

Street Evangelist for Women's Equality

Speaking up for women wherever I am



October 26, 2015

Dr. Ronnie Floyd
The Executive Committee, SBC
901 Commerce Street
Nashville, TN 37203-3699

Dear Dr. Floyd,

This is most difficult letter to write. You are not going to believe this until you see it in writing. Bluntly, Baptists teach that women are consorting with the devil when they do not submit to their husbands. For over 300 years, thousands of women died when they were accused of being witches, and today, thousands of women suffer by that same accusation by Christian leaders.

Southern Baptist pastors teach that weakness and susceptibility of women allows the devil to influence them. A pastor of a Southern Baptist church in Texas, who I do not want to embarrass by calling his name, confirms this: *"The many roles of the woman, including wife and mother, **can be very taxing**. This is why **Satan focuses his attack** on the family and more importantly **on the wife and mother**. He knows that by destroying the family unit, he destroys part of God's plan for man."*

Heavily influenced by Southern Baptist leaders, the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood equates women to witches on their website (Missions and Vision).

"If families do not structure their homes properly, in disobedience to the teachings of Eph.5, 1 Peter 3, and Col. 3, (submissive wives) then they will not have the proper foundation from which to withstand the temptations of the devil and the various onslaughts of the world. This hinders the sanctification of married couples and also introduces confusion about basic parenting issues such as raising masculine sons and feminine daughters." (CBMW.org)

Shockingly, this is the same language found in the Malleus Maleficarum (The Witch Hunter's Bible). Wikipedia quotes Michael Bailey (Battling Demons, 2003, University Press):

"The text argues that women are more susceptible to demonic temptations through the manifold weaknesses of their gender. It was believed that they were weaker in faith and more carnal than men. Michael Bailey claims that most of the women accused as witches had strong personalities and were known to defy convention by overstepping the lines of proper female decorum." (see 'feminine daughters' from CBMW referenced above.)

Women consorting with the devil was a strong belief in the Middle Ages, and is still a factor according to the pastor, and the statement by the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood. If a woman becomes too strong, usurping the authority of the husband, she is guilty of inviting the devil into the home. Baptists and the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood believe that when wives submit themselves to their husbands, this enables families to withstand the devil's temptations and the onslaughts of the world. If you believe that is the gospel, then you need to find yourself a real Bible.

Dr. Floyd, I know that you believe that women are to be submissive to males, to their husbands of course, but also to all men in leadership. You could never have obtained the position you have if you did not. However, it will take men such as yourself to open your heart to the fact that many cherished beliefs may not honor Christ. I have presented reasons for you to reexamine those beliefs in light of God's word, in light of your own prayers for a breakthrough, and in light of how we can be a Great Commission people.

Shirley Taylor
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