

Women Preachers in the Church of Christ

by Wayne Goff

It's official now. The Fourth Avenue Church of Christ in Franklin, Tennessee has hired a "Preaching Intern" who is a woman. They have publicized it through a slick YouTube announcement. Those who are familiar with the numerous errors of some churches of Christ will not be surprised at all — after all, they have had female "Youth Ministers" for at least 30 years. But now they have one in the pulpit.

Jesus Or Paul?

The regular preacher at this church argued that he does not see Jesus through Paul, but rather that he sees Paul through Jesus. In other words, Paul's writings which forbid women taking a leadership role over men (1 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 14:34) are not to be viewed as authoritative over Jesus. Therefore, since Jesus said nothing about women in the pulpit, it must be okay.

Of course this view is so patently absurd that it hardly needs answering. But for the honest soul who might be misled by such subversive thinking, let me explain. Jesus authorized the Holy Spirit-inspired apostles to reveal "*all truth*" (Jn. 16:13), including "*things to come*." Therefore, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1ff), they began to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and were witnesses to the whole world (Acts 1:8). Those who received these men in Jesus' name received Him (Matt. 10:14). To reject these men or their message is tantamount to rejecting Jesus!

The apostle Paul affirmed that "*all Scripture is given by inspiration of God*" (2 Tim. 3:16), and that includes the words of Paul regarding the role of women in the church. This has been understood by God's people for the last 2,000 years!

Cultural Argument

A second argument made in favor of women preachers by this church is that Paul's limitations of the woman's role were *culturally based* and not intended for all time. However, 1 Timothy is a letter written by an inspired apostle to an approved evangelist instructing him on what he should say, teach and do in his job! How one could make a *cultural argument* on that passage is beyond me! But to disprove that argument, one only needs to look at the reasons given for forbidding women to take a leadership role in the church: (1) Adam was created first, 1 Timothy 2:13; (2) Woman was deceived and transgressed first in the Garden of Eden, 1 Timothy 2:14. The inspired reasoning has nothing to do with a certain culture in a specific place and time. It is a universal decree!

Tip Of The Iceberg

Churches of Christ like the one in Franklin, Tennessee have been practicing various errors for decades now. They have failed to honor the *limited* role of elders by allowing them to have control over the funds of many contributing churches in various organized programs, they have used the Lord's money to support human institutions in benevolence and evangelism, they have parroted the denominations by approving of "youth ministers" (both male and female), "pulpit ministers," etc. Many of them have spent millions of dollars on Family Life Centers (entertainment). In the name of "missions" they have now "medical missionaries" to heal the various physical ills while ignoring the spiritual needs. The list goes on and on.

This should help us see today why there is always the need for the plea for Bible authority in all we say and do religiously, 1 Peter 4:11. Jesus has plainly stated that He will **reject** those who work "*iniquity*" (Matt. 7:23, **ΚΙΥ**) or "*lawlessness*" (**ΝΚΙΥ**). They may receive approval by men, but not by God, for the unauthorized things they do. Jesus warned the church in Sardis, when He wrote: "*...I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead*" (Rev. 3:1). What a contrast! In the eyes of men this church was "*alive*," but in the eyes of God it was "*dead*." This should be a warning to all churches of Christ today.