

CURSED & BLESSED - Both or Neither

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For those who decide not to be a Christian in this world we live in, they must then, by all means, seek power, glory, self-fulfillment, and applause from the world around them. For the person without Christ, that is all there is—applause in this world, and then eternal separation from God. Jesus will say He never knew them, and condemn them to eternal separation (Matt. 7:21-23).

However, if one decides to become a Christian, then they don't need to seek the applause of this world, because they have blessings already, for all eternity, which makes the perks of this world pale in comparison (Eph. 1:3).

One issue facing our world today is whether women should be in the top leadership positions. Of course they should, and are. Women are just as capable of leadership as any man.

However, one issue facing the Christian community is whether women should be in the top leadership positions of the church. Of course not!

What? How can this be?

Jesus surrounded Himself with both men and women. Women were equal to men under Christ (Gal. 3:28; Gen. 1:27; Joel 2:28-29; Acts 8:12; Rom. 3:21-24). Women are just as intelligent and capable of leadership as men.

However, Jesus (God Himself, our Creator—Col. 1:15-18; Rev. 4:11), gave those that follow Him instructions that women (even though fully capable), must *not* be in the overall leadership position in the church (Gen. 3:16).

Why not?

God cursed both the man and the woman for their sin. Man is *cursed* to toil, to support, and the *head* the family, to *lead* the family in God's ways, and is *cursed* to never be satisfied (Gen. 3:17-19).

Woman is *cursed* to bare children in great pain, and to *desire* to be the leader in the home, and also in spiritual matters. Woman, however, is *cursed to submit* (Gen. 3:16). Obviously, many men have perverted the last part of this passage of God's Word (submit), and have used it to justify evil deeds. But, this is just further evidence that those who so use it are not truly Christian. For if they were truly Christian, they would show compassion, love, and respect as commanded by God (Coll. 3:19; 1 Pet. 3:7).

The Hebrew term "to desire," in Genesis 3:16, is not a sexual reference, but a reference to *desire the leadership role* God assigned to the husband in marriage and spiritual matters.

Many men, of course, try to circumvent God's curse by leaving the home, leaving the marriage, ignoring God, and seeking the world's ways.

Women also begin to circumvent God's curse by endeavoring to become leaders of the home and church.

Men may succeed in the world's ways, and their wives may be forced to raise the children in God's ways alone, but these men are outside of God's will.

Women may succeed in the world's ways, and sometimes even divorce the husband for non-scriptural reasons, or endeavor to become the top leaders in the church, but these women are outside of God's will.

How can this be?

Man's sin is that he disobeyed God. Adam did not listen to God. Instead, he listened to Eve, and he did not take a stand for God. Had Adam reasoned with Eve, denied Satan, and submitted to God, then we would not be having this discussion. But, Adam did what men generally do, he went along with the woman, and allowed himself to be swayed to put God aside (Gen. 3:17-19).

Woman's sin is that she disobeyed God, after being deceived by Satan. She listened to Satan over God. Had Eve reasoned with Adam, and submitted to God, we would not be having this discussion.

All humans, both men and women, have sinned against God (Rom. 3:10-12, 23, 5:12).

It is not that women are less intelligent or less capable of leadership—quite the opposite. It is because women, in general, are so influential over men, that God cursed women to *desire* the top leadership role, but instead of acting on that desire, to submit, or be out of God's will.

And, like it or not, men are cursed to lead, and toil, or be out of God's will.

Women are to submit in spiritual matters, because Jesus, the Creator, said so (Gen. 3:16; Col. 3:18-25; 1 Tim. 2:11-15, 3:1-12; Titus 2:1-15; 1 Pet. 3:1-7).

The issue is not whether men are better—they're not. Rather, the problem is that men, in general, are weak where women are concerned. Women, in general, are so influential over a man's will, that God cursed the woman's influence in the area of leadership in the home and church.

We must note that this by no means restricts women from achieving whatever level of authority they aspire to in the world, outside the home and church. God's curse, or restriction, is only in spiritual matters.

Today, however, women have abandoned God's commands, because men have abandoned God's commands. Ironically, the men have led in this abandonment by shirking their responsibility, and women have abandoned their responsibility by stepping into the area God forbid.

Statistics compiled by the *Barna Survey* (2004), show that women are 100 % more likely than men to be involved in church discipleship. Women are increasing in the clergy, and many predict that the clergy will be predominantly a woman's profession by 2025. Today, in the mainline church, the seminaries have a female majority.

The *Barna Survey* also shows that about two-thirds of church members nationwide are women. The reason many women in the church (founded by Jesus Christ), don't leave is because they submit to God (even His curse), and are patiently waiting for Jesus' return. Whereas, many men have left the church, abandoned their responsibility, and at the same time, they have left God's will.

Some speculate the reason so many women are in church, and men are not, it would seem, is that women are spiritually stronger, and men, today, are spiritually weak. However, this is not the case. Rather, it is that, once again, *just as in Eden*, men who call themselves followers of God (Christians), have abandoned their role, as laid down by God (Gen. 3:16).

The Christian man is the one who is, once again, directly disobeying God, *just as in Eden*. By not stepping up to his responsibility as leader, as laid out in God's plan for His followers in Eden, such men are out of God's will.

The Christian woman who takes a leadership role is also out of God's will. She sees the opportunity to serve as a head authority, sees doors seemingly opening, but in reality, in God's plan, she has been, once again, deceived into disobeying God's plan, *just as in Eden* (see the book **Eden to Evil @ Target Truth Ministries.com**). The reason many women argue for leadership in the church is because they will not submit to God, and His command. They are deceived by pride and ambition in today's world (Gen. 3:16).

It is suggested by many today, that times have changed, and women have advanced. Today we recognize women's equality, abilities, and contributions. We are all wiser today, and more educated. *This is all true.* Is this not the exact temptation which Satan gave to Eve in Eden? Surely it is o.k. You won't surely die (you won't surely be out of God's grace). Do what seems rationally right. After all, God's command was for a different time, another age. Go ahead and do what feels right to you.

Just as when the Constitution of the United States was adopted, it established the *ideal* of all having equal opportunity. At that time, everyone knew that not everyone had equal opportunity. But, equality was an ideal to work toward. Eventually slavery was eliminated, women got the vote, and our country slowly evolved (and still is evolving), toward the ideal of equal opportunity for all. So, we humans rationally extend this argument to matters of God.

But, Jesus said not one jot or tittle of His Word would change (Matt. 5:18). Jesus said what seems right to man is folly, and that man's ways are not His ways (Prov. 16:25; Isa. 55:8). God's Word is timeless. God's plan is that Christian men are to step up and take responsibility, and Christian women are to stand down.

We have come full circle. *An instant replay of Eden* is now in view. The difference being that Adam and Eve were ashamed (Gen. 3:7). But, today, *we* are proud of *our* achievements.

The irony is that leadership in spiritual matters of home and church is not about *our* authority. It is about *God's* authority. To truly lead, one must die to self. The man must step up. The woman must encourage the man to fulfill his role as God commanded.

The church errs in its understanding of God's plan when it allows itself to be deceived by Satan into changing the roles between men and women in spiritual matters.

This is not a minor error. This is a critical mistake affecting the core of doctrine of God's Word, and its effects have already opened the door to compounding error (sanctity of life, abortion and euthanasia, homosexuality and adultery, divorce and re-marriage—see Study on ***Marriage & Divorce***—Target Truth Ministries.com).

To submit, as required by God, whether it be men to their role, women to their role, slaves to masters (see Study on Slavery), or citizens to government, is to glorify God by our example of showing that our joy, and blessings, lie in a greater life (Eph. 1:3), not in this fallen world (Rom. 8:18-23).