

WOMEN'S ORDINATION

INTRODUCTION: “How shall we search the Scriptures in order to understand what they teach? We should come to the investigation of God's word with a contrite heart, a teachable and prayerful spirit. We are not to think, as did the Jews, that our own ideas and opinions are infallible; nor with the papists, that certain individuals are the sole guardians of truth and knowledge, that men have no right to search the Scriptures for themselves, but must accept the explanations given by the fathers of the church. We should not study the Bible for the purpose of sustaining our preconceived opinions, but with the single object of learning what God has said.”(TM 105.1)

Let us pray that the Lord gives us understanding, that we study the Bible as the

unquestionable authority of heaven, and that we put aside all our opinions, feelings and ideas.

In view of the fact that “**All scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**..”(2Timothy 3:16-17), we need, brethren, to understand that we can have a clear view on any Bible topic **only if all the scriptures pertaining to that topic speak for themselves.**

If Malachi and Paul are correct when they say, “I am the LORD, **I change not.**..”(Mal 3:6) and that “Jesus Christ **the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.**..” (Heb 13:8), and if this Christ Jesus is the Incarnate “**Word of God**”, the Bible (compare with John 1:1,5:39, Rev 19:13), then what is said **in one area of the**

Bible must be the same as what is said in another area of the Bible, otherwise the Bible and its Author can ' t be true. You cannot, therefore, believe something **when it is not 100% in harmony with the other scriptures on the same subject**. Neither should we force the Bible to agree with our ideas, opinions and feelings, but to align all our thoughts with it.

Warns the Spirit: **“In order to sustain erroneous doctrines or unchristian practices, some will seize upon passages of Scripture separated from the context, perhaps quoting half of a single verse as proving their point, when the remaining portion would show the meaning to be quite the opposite.** With the cunning of the serpent, they entrench themselves behind **disconnected utterances construed to suit their carnal desires**. Thus do **many willfully pervert the Word of God**. Others, who have an active imagination, seize upon the figures and

symbols of Holy Writ, interpret to suit their fancy, with little regard to the testimony of Scripture as its own interpreter, and then they present their vagaries as the teachings of the Bible. Whenever the study of the Scriptures is entered upon without a prayerful, humble, teachable spirit, the plainest and simplest as well as the most difficult passages will be wrested from their true meaning.. ” (GC88 520.4,521.1)

“In your study of the Word, lay at the door of investigation your preconceived opinions and your hereditary and cultivated ideas. You will never reach the truth if you study the Scriptures to vindicate your own ideas. Leave these at the door, and with a contrite heart go in to hear what the Lord has to say to you. As the humble seeker for truth sits at Christ's feet, and learns of Him, the Word gives him understanding. To those who are too wise in their own conceit to study the Bible, Christ

says, You must become meek and lowly in heart if you desire to become wise unto salvation. Do not read the Word in the light of former opinions; but, with a mind free from prejudice, search it carefully and prayerfully. If, as you read, conviction comes, and you see that your cherished opinions are not in harmony with the Word, do not try to make the Word fit these opinions. Make your opinions fit the Word. Do not allow what you have believed or practiced in the past to control your understanding. Open the eyes of your mind to behold wondrous things out of the law. Find out what is written, and then plant your feet on the eternal Rock.” (MYP 260)

It is imperative, therefore, to ask for the help of “the Spirit of truth” who guides “into all truth” (John 16:13) as we deal with the Word of the Eternal one.

The issue of **women's ordination** has been discussed in the Adventist Church for quite some time now. **Ordination to the office of eldership or Pastory ministry** is, as Inspiration affirms, the grant of ecclesiastical authority “**an acknowledged form of designation to an appointed office and a recognition of one's authority in that office..**” (AA 161.2).

Like the apostles, the **ordained ministers** in the Church are “**authorized by the church, not only to teach the truth, but to perform the rite of baptism and to organize churches, being invested with full ecclesiastical authority.**”(AA 160.2)

It must be understood, however, that the “**laying on of hands**” isn't necessarily ordination to pastoral ministry or eldership in the Church. The Savior commanded his followers to “**lay hands on the sick**”(Mark

16:18, Acts 28:8), the apostles anointed people with the Holy Spirit by **laying hands on them** (Acts 8:18), even laying hands on children isn't necessarily ordination but **dedication**.

Since this issue deals largely with **the leadership roles for men and women in the Church**, we must closely look at it and allow the Spirit to help us arrive **at the whole truth**, by first looking at the one who was

One With The Father From Everlasting.

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; **whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.**” (Micah 5:2, John 17:5)

Christ is “**the eternal Son of God**” who “**being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God..**”(Philippians 2:6)

“**The great Creator** assembled the heavenly host, that he might in the presence of all the angels **confer special honor upon his Son.**

The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. **The Father then**

made known that it was ordained by himself that Christ, his Son, should be equal with himself; so that wherever was the presence of his Son, it was as his own presence. The

word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father. **His Son he had invested with authority to command the heavenly host.** Especially was his Son to work **in union with himself** in the anticipated creation of the earth and every living thing that should exist upon the earth. **His Son would**

carry out his will and his purposes, but would do nothing of himself alone. The Father's will would be fulfilled in him.”(1SP 17.2)

“The Son of God had **wrought the Father's will** in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. **But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God's plan, but would exalt the Father's glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love.”(PP 36.2)**

“The Son of God was **next in authority** to the great Lawgiver...”(2SP 9.1)

Here you see that though Christ and His Father are equal, **yet Christ yields to the wishes of His Father.** God the Father is the one with the

highest authority in the universe , and Christ who is also “**God essentially and in the highest sense**” **is next in authority**. This, however, does not make him less God, no, no, “**For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.**”(Colossians 2:9).

Manifestly, then, no one can escape the conclusion that **this is the order of Heaven**. **Two beings equal in nature and value, yet one has the highest authority**. Christ is always submissive to His Father. This same order exists even among the angels, some have higher authority than others. Is it not interesting that **this same order** should be reflected not only in homes but also in Churches? God created man in the beginning,

Male and Female Created He Them.

“And **God** [the Father]**said**, Let **us** [the father and the Son] make **man**[in broad sense, both male and female] in **our image**, after **our likeness**: and let **them** [male and female]**have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So **God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**”(Genesis 1:26-17)

The gender distinction, you see, is clearly stated, “**male and female**”. A man cannot become a woman and vice versa, their appearance and roles are **very different** even though **both were made in the image of God** showing that **they are equal in value**. The Word, however, doesn't say that both male and female were made from the dust of the earth simultaneously. If the Lord wanted it to be so, it would have been. But “**Adam was first**

formed, then Eve..”(1Tim 2:13)

“ And the LORD God formed **man** [in a restricted sense, **Adam**] of the dust of the ground, and breathed into **his** nostrils the breath of life; and **man**[Adam] **became a living soul**. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the **man** [Adam] whom he had formed...And the LORD God **took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it**. And the LORD God commanded the **man**[Adam], saying, **Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.** ” (Genesis 2:7,8,15-17)

Here you see that not only did God make a man before He made a woman, but also that the command to eat not of the tree of the

knowledge of good and evil **was strictly given to Adam, the only human being who was there at that particular moment.**

After this, then “the LORD God said, **It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.**” (Genesis 2:18)

Verses 19 and 20 describe the act of bringing animals to Adam so that he could name them, showing **an act of authority**. Upon seeing that no animal could be a help meet for him, so

“...the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon **Adam**, and he slept: and he took **one of his ribs**, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made **he a woman**, and brought her unto the man. **And Adam 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. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”(Genesis 2:21-24)

In view of the fact that “**Adam**” was “**the father and representative of the whole human family..**” (PP 48.1), the one **invested with the highest authority on earth**, it important to understand that “**Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal, to be loved and protected by him..**” (PP 46.2)

Thus, though Adam and Eve were “**one**” in substance and **equal** in value, **yet their roles were different**. And though “**dominion**” was given unto both of them, yet Adam was the one in the position similar to that of the Eternal

Father in Heaven: **“Adam was crowned king in Eden. To him was given dominion over every living thing that God had created. The Lord blessed Adam and Eve with intelligence such as He had not given to any other creature.**

He made Adam the rightful sovereign over all the works of His hands.

Man, made in the divine image, could contemplate and appreciate the glorious works of God in nature.”(1BC 1082.2)

As **“the rightful sovereign over all the works of His hands”**, It was Adam’s duty to **protect** his wife and **not to oppress her**. To reiterate, **in value they were equal, but in duties and roles they were different**. Adam had to tell his wife about the Lord’s command regarding the tree of knowledge of good and evil. **He was taller than her. He was older than her**. She had, therefore, to respect him **as the head of the family and the handiwork of the Creator**.

It's interesting to see that they realized not their nakedness **until Adam ate the fruit**. When the Lord came into the garden, he didn't speak to Eve but said "Who told thee that thou wast naked? **Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?**"(Genesis 3:11)

Moreover, "...**by one man[Adam] sin entered into the world.**"(Rom 5:12) and "**as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**" (1Cor 15:22). Thus it was Adam who was held responsible for the fall and not Eve.

The relationship between the Father and the Son is reflected **in the relationship between Adam and Eve, man and woman**. As shown already, Christ and the Father "**are one**"(John 10:30), **they are equal** in value **but their roles are different**. The Son always submits to His Father. The Headship of the Father over the

Son is 100% good, for **“the Father loveth the Son”**(John 5:20). Similarly, Adam and Eve are **“one flesh”** (Gen 2:23), **equal** in value **but their roles were different**. Eve was not to control him as the head but in the environment without sin to do things that were pleasant to him. **The headship of Adam was 100% good for he was to love her unconditionally.**

It was as a result of sin that God said unto a women, **“thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.(as an inferior)”**(Genesis 3:16, compare Gen 4:7)

Because she was the one who sinned, and because she wanted to be exalted above her original position, **“she fell far below it”**(AH 115.2), hence the command **“he shall rule over thee”** as an inferior, having fallen from her position of equality with man. But all that was lost through sin **“was to be restored by the plan of redemption..”**(PP 67.1).

Having seen the Headship roles in Heaven and Adam's headship role before the fall, Let us now closely examine

Male Headship After the Fall...

The earliest times..

“In early times [times before Abraham] the father was the ruler and priest of his own family, and he exercised authority over his children, even after they had families of their own. His descendants were taught to look up to him as their head, in both religious and secular matters. This patriarchal system of government Abraham endeavored to perpetuate, as it tended to preserve the knowledge of God..”(PP 141.2)

Here you see that male headship roles were maintained even **a short time after the fall, during Noah's time before the days of Abraham.**

Noah...

The Lord's **administrative instructions** after the flood were given **only to Noah and his sons - all males, even though their wives were present.**

“And God blessed **Noah** and **his sons**, and said unto them...Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things...And **God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him**, saying, And I, behold, **I establish my covenant with you**, and with your seed after you..”(Genesis 9:1,3,8,9)

Abraham...

Abraham himself, **as a priest and ruler** of his home was to command his household,

“For I know him, that **he will command his children and his household after him**, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring **upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him..**”(Genesis 18:19)

The 12 tribes...

The representatives of the Old Testament Church (Gen 35:22, 49:28, AA 19), **the twelve tribes**, were **all males**. Dinah, a female daughter of Jacob wasn't counted.

Rulers over the people...

The rulers of the tribes were **all males....**

“And Moses chose **able men out of all Israel**, and made them **heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens..**”(Exodus 18:25)

Commenting on this scripture, Inspiration says, “They should be ‘**able men**, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness.’ All matters of minor consequence were to be judged **by the men placed over the smaller groups**; matters of greater importance were to be carried **to the higher officers**; and the most difficult cases were still **to be brought before Moses..**”(RH October 5, 1905, par. 3)

Moses

Moses **Himself**, as a man leading Israel,

“was **their visible leader**, while Christ stood at the head of the armies of Israel, their invisible Leader..”(Con 25.2)

The 70 Elders...

The 70 elders chosen by Moses **were all males....**

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me **seventy men of the elders of Israel**, whom thou knowest **to be the elders of the people**, and **officers** over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, **that they may stand there with thee..**”(Numbers 11:16)

They were chosen “**to share with him the responsibilities of leadership**, Moses was careful to select, as his helpers, **men possessing dignity**, sound judgment, and experience. In his charge to **these elders at the**

time of their ordination, he outlined some of the qualifications **that fit a man to be a wise ruler in the church..”(AA 94.1)**

The Priests and the Levites...

The priests and the Levites **were all males...**

“And the LORD said unto Aaron, **Thou and thy sons** and thy father’s house with thee **shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary**: and thou and **thy sons** with thee shall bear the iniquity of **your priesthood**. And **thy brethren also of the tribe of Levi**, the tribe of thy father, bring thou with thee, that they may be joined unto thee, and **minister unto thee**: but **thou and thy sons with thee shall minister before the tabernacle of witness ...** And thou shalt bring **the Levites** before the LORD: and the children of Israel shall put their hands upon the Levites: And Aaron shall offer the Levites before the

LORD for an offering of the children of Israel, that they may execute the service of the LORD.”(Numbers 18,1,2, 8:10-11)

“The great Head of the church superintends His work through the instrumentality of men ordained by God to act as His representatives.”(AA 360.1)

“The law was very explicit that only those who had been ordained to the sacred office should minister in the sanctuary.. “(PP 398.3)

There’s no record in the Bible regarding women performing sacrificial ceremonies, all were males.

The Kings...

The 42 kings that ruled Israel were all males.

“Hundreds of years before Solomon came to the throne, the Lord, foreseeing the perils that would beset **those who might be chosen as rulers of Israel**, gave Moses instruction for their guidance. Directions were given that **he who should sit on the throne of Israel** should ‘write him a copy’ of the statutes of Jehovah ‘in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites.’ ‘**It shall be with him,**’ the Lord said, ‘and he shall read therein all the days of **his life**’”(PK 52.1)

The Apostles...

The apostles of Christ, “**the representatives of the gospel church**”(AA 19) **were all males.**

“When Jesus had ended His instruction to the disciples, He gathered **the little band** close about Him, and kneeling in the midst of them, and **laying His hands upon their heads**, He

offered a prayer dedicating them to His sacred work. **Thus the Lord's disciples were ordained to the gospel ministry.**”(DA 296.3)

Even The **seventy disciples** which Christ sent in Luke 10 were **all males..**

“This was the order in which the laborers were to go forth. He was about to leave the work, and he determined to put it in the hands of **faithful men...The seventy were to go forth to do a work similar to that which was being done by the twelve.** They were all endowed with supernatural endowments as the seal of their heavenly calling. **They were ordained** to proclaim that which Jesus at the beginning of his ministry had bidden them to keep secret..”(ST December 10, 1894, par. 5)

Interestingly enough, A successor of Judas Iscariot, Matthias, **was a male..(Acts 1:21-26)**

The 7 Deacons...

The seven deacons **were all males...**

“Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you **seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.**”(Acts 6:2-3)

Leaders at the Jerusalem Council...

The leaders at the council in Jerusalem **were all males - apostles and elders included.**

“When therefore **Paul** and **Barnabas** had no small dissension and disputation with them,

they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem **unto the apostles and elders about this question..**”(Acts 15:2)

There was “ a general council of the entire body of believers, made up of appointed delegates from the various local churches, **with the apostles and elders in positions of leading responsibility..**”(AA 95.3)

Elders in every city...

The elders ordained in every city of Crete **were all males .**

“For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and **ordain elders in every city**, as I had appointed thee: If any be blameless, **the husband of one wife, having faithful**

children not accused of riot or unruly.. ”
(Titus 1:5-6)

Ordination of Timothy...

Timothy was ordained **as male..**(1 Tim 4:14)

Thus, we see over and over that this is the Lord's order throughout history. And Male Headship in Churches is pointed to by

Male Headship in Homes..

“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. **Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.** Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every

thing. **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;** That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”(Ephesians 5:21-27)

To conclude , as some do, that verse 21 is promoting **mutual submission in homes is illogical and unbiblical**, for the context here doesn't support such a notion. **It is the wife who should submit unto her husband as the Church submits to Christ, the head.** If the headship of Christ is for the good of his church, revealed in self sacrificing love, **then the Headship of the husband in the home should be exactly like that.** Christ is the Saviour of the Church, so the husband should be the saviour of the wife.

“Submitting yourselves one to another”: the phrase “ one to another ” simply means “ one[the wife submitting herself] to another[the husband].

We are sorry that many husbands have misused their headship roles in homes by being oppressive.

“The Lord has constituted the husband the head of the wife to be her protector; he is the house-band of the family, binding the members together, even as Christ is the head of the church and the Saviour of the mystical body. Let every husband who claims to love God carefully study the requirements of God in his position. Christ's authority is exercised in wisdom, in all kindness and gentleness; so let the husband exercise his power and imitate the great Head of the church.”(CCh 145.6)

Again and again we see that the husband and the wife are equal in value but their roles are different, **as ordained by God**. If we accept the idea that **there ' s no difference between male and female roles**, that they are the same, can you imagine the impact this will have on the marriage institution? If the Word has stated that He created them “ **male and female** ”, different gender, different roles, who are we to change it now? **And how is this idea different from homosexuality?** The Bible explains further that

The head of the Woman is Man...

“But I would have you know, **that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.**”(1Corinthians 11:3)

This scripture puts everything in order, and it is

in perfect harmony with all other scriptures on this subject. I'm sure it needs no comment.

“Every man **praying or prophesying**[teaching or preaching], having his head covered, dishonoureth **his head**[Christ]. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth **her head**[the man]: **for that is even all one as if she were shaven.**

For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.”(1Corinthians 11:4-6)

These scriptures are self explanatory.

“For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as **he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.** **For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for**

the man.”(1Corinthians 11:7-9)

It is interesting to see that the apostle 's argument here is based on the creation story and not on culture as some say. The man is the glory of God, for he was directly taken from the dust. The woman is the glory of man, for she was taken from him, **yet they were all made in the image of God, equal in value.** The man was formed first, then the woman. Assuredly, then , the idea of male headship is **purely based on the creation account before the fall.**

The man is the head of the woman, Christ is the head of man, and the Eternal father is the head of Christ, **perfect order.** All the heads are to exercise their headship roles in love, kindness and gentleness. This is the heavenly order, don't dare change it.

Christ complains not about His head[the

Father], neither should a woman complain about her head[the man]. She can only stand independently **if his headship is controlled by the one who's the enemy of Order and truth.**

Let's see the relationship between the headship roles and

The Gifts of the Spirit....

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given **to every man** to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit,

dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”(1Corinthians 12:7-12)

“Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and **gave gifts unto men**...And he gave some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors** and **teachers**.. ” (Ephesians 4:8,11)

It's important to understand that **to have the gifts of the spirit and to be invested with ecclesiastical authority through ordination are two different things**. The gifts are given to all, **both men and women**, but **the offices of the elders and pastors are completely reserved for men**.

“Years before, when **the divine purpose**

concerning Paul was first revealed to him by the Saviour Himself, Paul was immediately afterward brought into contact with members of the newly organized church at Damascus. Furthermore, **the church at that place was not long left in darkness as to the personal experience of the converted Pharisee.** And now, when the divine commission given at that time was **to be more fully carried out**, the Holy Spirit, again bearing witness concerning Paul as a chosen vessel to bear the gospel to the Gentiles, **laid upon the church the work of ordaining him and his fellow laborer..”(AA 162.3)**

Paul, you see, showed through his conversion that he had exercised the gifts of the Spirit given him before he was ordained.

Again there were **male and female prophets**

in the Bible, evangelists, teachers and pastors.

The word “pastor” here is a spiritual gift - someone gifted to take good care of other church fellows. It’s different from the way we use it today when addressing “gospel ministers”.

"The concept of pastor is associated with the function of **personal work for the flock of God**, even when it is done by members of the church other than the minister. **One who visits families, who teaches and prays with them, who shows personal care and interest, is doing pastoral work.**"(E.G.W Estate)

This same word is used by Mrs White when she wrote: “It is the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit of God that prepares workers, **both men and women, to become pastors to the flock of God..**”(DG 251.4) But

A Woman is not to usurp authority over a man...

“Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. **For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression..”**(1Timothy 2:11-14)

Again we see that Paul’s argument of male’s ecclesiastical authority is **purely based on the creation order, “Adam was formed first, then Eve”, as simple as that brothers and sisters.**

The Teacher’s commentary on this scripture is actually amazing. It reads..

“1Tim 2:11-15 does not teach that women

cannot exercise their spiritual gifts when the body meets. We know that women can, and are to [exercise their spiritual gifts] (Acts 2:17; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:26). Instead the passage has a more narrow focus **on the role of a ruling elder To 'teach' (1 Tim 2:12), as defined with authority' is an elder's function.** This particular function in the body of Christ and only this function - **is reserved for men.**"
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J.H Waggoner wrote also on the same scripture...

"The **divine arrangement even from the beginning, is this, that the man is the head of the woman.** Every relation is disregarded or abused in this lawless age. But **the Scriptures always maintain this order in the family relation.** 'For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church.'

Eph. 5:23. **Man is entitled to certain privileges that are not given to woman; and he is subjected to some duties and burdens from which the woman is exempt.** A woman may pray, prophesy, exhort, and comfort the church, **but she cannot occupy the position of a pastor or ruling elder.** This would be looked upon as **usurping authority over the man, which is here [1 Timothy 2:12] prohibited** ... Neither do the words of Paul confine the labors of women to the act of prophesying alone. He refers to prayers, and also speaks of certain women who 'labored in the Lord,' an expression which could only refer to the work of the Gospel. He also, in remarking on the work of the prophets, **speaks of edification, exhortation, and comfort.** This labor in the Lord, with prayer, comprises all the duties of public worship. **Not all the duties of business meetings, which were probably conducted by men, or all the duties of ruling elders, and pastors,** compare 1 Timothy 5:17,

with 2:12, **but all that pertain to exercises purely religious.** We sincerely believe that, according to the Scriptures, women, as a right may, and as duty ought to, engage in these exercises" (The Signs of the Times, December 19, 1878, p. 320)

A reader asked the following question of the editor of Signs of the Times in 1895:

"Should women be elected to offices in the church when there are enough brethren?"

Here is the editor's response:

"If by this is meant the office of elder, we should say at once, No. But there are offices in the church which women can fill acceptably, and oftentimes there are found sisters in the church who are better qualified for this than brethren, such offices, for instance as church clerk, treasurer, librarian

of the tract society, etc., as well as the office of deaconess, assisting the deacons in looking after the poor, and in doing such other duties as would naturally fall to their lot. The qualifications for church elder are set forth in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and in Titus 1:7-9 **We do not believe that it is in God's plan to give to women the ordained offices of the church.**

By this we do not mean to depreciate their labors, service, or devotion. **The sphere of woman is equal** [italics in the original] **to that of man.** She was made a help meet, or fit, for man, but that **does not** [italics in original] **mean that her sphere** [or role] **is identical** [italics in original] **to that of man's.** The interests of the church and the world generally would be better served if the distinctions given in God's word were regarded."(Signs of the Times, "Question Corner # 176: Who Should Be Church Officers?" January 1895)

Thus, though both men and women can teach

and prophesy, yet **authoritative teaching and ordained offices are for men only.**

Following this discussion in 2 Tim 2:11-15, the Apostle clears the minds from all shadows of doubt....

“This is a true saying, **If a man desire the office of a bishop**, he desireth a good work..”
(1Timothy 3:1)

A bishop means "**an overseer**," originally the principal officer or pastor or elder of a local church.

“A bishop then must be blameless, **the husband of one wife**, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, **apt to teach**; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous...”(1Timothy 3:2-3)

The fact that the Bishop/elder/pastor or overseer has to be “**the husband of one wife**” shows that **this office is entirely restricted to males**, for it doesn’t say “**the wife of one husband.**” We should neither add nor subtract anything from the text. This same fact is confirmed further as we read...

“Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous...”(1Timothy 3:3)

“One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?” (1Timothy 3:4-3, see also 10MR 110.1)

Who is the head of the house, who ruleth it?
Male or female?

Amazingly enough the Bible clearly shows that the leadership in the home is actually extended to the leadership in the Church, the male bishop in the home is the same male bishop in the Church.

“The **qualifications of an elder** are plainly stated by the apostle Paul: ‘If any be blameless, **the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.** For a **bishop** must be blameless, as the steward of God, not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.’ **If a man does not show wisdom in the management of the church in his own house, how can he show wisdom in the management of the larger church outside?** How can he bear the

responsibilities which mean so much, if he cannot govern his own children? Wise discrimination is not shown in this matter. God's blessing will not rest upon the minister who neglects the education and training of his children. He has a sacred trust, and he should in no case set before church members a defective example in the management of his home.. “(5MR 449.3)

Manifestly, therefore, there's no indication that the office of the elder or pastor can be given to women.

“ Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.

Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. **Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.**”
(1Timothy 3:8-12)

“For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and **ordain elders in every city,** as I had appointed thee: **If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.**”
(Titus 1:5-6)

The Bible, you see, is explicitly clear in regard to the office of the bishop/elder/overseer and deacons. **These offices are reserved for men,** not women.

Deaconesses were chosen to help deacons. Their specific roles are clearly explained in the following references....

"When a woman comes to you **with her troubles, tell her plainly to go to her sisters, to tell her troubles to the deaconesses of the church.** Tell her that she is out of place in opening her troubles to any man; for men are easily beguiled and tempted.." (17LtMs, Lt 164, 1902, par. 20)

“ There were deaconesses in the primitive church, whose business it was to attend the female converts at baptism; to instruct the catechumens, or persons who were candidates for baptism: to visit the sick, and those who were in prison; and, in short, perform those religious offices, for the female part of the church, which could not with propriety be performed by men. They were chosen in general out of the most experienced of the church; and were ordinarily widows, who had borne children. Some ancient constitutions required them to be

forty, others fifty, and others sixty years of age. It is evident that they were ordained to their office, by the imposition of the hands of the bishop and the form of prayer used on the occasion is extant in the apostolic constitutions.” (Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald, July 31, 1856)

Let's look at the further information about

The Ordained Minister....

Pay attention to the words in bold especially “**man**”, “**himself**“, “**him**”, “**his**”. Is there any place where a woman is linked to being an ordained minister?

“**To minister**, comprehends much more than mere preaching. In order to fulfill **this sacred and** important work freighted with eternal

interests, **the minister must be a man of vital piety**, or **his** labors will not be accepted of God. He must be **a man** who will not have an exalted opinion of **himself**, or of **his own ability**, but who will lose a sense of **his** importance in the exalted view **he has** of the matchless mercy and love of Jesus Christ. He then has a close walk with God. **His life of piety** and true holiness which **he** carries with **him** wherever **he** goes, and which is interwoven in all **his** works, makes **him** a successful and efficient worker.”(PaM 96.1)

“From Christ's ascension to the present day, **men ordained of God, deriving their authority from Him, have become teachers of the faith**. Christ, the True Shepherd, superintends His work through the instrumentality of **these undershepherds**.”(4T 393.1)

“ Those who are known to be **men of**

well-balanced minds, who have the love and fear of God before them, should be appointed **as elders and deacons**; and through the exercise of the ability God has given them, they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.. ” (RH January 17, 1893, par. 11, CS 106.1)

“God will not serve with the sins of **men who have not a clear sense of the sacred responsibility involved in accepting a position as pastor of a church**. He who fails to be a faithful, discerning shepherd in the home, will surely fail of being a faithful shepherd of the flock of God in the church.. “(PaM 88.3)

This, however, doesn't mean that women have nothing to do for the cause of the Master. The Holy Spirit has clearly revealed

The Roles of Women in the

Ministry.

“And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help **those women which laboured with me in the gospel**, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.”(Philippians 4:3)

Here the apostle speaks about women who labored with him in the gospel ministry, **“women professing godliness with good works”**(1 Tim 2:10)

“ Women of firm principle and decided character are needed, women who believe that we are indeed living in the last days, and that we have the last solemn message of warning to be given to the world. They should feel that **they are engaged in an important work in spreading the rays of light which Heaven has shed upon them.**”

(DG 17.2)

“Christian women are called for ... There is work neglected or done imperfectly that could be thoroughly accomplished through the help that they are able to give. They could reach a class that ministers cannot reach. There are offices in the church that they could fill acceptably, and many branches of the church work that they could attend to if properly instructed. Women can do good work in the missionary field, by writing to friends, and learning their true feelings in relation to the cause of God..”(DG 16.3,17.1)

“The ministers are paid for their work, and this is well. And if the Lord gives the wife, as well as the husband, the burden of labor, and if she devotes her time and her strength to visiting from family to family, opening the Scriptures to them, although the hands of ordination have not been laid upon her, she

is accomplishing a work that is in the line of ministry..”(DG 110.5)

“Seventh-day Adventists are not in any way to belittle woman's work. Wonderful is the mission of the wives and mothers and the younger women workers. **If they will, they can exert an influence for good to all around them.** By modesty in dress and circumspect deportment they may bear witness to the truth in its simplicity. They may let their light so shine before all that **others will see their good works** and glorify their Father which is in heaven. **A truly converted woman will exert a powerful transforming influence for good. Connected with her husband, she may aid him in his work and become the means of encouragement and blessing to him.** “(WM 157)

“Women who are willing to consecrate some of their time to the service of the Lord **should be**

appointed to visit the sick, look after the young, and minister to the necessities of the poor. They should be set apart to this work by prayer and laying on of hands. [The article in which this statement appears is entitled “The Duty of the Minister and the People.” It is a call for involvement of the laity in the church to become active and to share the burdens of the minister. See Appendix C.] In some cases **they will need to counsel with the church officers or the minister,** but if they are devoted women, maintaining a vital connection with God, they will be a power for good in the church. **This is another means of strengthening and building up the church..”(DG 102.3)**

“The Lord designs that **the school** should also be a place where a training **may be gained in women's work — cooking, housework, dressmaking, bookkeeping, correct reading, and pronunciation. They are to be qualified**

to take any post that may be offered — superintendents, Sabbath school teachers, Bible workers. They must be prepared to teach day schools for children. — Letter 3, 1898.”(Ev 475.2)

Furthermore, we need to realize that

Ellen White Was Not Ordained nor Elected as the Leader of the Church....

“ But the question whether she had been ordained or not is settled definitively by her own hand. In 1909 she filled out a ‘**Biographical Information Blank**’ for the General Conference records. On the blank for Item 19, which asks, ‘**If ordained, state when, where, and by whom,**’ she has simply

inscribed an X. This is the same response she makes to Item 26, which asks, **‘If remarried, give date, and to whom.’** In this way she indicated that **she had never remarried, nor had she ever been ordained.** She was not here denying that God had chosen and equipped her, but she was responding to the obvious intent of the question, **indicating that there had never been an ordination ceremony carried out for her.**”(EWRWC 11.5)

Elder Ted Wilson:

“Was Ellen White an Ordained Minister?

During the past few weeks, I've received several questions and comments **regarding Ellen White and her credentials.** So in today's Q&A we'll address this question...

Q: Was Ellen White an ordained minister?

I've seen pictures posted of **her ministerial credentials showing that she was an ordained minister,** and I understand that the

White Estate has several of her ministerial credentials in their files. — April, from the United States

A: April, according to the Ellen G. White Estate, Mrs. White ‘was never ordained by human hands,’ nor is there any ordination certificate in her name indicating a date and place of an ordination service for her. In a letter written in consultation with his father, Willie White (Ellen White's son), Arthur Write wrote on Oct. 1, 1936: **‘Mrs. White was never ordained by the laying on of hands. Her calling was from a much higher source and her work was a special one.’**

In a **letter** dated Nov. 17, 1935, Dores E. Robinson replied on behalf of W. C. White (Ellen White's son and Robinson's father-in-law) in response to a query concerning Ellen White's ministerial credentials. He wrote: "[W. C. White] tells

me that **Sister White was never ordained, that she never baptized, nor did she ever give the ordination charge to others."**

Pastor D.W. Reavis' question to the chair of the General Conference Ministerial Credentials and Licenses Committee:

"I have wanted to know for some time **what is the difference between ministerial credentials and ministerial license."**

The chair answered, "**Ministerial credentials are granted to ordained ministers in good standing,** and engaged in active labor. **Ministerial licenses are granted to licentiates those who are engaged in preaching, but who have not yet been ordained to the gospel ministry"**(General Conference Bulletin, March 5, 1899, p. 147).

Thus, in giving her ministerial credentials, the Church didn't intend to make her an ordained minister, but because they didn't have anything better to honor her with at that particular time. Ministerial Credentials were the highest honor they could give her, but she was never ordained at any point as a minister. Not only that,

**She Also never claimed any
Ecclesiastical leadership
position...**

“In the daily papers of various cities there have appeared **articles** which represent that there is a strife between Dr. Kellogg and Mrs. Ellen G. White **as to which of them shall be leader of the Seventh-day Adventist people.** As I read these articles **I felt distressed beyond measure that anyone should so**

misunderstand my work and the work of Dr. Kellogg as to publish such misrepresentations.

There has been no controversy between Dr. Kellogg and myself as to the question of leadership. No one has ever heard me claim

the position of leader of the denomination.

I have a work of great responsibility to do—

to impart by pen and voice the instruction

given me, not alone to Seventh-day

Adventists, but to the world. I have

published many books, large and small, and

some of these have been translated into

several languages. This is my work—to open

the Scriptures to others as God has opened

them to me. God has not set any kingly

power in the Seventh-day Adventist Church

to control the whole body or to control any

branch of the work. He has not provided that

the burden of leadership shall rest upon a few

men. Responsibilities are distributed among a

large number of competent men. Every

member of the church has a voice in

choosing officers of the church. The church chooses the **officers of the state conferences.** Delegates chosen by the state conferences choose the **officers of the union conferences,** and delegates chosen by the union conferences choose the **officers of the General Conference.** By this arrangement every conference, every institution, every church, and every individual, either directly or through representatives, has a voice **in the election of the men** who bear the chief responsibilities in the General Conference.”(8T 236)

“In the early days of our denominational work **the Lord did designate Elder James White as one who, in connection with his wife, and under the Lord's special guidance, was to take a leading part in the advancement of this work.** The history of how the work grew is well known. The printing plant was first established at Rochester, New York, and was afterward moved to Battle Creek, Michigan.

And in afteryears a publishing house was established on the Pacific Coast. I thank the Lord that He gave us the privilege of acting a part in the work from the beginning. **But neither then nor since the work has grown to large proportions, during which time responsibilities have been widely distributed, has anyone heard me claiming the leadership of this people.** From the year 1844 till the present time I have received messages from the Lord and have given them to His people. **This is my work—to give to the people the light that the Lord gives me.** I am commissioned to receive and communicate His messages. **I am not to appear before the people as holding any other position than that of a messenger with a message.**”(8T 237)

With this much information provided, let no one be left in darkness, let no one keep on

Misinterpreting Certain Texts...

1) “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is **neither male nor female**: for ye are **all one** in Christ Jesus..”
(Galatians 3:28)

The **oneness** spoken of in this scripture is exactly as it is stated in the context of what the Apostle is discussing: “...ye are **all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus..**”(Galatians 3:26)

“**No distinction** on account of nationality, race, or caste, **is recognized by God**. He is the Maker of all mankind. **All men are of one family by creation, and all are one through redemption**. Christ came to demolish **every wall of partition**, to throw open every compartment of the temple courts, **that every soul may have free access to God**.”(PK 369.3)

It doesn't mean that there's no longer any distinction in gender and roles of men and women, but that "all" are one as far as the issue of Salvation is concerned.

2) "And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel. **And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.** And she dwelt **under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim:** and **the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.**" (Judges 4:3-5)

Deborah judged Israel in its dark period. Unlike usual judges who judged in the gates of the city, Deborah "**dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim.**" As a Judge (of the civil

cases) **she never had ecclesiastical leadership.**

Moreover, “She was known as a prophetess, and **in the absence of the usual magistrates, the people had sought to her for counsel and justice..**”(DG 37.2), thus it was unusual for her to judge for she only judged in the absence of “**the usual magistrates**”. There ’ s no record that any woman before or after her judged Israel. Moreover the Hero of the whole story isn ’ t her but Barak, the one who delivered Israel(1 Sam 12:11, Heb 11:32)

3) Athaliah, a female queen of Judah.

Well 2 Chronicles 22:10-12,2 Kings11:12-15 indicates that she just usurped authority as queen, against the Lord’s order and she was slain.

4) “But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people;

that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light”(1Peter 2:9)

The “**royal priesthood**” in the text is not trying to teach that all(both men and women) can be ordained as priests in the Old Testament, or as Elders/Pastors in the New Testament. The apostle is simply getting this idea from the Old Testament, which says...

“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then **ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.** These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”(Exodus 19:5-6)

Surely **not all were priests**, for the office of priesthood was restricted to men in the family of Aaron.

There's no need, therefore, of escaping the conclusion that the word "**priesthood**" is used **in a broad and general sense and not in a restricted sense of specifically pointing to the ordained priests.**

Finally, our attention is directed to those who are trying to misuse

The concept of Gender...

Although "Gender" doesn't always mean "biological sex", yet the Bible is explicitly clear on the kind of human beings there are: **"male and female created he them.."** (Gen 1:27). Yes, **male and female of equal value but with different roles..**

God has ordained that there should be a clear difference between men and women even in

dress:

“ The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.. ”

(Deut 22:5)

The kind of dress that makes no clear distinction is therefore both unbiblical and satanic.

“ There is an increasing tendency to have women in their dress and appearance as near like the other sex as possible, and to fashion their dress very much like that of men, but God pronounces it abomination.. ”

(1T 421.3)

“ Those who feel called out to join the movement in favor of woman's rights and the so-called dress reform might as well sever

all connection with the third angel's message. The spirit which attends the one cannot be in harmony with the other. **The Scriptures are plain upon the relations and rights of men and women.**”(1T 421.4)

Don ' t you think the Prince of evil has been trying to destroy this concept as well?

“ One of the biggest and most prevalent mistakes in Western Culture is the idea that there exist two separate and' opposite genders, masculinity and femininity. **This gender dualism is not only false and without any factual or scientific support, but also very harmful.**”(Thomas Gramstad,<http://folk.uio.no/thomas/gnd/androgyny.html>)

This is disgusting, is it not?

A Feminist Theologian Mary Daly on the Bible said:

“Biblical authors were merely men of their times who could never be free of the prejudice of their epochs. **Therefore women of the church have just as much right to direct current theology as Paul did in Scripture, to act as prophets, and guide the church in a new direction.**”(Mary Daly, Church and the Second Sex, 185)

And Where did the controversy begin from?

Well the text says:

“How art thou **fallen** from heaven, **O Lucifer, son of the morning!** how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will ascend**

into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit..”
(Isaiah 14:12-15)

He did all this simply because he became dissatisfied with the position given him and wanted an exalted position with the honor higher than what he had. **In attempting to go up higher, he was brought down.**

“ And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. **And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall**

be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and **a tree to be desired to make one wise**, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat..”(Genesis 3:2-6)

“ Eve had been perfectly happy by her husband's side in her Eden home; but, like restless modern Eves, **she was flattered with the hope of entering a higher sphere than that which God had assigned her. In attempting to rise above her original position, she fell far below it.** A similar result will be reached by all who are unwilling to take up cheerfully **their life duties in accordance with God's plan.**”(AH 115.2)

“Satan beguiles men now **as he beguiled Eve in Eden, by flattery, by kindling a desire to obtain forbidden knowledge, by exciting**

ambition for self-exaltation. It was cherishing these evils that caused his fall, and through them he aims to compass the ruin of men. ‘Ye shall be as gods,’ he declares, ‘knowing good and evil.’ [Genesis 3:5.] **Spiritualism teaches ‘that man is the creature of progression; that it is his destiny from his birth to progress, even to eternity, toward the Godhead’.** (GC88 554.1)

Evidently, then, while it is true that the belief in life after death “**Ye shall not surely die**” is spiritualism, it’s also true that the belief in self exaltation “**ye shall be as gods**” is exactly that.

"Spiritualism was a 'new' religious movement dominated by women. **Its two strong attractions were rebellion against death and Rebellion against authority**"(An Braude, Redical spits: Spiritualism and Women's Rights in Nineteenth Century America, p. 2)

“If there were no other evidence of the real character of Spiritualism, it should be enough for the Christian that **the spirits make no difference between righteousness and sin...**”

(GC88 557.1)

If there's no difference between the roles of men and women, if both can do the same things in homes and churches, if it makes no difference to have a man or women in the pastoral office, then **not only is this attacking the government of Heaven, the Lord's design for leadership in homes and churches, but also destroying the Biblical foundation of marriage**, for it matters not, in that case, if two women or two men decide to get married, and who can even question someone with more than one spouse?

The word, however, says...

“Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning **made them male and female**, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? **Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh**. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”(Matthew 19:4-6)

Homosexuality, gay marriages are totally condemned.

“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for **even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with**

men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. ” (Romans 1:25-27)

“Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived. Neither **fornicators**, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **homosexuals**, nor **sodomites**, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 6:9,10)

It’s interesting to realize that most of those who are advocating for women ordination in the church are also in support of LGBTQ+ issue. Well not surprising, **because the agenda is just the same.**

“**The position that it is of no consequence**

what men believe, is one of Satan's most successful deceptions. He knows that the truth, received in the love of it, sanctifies the soul of the receiver; therefore he is constantly seeking to substitute false theories, fables, another gospel.”(GC88 520.2)

This is the enemy of all that is good and holy. Even in the secret societies, **he teaches that there's no difference between good and evil, righteousness and unrighteousness, Christ and Satan, truth and error, male and female...**”it's all the same thing and we are all one” Thus he makes the word of God of none effect, for the Word says...

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath **righteousness** with **unrighteousness**? and what communion hath **light** with **darkness**? And what concord hath **Christ** with **Belial**? or what part hath he that **believeth** with an

infidel?”(2Corinthians 6:14-15)

So one can marry a Muslim, Pentecostal, One can believe certain doctrines or not, one can be a Freemason, Satanist and a Christian at the same time, one can advocate for transgender: Is this serpent language of God language?

Thus, this satanic thinking will go deeper and deeper, forming many unions in error until the world shall call for a **one world government and a one world religion.**

Then “**The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us.** The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. **Those who have yielded step by step to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult,**

threatened imprisonment, and death. At that time the gold will be separated from the dross. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness. **Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will then appear in the shame of their own nakedness.”**(PK 188.1)

“But **the days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true. In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel.** The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, and **He will thoroughly purge His floorThose who have rendered supreme homage to ‘science falsely so called’ will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to**

intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock..”(5T 79.4,80.1)

“None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching test, Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of God's immutable Word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus?”(GC88 593.2)

“Brethren, you need not be afraid of the plain teachings of the Bible. Do not fear to go where the voice of Jesus is heard saying, ‘Follow me;’ for this will lead you right. Do not let any man or woman, or any council or

party, lead you to suppress the precious light that God has permitted to shine from heaven in regard to the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus.”(1888 904.2)

You are required, brother, sister, to make a firm and solid decision not only on this issue but also on other issues which will affect your eternal destiny. Will you believe the teaching of scripture or the theories and feelings of men? And don't dare say “It matters not” for such an altitude of unbelief will keep you out of God's kingdom as verily as it kept the antediluvians out of the Ark.

May the Lord Help Us All.

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