seen throughout the Bible. It is observed in the lives of the godly women of old whose lives are set forth as examples to women who aspire to godliness today. Sarah is cited by the apostle Peter as an example of a godly woman whose life is to be emulated. She was a keeper at home. In Genesis, when Abraham was greeted by some angelic visitors, we read the following.

Genesis 18:9

Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "**There, in the tent.**"

In contrast, Jezebel serves as a type to be avoided. Jehu describes Jezebel as a harlot.

II Kings 9:22

When Joram saw Jehu, he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" And he answered, "What peace, so long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?"

Harlots were widely perceived to be women who strayed from home. They would go about and engage in activities outside the home that were unbecoming of a godly woman.

Proverbs 7:10-11

And behold, a woman comes to meet him, dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart. She is boisterous and rebellious, **her feet do not remain at home...**

A pattern of godly women being keepers at home is set forth by the apostles of Christ in the New Testament.

Titus 2:1-5

But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine... the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, **keepers at home**, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

I Timothy 5:14

I want younger widows to get married, bear children, **keep house**, and give the

enemy no occasion for reproach...

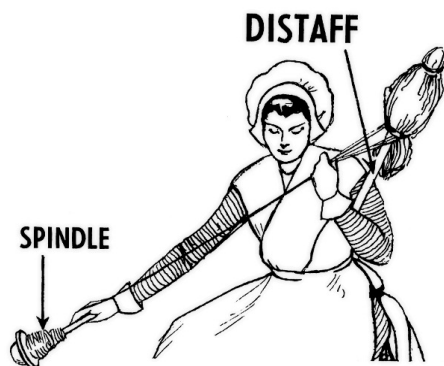
To a great many women today, the thought of staying at home is a very unpleasant one. It conjures up images of extreme boredom. This is partly a byproduct of changes that have occurred in the past century as women have exited the home en masse to pursue careers or employment elsewhere. The home has been rendered impotent, bereft of life and activity, no longer serving as the center of family life as God intended. Women have consequently lost the multitude of skills that were once the hallmark of the successful homemaker. The chain has been broken whereby homemaking skills were passed on from mother to daughter, leaving many women today with no idea of the character of that life their forebears knew.

In the past few generations much of the labor that took place in the home has been agglomerated. Whereas women used to make their own clothes at home, this work has been centralized into large textile manufacturers and clothing factories. Today the thought of “homespun” cloth strikes most as antiquated, yet women in relatively recent times used to use spindle and distaff to spin their own thread and yarn, to weave their own fabric, and to sew their own clothes. In the book of Proverbs we find mention of women engaged in this activity.

Proverbs 31:10, 13, 19-22, 24

An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels... She looks for wool and flax and works with her hands in delight. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hands grasp the spindle. She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She makes coverings for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies belts to the tradesmen.

These words in Proverbs describe what would be termed a “cottage industry” today. Not only did the woman use her homemaking skills to clothe her own family, but she would earn money at home by skillfully crafting products to sell to others. Following is an image of a distaff and spindle.



*Clarke's Commentary* explains the use of these items:

"She gives an example of skill and industry to her household. She takes the distaff,

that on which the wool or flax was rolled; and the spindle, that by twisting of which she twisted the thread with the right hand, while she held the distaff in the guard of the left arm, and drew down the thread with the fingers of the left hand. Allowing that spindle and distaff are proper translations of kishor, and pelech, this was their use, and the way in which they were used. The spindle and distaff are the most ancient of all the instruments used for spinning, or making thread. The spinning-wheel superseded them in these countries; but still they were in considerable use till spinning machinery superseded both them and the spinning-wheels in general."

The spinning wheel is a more recognizable item for most people today, though for many its usage is as mysterious as the more ancient distaff and spindle.



The Bible identifies the making of clothing as part of that work traditionally performed by the woman in the role of a homemaker. I am not suggesting that women today need to return to using the spindle and loom anymore than I would suggest they need to learn the art of candle making to light their homes. Electricity serves very well for lights today. Nevertheless, it does reveal that those duties performed by the woman who was a keeper at home have been given over to others.

The change has been by degrees, but it has been accomplished with relative swiftness. Fabric and thread became readily available for purchase during the industrial revolution, making it no longer necessary for the woman to create everything from scratch. The sewing machine became the workhorse for the stay at home woman, and tens of millions of sewing machines were sold. Women prior to World War I worked outside the home in relatively small numbers, and those who did so were usually unmarried, and from the lower classes. Those women who could do so, chose to remain at home and they used the modern convenience of store bought cloth and a sewing machine to make garments for their families, and to sell or trade with others.

The Bible mentions food and clothing as two of the most basic needs of mankind, and women had key roles in both of these areas of life.

Proverbs 31:14-16

She is like merchant ships; She brings her food from afar. She rises also while it is



still night and gives food to her household and portions to her maidens. She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard.

These verses reveal the woman's involvement in every aspect of food preparation in the same way that she was involved in every aspect of manufacturing clothing for her household. The woman would choose a field, plant it, harvest the crops, and prepare wholesome and savory dishes for her family. The godly woman worked with her hands, and was not idle.

Proverbs 31:27, 31

She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness...  
Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

As society has been changing, and women have abandoned the home to seek outside employment, that work formerly done by the woman has been delegated to others. Women have less time at home, so they look for shortcuts. They buy clothing already made for themselves and their families. If they do cook at home, they often purchase prepared, or partially prepared foods such as baked breads, and Hamburger Helper. The nutritional value of these products is vastly deficient from those whole foods that were formerly prepared by women who were keepers at home. The result is seen in a myriad of health problems among family members.

The nutritional value found in home baked breads that are made with freshly ground whole grains is vastly superior to the loaf of prepared bread one will find at the grocery store. I know from personal experience that there is a lot to learn to educate oneself in the preparation of healthy, nutritious and satisfying foods. I have discerned the difference in my own health as I have abandoned the Standard American Diet (SAD) and have returned to cooking my meals from scratch. I make my own soups, bake some of my own breads, and have eliminated the highly processed foodstuffs that used to make up the bulk of my diet.

Another realm of responsibility for the homemaker is providing healthcare. The woman has long been involved in acting as nurse and chief health proponent of the family. This is closely related to her role in food preparation. Hippocrates, the Greek physician from whom the Hippocratic oath is derived, said, "Let food be your medicine, and medicine be your food." There is a wealth of naturopathic remedies for sickness and injuries. God has provided mankind with plants and herbs for healing. Women used to pass along this knowledge from generation to generation.

Many women have also abandoned child rearing. Many women are employed when they become pregnant, and take only a few weeks off from work after bearing their child. Children are left in the care of daycare facilities, babysitters, or nannies while the mother works outside the home. The age in which children enter public school has been dropping as the government provides earlier programs for children with kindergarten, and pre-kindergarten programs. The mother has given over the role of educating the children to hired "professionals," and the results are tragic for both the parents and the children. It has ever been God's order for parents to take personal responsibility for the training and education of their children.

Proverbs 1:8

Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching...

Proverbs 6:20

My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother....

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Many parents have given over the academic education of their children to school systems, and have largely given their spiritual training into the hands of others as well. Many Christian parents take their children to Sunday School and church, and feel relieved of any further responsibility for their children's spiritual training. The deficiency in the lives of most young people in the church is readily apparent. There is no substitute for the parents bearing the responsibility themselves for their children's spiritual training.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

"These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up."

Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Who can say how much the family has suffered by women abdicating their roles as the clothiers, nutritionists, educators, spiritual nurturers, and moral centers of their homes? When Paul wrote to Titus and Timothy and gave the instruction of the Lord that the women were to "keep house" and be "keepers at home," these words encompassed a wealth of activities that would influence the family in profound ways in both natural and spiritual realms. It is little wonder that the older women were exhorted to instruct the younger in this calling. There was a great need for instruction and training from one generation to the next.

Titus 2:1-5

But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine... the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things - that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

Staying home was no idle occupation. To be a homemaker was a rich and fulfilling calling. The opportunities for the woman at home were endless. For the woman who has an active mind, and a love of learning, there is no reason that she should be left dissatisfied with the opportunities before her. To become knowledgeable and skillful at the art of homemaking is a lifelong endeavor. Learning to be a home nutritionist, to plan and prepare healthy, life promoting meals for one's family, is something that many women have devoted

years unto. Just the art of baking bread, or being a skilled seamstress, are areas in which a person may continually advance as their knowledge and skill increases. For the woman who would take on the healthcare of her family, the field of naturopathic medicine is vast. Learning the medicinal and health promoting value of herbs, plants, and natural remedies is an immense field of learning. Great harm has been brought to millions of families as the children consume soda pop, loads of sugar, chemicals and heavily refined foods, and then are diagnosed as having an attention deficit disorder and are put on mind altering drugs like Ritalin. Do not women bear some responsibility for abandoning their role as the nutritional supervisors of their homes?

The church should be the chief guardian of the home, and of those God assigned family values and traditions. Yet, the church has given itself to the pursuit of the same passions and desires as the world. The family has been abandoned. The nuclear family, where life is centered in the home, has been neglected. In the time that families are home, the children are often playing video games, listening to worldly music, or the family is being mesmerized by the television and Internet. The entire family is sick morally, spiritually, and physically. By one family member, the wife and mother, abandoning that calling God has given her, trading it for the allure of the world and a career outside the home, great devastation has resulted.

(Please note that I believe men have equally transgressed, and bear even greater responsibility in God's eyes because of their position of headship. However, this book is written for the instruction and admonishment of the woman who aspires to godliness. She can do much to restore her family to spiritual and natural health by giving herself to apprehending and fulfilling the will of God for her life.)

The Bible consistently reveals God's purpose for the woman as a homemaker. Even as the woman is absolutely vital to reproduction, for the man cannot bear children by himself, so too is the woman's role in homemaking irreplaceable. Man needs a helper. Yahweh declared this to be true, and He fashioned the woman to be man's helper. The title of "helper" seems inadequate to describe all the ways in which the woman renders assistance to man. All of mankind suffers when the woman fails to apprehend and fulfill Yahweh's purpose for her life. May Yahweh raise up a remnant among women who will demonstrate a spirit of excellence and zeal in seeking to fulfill the role for which they were created.

Dare to be different. When the world is showing great scorn for the role of the homemaker, let the godly woman by her attitude and example reveal the wisdom and blessing that results from embracing the role for which Yahweh created her.

## Labor Outside the Home

Although the Bible reveals that woman was created to be a helper for man, and her role in child bearing and homemaking is set forth as a pattern for the godly woman, there are occasions when Yahweh will direct a woman to labor outside the home. There is a tendency among Christians to seek to reduce all things to doctrines and formulas in a one-size-fits-all manner. The only formula I have found that will universally reveal the will of God for a person's life is the following:

***Do the next thing the Spirit of God directs you to do.***

(Repeat)

We can ascertain principles and patterns from the word of God, but individual guidance for a person's life must of necessity come from an intimate communion with God through the agency of the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 2:11-13

For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

Galatians 5:16

I say then: Walk by the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Some may have concluded from the preceding chapter that the Scriptures, or this author, universally condemns work outside the home. The Bible does not condemn work outside the home, and neither do I. What Yahweh does not approve of is work that is initiated by the soul of man. Most women who work outside the home are not doing so by the commandment of God. They are doing so because their own soul has determined work outside the home to be needful or desirable. The soul is not to be the guide for the Christian. Christ said those who would be His disciples must hate their souls. They must embrace a course in this world that is not soul-directed.

Luke 14:26

"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate... even his own life (psuche - soul), he cannot be My disciple."

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Yahshua said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life (psuche - soul) will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will

a man give in exchange for his soul?"

The Christian woman who chooses college and career because everyone else is doing it, or because it appeals to her soul, has fallen short of the will of God. The road to life is a path of self-denial. To be a disciple of Christ a man or woman must trade the life they would choose for themselves for that life God has chosen. College and career should be pursued ONLY if God has given commandment to do so. What will a woman be profited if she gets the best education, and lands a great job with good pay and the perks that appeal to her, if this is not the course God has chosen for her? Christ says she may gain the whole world and yet lose her soul.

Many a young woman has chosen college and career due to the excitement and worldly promise that such things could bring. Their hearts have been allured by the possibility of being financially independent. It is very attractive to the soul to be able to buy the clothes and possessions that the world says are indispensable to happiness, to participate in the pursuits and entertainments that others are finding so enjoyable. Some women go to college hoping to find a husband, for they see having a husband as necessary for their own personal fulfillment.

There are many motives that influence the life choices of men and women, yet only one motive will earn God's approval and praise. The woman who seeks first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, she shall be praised. The woman who has devoted herself to knowing God's will and doing it will be approved by Him. Whether a woman is a devoted wife, mother and homemaker, or is led to work or minister outside the home, she should do all at the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible gives examples of women who worked, or ministered, outside of the home. Some even accompanied Christ in His ministry, and supported Him from their private means.

Luke 8:1-3

Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.

If these women were conducting their lives contrary to the will of God the Father, certainly Christ would have reproved them. Yet, we find no mention of Christ telling these women to return home and attend to their families, or to focus solely on being keepers at home. This reveals an important truth of the kingdom of God. There are exceptions to the role of the woman who remains at home. Nevertheless, there is a universality to the inviolable law that all must discern and do the will of the Father. These women had a love for Christ. It was the Father's will and pleasure that they should accompany His Son and minister to His needs, and those of His disciples, as they were able.

It should be observed that these women were not out on some soulless escapade. Following Christ in His journeys and ministry was no lark. These women had seen the Savior. They had recognized who He was, and their hearts longed to give back to Him through whatever service He would accept and they could provide. Yahshua accepted this

devotion. The apostles also testify that it continues to be acceptable in God's eyes for a man or woman to choose service to Christ over marriage and family life.

I Corinthians 7:29-35

But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away. But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord - how he may please the Lord. But he who is married cares about the things of the world - how he may please his wife. There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. ***The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world - how she may please her husband. And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.***

Paul is not endorsing the single life in order to seek things for self. He advocates the single life for the purpose of procuring an undistracted devotion to the Lord. The woman who chooses a life other than being a homemaker to pursue selfish pleasure stands condemned. The life of the woman who is single by choice in order to serve God lives according to the same principle set forth for the godly widow.

I Timothy 5:5-6

Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.

The woman who would be approved by God must live for His pleasure, not her own. She must seek His will, and adopt a servant's attitude, ministering wherever, and however, Christ directs. If she is using her time, her resources, and her liberty for the pursuit of personal pleasure, then she has fallen away from the path of life. She is dead (spiritually) even while she lives.

Some of the women who accompanied Christ were single, and some were married. What then of the married woman? The married woman is subject to her husband. Although she has Christ as Lord, she also has her husband as head. This governmental order was established by Yahweh and He will not violate it. The married woman must honor and obey her husband. If he gives her leave to devote herself to the ministry of Christ then she is free. However, if he desires her to abide at home, and perform the duties of a homemaker, she must consider herself under authority of her husband.

We find that God does not violate authority where it legitimately exists. There are times when Christians and some in the world deny the legitimacy of certain authority relations, like that between a husband and wife, or between a master and slave. The Bible does not set aside such relationships, but advocates honoring authority where it exists. God's instructions to slaves was that they honor their masters. He did not declare their service null and void because they became Christians, not even if they had Christians

masters.

Ephesians 6:5-8

Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

A servant may be a Christian, but he/she has to honor their master. They cannot abandon their service to their master to serve Christ, nor act rebelliously. Rebellion is the principle of Satan, and God does not sanction rebellion.

I Peter 2:18-19

Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this is commendable...

Titus 2:9

Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

I Timothy 6:1-2

Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

Having given the instructions to servants above, the apostles give similar instructions to wives, for they too are under authority.

I Peter 3:1-2

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

Titus 2:4-5

Admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, ***obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.***

The word of God would come into great reproach if wives began using service to God as an excuse to disobey and dishonor their husbands. Such an act would be similar to that deceit practiced by the Jews which Christ condemned.

Mark 7:9-13

He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban (that is, a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."

I do not believe Yahweh will approve of a woman running away from her husband to serve Him anymore than He would approve of a servant running away from his master. In Paul's epistle to Philemon, he wrote about a run away servant named Onesimus. Onesimus had converted to the faith and was devoted to Paul. He had fled from his master, but Paul sent him back with a plea to Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother in Christ. Yet, Paul did not command Philemon to set him free. Paul only entreated Philemon to treat Onesimus with kindness. Service to God is not an excuse to violate that authority that exists in other areas of our lives.

(For those who question why the Bible does not condemn slavery, I recommend the following post: <http://parablesblog.blogspot.com/2010/04/why-does-bible-not-condemn-slaver.html>)

In the Old Testament a daughter's vow of service to Yahweh was subject to her father's approval. Similarly, a wife's vow of service to Yahweh was subject to her husband's approval. (Numbers 30:3-16) The father, or husband, could declare the woman's vow of service to be invalid. She would then be released from her vow of service to God. God would not consider her an oath breaker for not keeping her commitment to Him, for Yahweh upholds the authority of the man in the life of the woman. Similarly, the married Christian woman is under the authority of her husband. She must seek his approval to serve Christ if that service would take her away from her duties as a wife and mother. If her husband approves, she is free to serve the Lord according to the leading of the Spirit of Christ.

There are times when Yahweh will also approve of a woman working in some field of secular employment. The Proverbs 31 woman is set forth as an example of a godly woman. She was very industrious.

Proverbs 31:16-18

She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night.

Although the work described here could be considered a "cottage industry," something that can be done from home, there are women who are guided by the Father to labor outside the home. The godly woman will seek to discern the will of God for her life, and to follow wherever He guides. She will not view the world and its opportunities as a means to pursue a selfish agenda. She will seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

It must be considered an unusual event for a married woman with children to work outside the home, however. The admonition of the apostles is for women to be "keepers at



home.” A woman should not abdicate her role as teacher, nurturer, nutritional supervisor, spiritual counselor, or home front prayer warrior, etc., for any other reason than because Yahweh has given her command to do so. Most women today are abandoning the role of homemaker for soulless reasons. Yahweh will judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

Society, and even the Federal government of the United States, has put a lot of pressure upon women to abandon the home and enter the work force. This push began in earnest during the two world wars at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. So many men were sent overseas in the military that the government began advocating it to be the patriotic duty of the woman to enter the workforce. Some rather bizarre arguments were set forth. They would be comical if not for the terrible toll that has resulted as families have disintegrated. Following is an excerpt from a government brochure put out during World War II. It was published to convince the women of Mobile, Alabama, a major munitions and shipbuilding area, to leave home and enter the workforce.

### **If Hitler Came to Mobile...**

Every woman would defend her home with a gun, a knife, or her bare fingers.

But...

Hitler and his hordes will not come if women will help to build ships, more ships to transport our men, tanks, planes and munitions to the battle lines on other continents - or if women take other jobs directly aiding the war effort...

### **To the Women of Mobile...**

You are needed in the war jobs, and in other essential civilian jobs directly aiding the war effort in Mobile **NOW**. Manpower has been practically exhausted. Housing available at this time will not permit the bringing into Mobile of the thousands of additional workers required for the shipyards and other war and essential industries. We must depend upon you - upon womanpower. There are idle machines in war plants which you can operate. There are idle jobs in the shipyards which you can fill. There are jobs in stores, offices, transportation, restaurants, hospitals in which you can render essential war service.

Hitler will not come to our shores if we build the ships which can transport our soldiers and our war material overseas...

[ S o u r c e :  
<http://www.archives.gov/southeast/education/resources-by-state/images/wwii-flyer.pdf>]

These words, and many more, were used to persuade women to leave the occupation of homemaker. Many found that earning their own money, and laboring outside the home, was attractive in various ways. Satan has battered the image of the stay-at-home mother while glamorizing the image of the career woman. Even the most arduous, dirty, and dangerous jobs were portrayed as a fitting pursuit for women, while staying home was cast as something less appealing. Following is an image taken from the Internet of one of the war time ads that were used to lure women out of the homes and into the labor force.

# JEZEBEL



## **Rosie the Riveter**

(Note that the image above was taken from the website called Jezebel. They tag all of their images with their website name. I thought it was fitting to leave it in place.)

This iconic image drawn by Norman Rockwell has become a symbol of the women's movement. It is fitting that she appears very masculine. She has the arms and the mannerisms of a man. Notice that Rosie has a copy of *Mein Kampf*, Hitler's autobiography, under her feet. What a ridiculous ploy Satan used to draw women into the workforce and out of the home; Women need to abandon the role of homemaker to defeat Hitler. Yet it succeeded.

The second world war became the gateway for millions of women to enter the labor force. A critical mass was reached whereby women working outside the home was no longer considered unusual, or undesirable. The entire attitude of the country was altered. During World War II the female labor force grew by 6.5 million. At the height of the war, there were 19,170,000 women in the labor force. One in ten married women entered the labor force. The percentage of married women working outside the home increased from 13.9 to 22.5. The percentage of working women with children under 10 years of age increased from 7.8 to 12.1 from 1940 to 1944. From 1940 to 1944, the percentage of women workers employed in factories increased from 20 to 30 percent. Female employment in defense industries grew by 462 percent from 1940 to 1944. Between 1943 and 1945, polls indicated that 61 to 85 percent of women workers wanted to keep their jobs after the war.

The genie is now out of the bottle. Christian women today give little thought to working outside the home. This is a matter that should be given deep consideration. Yahweh has a plan and purpose for every one of His daughters. It is important that they discover what path He has chosen for them.

In contrast to Jezebel stands the life of Abigail. I have been impressed as I considered the wisdom and character of this woman and how it changed the heart of David and endeared her to him.

During the time that David had to flee Israel to escape the wrath of King Saul, he had

about six hundred men join themselves to him and they became a traveling band of warriors who would fight against the enemies of Israel. At times, however, they would attempt to settle down in one location, and during one such time they found themselves in a region where a wealthy man by the name of Nabal pastured his flocks. Shepherds at the time were always in danger from marauding bands who would seek to come in and steal flocks and kill or chase off the shepherds. David's men, however, not only restrained themselves from stealing Nabal's flocks, but they protected his shepherds and flocks from others.

At the end of the year when it came time to shear the sheep, Nabal gave a huge party and celebrated for many days. David sent a couple of his young men as ambassadors to Nabal anticipating that in his prosperity and great celebration he would desire to reward David and his men for their service in protecting his flocks and servants. However, Nabal acted foolishly and he insulted David and his men and he sent David's men back empty handed.

David was enraged when he heard of Nabal's insults. Nabal accused David of being a rebellious servant that had broken away from King Saul. David, whose actions were typically very humble, responded in pride and swore that he would not leave a single male living in Nabal's household to see the light of day. He and his men proceeded to go to Nabal's home with the intent of slaughtering everyone.

This would have been great sin had David done what was in his heart. Yahweh has said, "Vengeance is mine. I will repay" (Deuteronomy 32:35, Romans 12:19). We are advised to give place unto wrath and to not take vengeance into our own hands. Mercifully, Yahweh sent a wise and reverent woman to dissuade David from his course. Abigail acted quickly to intercept David. She prepared a gift for David and his men, and went quickly to meet them.

#### I Samuel 25:23-35

When Abigail saw David, she hurried and dismounted from her donkey, and fell on her face before David and bowed herself to the ground. She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the blame. And please let your maidservant speak to you, and listen to the words of your maidservant. "Please do not let my lord pay attention to this worthless man, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name and folly is with him; but I your maidservant did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent. Now therefore, my lord, as Yahweh lives, and as your soul lives, since Yahweh has restrained you from shedding blood, and from avenging yourself by your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek evil against my lord, be as Nabal. Now let this gift which your maidservant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who accompany my lord. Please forgive the transgression of your maidservant; for Yahweh will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord is fighting the battles of Yahweh, and evil will not be found in you all your days. Should anyone rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, then the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with Yahweh your God; but the lives of your enemies He will sling out as from the hollow of a sling. And when Yahweh does for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and appoints you ruler over Israel, this will not cause grief or a troubled heart to my lord, both by having shed blood without cause and by my lord having avenged himself. When Yahweh deals well with my lord, then remember your maidservant." Then David said to Abigail, "Blessed be Yahweh God of Israel, who sent you this day to

meet me, and blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodshed and from avenging myself by my own hand. Nevertheless, as Yahweh God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from harming you, unless you had come quickly to meet me, surely there would not have been left to Nabal until the morning light as much as one male." So David received from her hand what she had brought him and said to her, "Go up to your house in peace. See, I have listened to you and granted your request."

Notice the order of events here. David had been greatly dishonored by Nabal, and this has provoked an offense in his heart. Abigail begins by bowing before David. Her first act is to demonstrate honor to him. Abigail did not dismount her donkey, and walk over and stand before David as an equal. She demonstrated in a visible manner an attitude of honor toward him.

Abigail, with great wisdom, then speaks words to take away the pain of rejection and reproach David has experienced from many other sources. It was no secret that David had been anointed by Samuel to be king and that Saul was seeking his life due to jealousy. Nabal preferred to put his own twisted interpretation on this, and it was this that infuriated David so much. David was suffering tremendous things. He was the most faithful of servants to Saul, yet he was treated as an enemy. He had to leave family and home, and live as an alien in a foreign land. Many times he remained just one step ahead of Saul and certain death. His life was a life of peril.

I am sure that David often wondered if God would truly fulfill what He had promised to him. Living in caves and foreign lands as an outcast must have caused his heart to doubt and question what God had promised. Nabal's words accusing David of being a rebellious servant to Saul must have struck deep to his doubts and insecurities.

Look at Abigail's words. She knows the distress in David's heart. She is a wise woman and she perceives the issues that are warring within David. She understands what is necessary to raise him back to a place of faith so that he will not act out of his desperation and frustration. She assures David of the surety of his calling, declaring with great confidence that David will see fulfilled all that Yahweh has spoken to him.

Abigail's words were spoken in the presence of David's men. She elevated him in the eyes of others. David needed someone to understand what had been promised to him. He needed someone to encourage his heart when all the circumstances around him were discouraging. He needed to hear from the lips of another person that his situation was not hopeless, but that Yahweh would perform all He had spoken. Abigail's words were like a healing balm to David's aching heart. She encouraged him with words of faith and hope, and as she did so David's desperation and pain was washed away to be replaced with calm and peace and the patience to wait upon Yahweh.

What perception was in the heart of this woman! She did not go out and scold David for wanting to destroy her family. She did not tell him that the course he was on was wicked. She affirmed him, encouraged him and lifted him up. She brought back hope in a time when he desperately needed hope.

David relented of his intent to avenge himself. He accepted Abigail's gift and he and his men returned. Yahweh exacted vengeance for Nabal's wickedness. The Scriptures state that about ten days later God struck Nabal and he died.

After this we read of David sending a proposal to Abigail to make her his wife. It should not be surprising that David desired to be intimate with this woman, to keep her

close to him. Abigail affirmed David as a man. She showed him great honor by her words and actions. David's heart was drawn to the inner beauty of this woman's life, and he proposed marriage to her.

I Samuel 25:40-42

When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, "David has sent us to you to take you as his wife." She arose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, "Behold, your maidservant is a maid to wash the feet of my lord's servants." Then Abigail quickly arose, and rode on a donkey, with her five maidens who attended her; and she followed the messengers of David and became his wife.

There are many women today who would describe Abigail's attitude in a very unflattering way, yet she was demonstrating great godliness. In her comment, "Behold, your maidservant is a maid to wash the feet of my lord's servants" she was expressing the height of love. She was proclaiming that she would lay down her own soul life with its ambitions and desires that she might seek the welfare and benefit of others. It is questionable whether she spent much time actually washing people's feet, for she had five maidens of her own to attend to her, and later she lived as the wife of the king in the king's palace. She was expressing her heart attitude, however. She was not entering into a marriage relationship with David to get out of it what she could. Instead she was seeking to give of herself.

Consider the description God has given to us of the end of this vile woman.

II Kings 9:31-37

As Jehu entered the gate, [Jezebel] said, "Is it well, Zimri, your master's murderer?" Then he lifted up his face to the window and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" And two or three officials looked down at him. He said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her under foot. When he came in, he ate and drank; and he said, "See now to this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king's daughter." They went to bury her, but they found nothing more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands. Therefore they returned and told him. And he said, "This is the word of Yahweh, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "In the property of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel; and the corpse of Jezebel will be as dung on the face of the field in the property of Jezreel, so they cannot say, "This is Jezebel."""

In this end we see how greatly despised the spirit of Jezebel is to Yahweh. God turned her into dog dung to be spread unceremoniously upon the fields of Israel. Sisters in Christ, is it not expedient that you recognize both that which is displeasing, as well as that which is pleasing to God? Do you see the parable in the words above? Jehu says, "See now to this cursed woman and bury her, for *she is a king's daughter*." If you are born again of the Spirit of Christ, you too are a King's daughter. God, however, is no respecter of persons. Each will be recompensed according to what they have done. Those daughters of the King who walk in the spirit of Jezebel will be condemned by God. Because they exalted themselves, refused to take the low position, to serve their husbands and wash the feet of the disciples of Christ,

they will be cast down. They will be treated as an unclean thing, and this judgment will come from God.

In contrast, those women who have adorned themselves modestly and discreetly, who have manifested a gentle and quiet spirit, who have beautified themselves with a life of service to others, will receive praise, honor, and reward from the Father.

I Peter 5:5-6

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.







## **Books By Joseph Herrin**

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