

Honoring Women as God Designed

May 13, 2018 – BILLY HUMPHREY

I. Introduction

A. All people are made in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:27)

Gen 1:27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

B. Women reflect aspects of God's heart and nature that men do not. The traits of femininity resident in women express strengths that come straight from the character of God. Traits like gentleness, mercy, nurture, instruction, order, sensitivity, and responsiveness all speak of God's nature.

C. Unfortunately there are false mentalities and misunderstandings about the role and position of women, especially in the church, that have devalued and dishonored women causing much harm and pain.

D. The biblical truth of the position and role of women is the key to healing and freedom.

II. Biblical Call to Honor Women

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Ephesians 6:2 "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise:

Proverbs 1:8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching;

Romans 16:1-2 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. 2 I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.

III. Jesus' Example

A. Jesus' treatment of women was radically different: He treated women from all walks of life with great respect and dignity.

B. Consider the following interactions while recognizing that Rabbinic law forbade men from talking to women in public, greeting a woman and teaching women the Torah:

1. The Woman at the Well (John 4:5-29)
2. The Woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11)
3. Mary of Bethany (Luke 10:38-42, John 12:1-8)
4. His main support team was women (Luke 8:3)

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5. The first people Jesus chose to appear to after His resurrection were women (Mat 28:9)
6. Furthermore, He instructed these women to tell his disciples that he was alive (Matt 28:10). In a culture where a woman's testimony was worthless because she was worthless, Jesus elevated the value of women beyond anything the world had seen.

C. Jesus' actions and teachings raised the status of women to new heights. By word and deed, he went against the ancient beliefs and practices that defined woman as socially, intellectually, and spiritually inferior.

IV. Conclusions

- A. Through Jesus we see a complete change in the societal position of women.
- B. Because of the New Testament admonitions to honor women (Eph 5:21-33, 1 Pet 3:7, Phil 4:3, Eph 6:2) Roman society underwent a massive change in how women were viewed and respected.
- C. Paul's explanation that there is "Neither Jew nor Greek, Slave nor Free, Male nor Female" (Gal 3:28), put women on an equal spiritual plane with men, never before realized in the earth.
- D. Creation roles between man and woman are different, but value and gifting is equal.
- E. Through God's self-description as a Bridegroom, every human is to ascribe to becoming His Bride. This is a massive statement regarding creation roles and an intentional elevation of women in creation.
- F. The Church should be the leading place where the honor and esteem of women is emphasized and practiced as a sign to the world of God's good intention and plan.