

Woman: honour God in this age of confusing values.

1. Introduction

This talk is about women – it is directed towards women. That is the theme. For this reason no one should feel bad or be offended when the participation of women is described where the confusion of values is discussed. If this lecture had been about men, then the same -if not worse, confusion of- and decay in values could have been described.

2. Definitions

One cannot give a lecture on any topic without first analysing the theme. The theme given to me is: **Woman: honour God in this age of confusing values.**

As I allot its proper value to each component of this topic I will also be treating that component.

2.1. Woman:

Even before I started working on this talk, Syntyche advised me as follows:

Dominee, you must take into account all “types” of women: married, young and (for whatever reason) “older” single women, ones with and without children, working and not-working – in other words: not only the “traditional woman-and-mother”.

So as to not end up in any number of absurdities, I will be limiting myself to principles only. I will therefore also not be speaking about ample women or about slender woman, or about those who are lazy and so forth.

I will be speaking about the last living creature made by God on the sixth day. That person whom, with her body, appearance and conduct, God intended to be the perfect rounding off of His creation and of His kingdom.

We start off by using God’s Word to determine the definition of what the meaning of the word *woman* will be for the purposes of today’s talk.

Creation follows an ascending line. Each part of God’s creation is more beautiful, better and higher than that which preceded it.

- In this way God’s starts with the chaos and proceeds to separate water from dry ground.
- Thereafter light, which upon God’s command was already there for a couple of days prior to the creation of the sun and the moon.
- Then plants and animals
- Eventually human beings.

Humans are the only creatures, which the Lord did not bring into being by means of a command.

He made the man with His own hands – He formed him from earth / dust (most likely red earth, because Adam means *earth*, but it also means *red*)

He is the only creature into which He breathed eternal life. Thereafter the Lord made the woman from the best material available in creation – the man’s body.

As with each one after her, this woman’s calling is exactly the same as her creation: she is there for the rounding off, so that this entire creation – with humanity at the top (forefront!) – must find its path and keep to it, en route to God’s eternal kingdom.

The motivation for this is rather simply to be found therein that in the Psalms the LORD is addressed as our “Help” no less than 15 times. – Which is the same word the Lord uses for the reason and calling for which He made the woman!

That the woman is a help is evident from God’s intention with her: God created her as helper, to serve in her personal life, marriage, as part of a family, in the church and in society – in other words: in the full kingdom of God.

Someone who performs a service must have the ability to be decisive and must oftentimes be able to enforce decisions authoritatively.

Example: The elders are mere servants of the King of the church – the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet as part of their service to Him and guided by the Spirit they are required to make decisions and to execute these decisions authoritatively, in order to care for the church of the Lord throughout history, up to the point where eventually, the church will stand holy and perfect before the throne of God. (Revelation 14:1)

That the woman is a help in the totality of the royal work she does, is parallel to the above example.

- The woman of worth ensures that she neither is, nor becomes, an obstacle or hindrance to the kingdom of God.
- She must be a helper and a builder
- As help, God elects her to be life-giver and life-edifier

(It is not at all obvious that it had to be this way, seeing as the first “birth” was from a man’s body. Nothing prevented God from continuing to do things that way!)

- So that it is by virtue of the nature of her creation, and the purpose for which God created her, that she is equipped to be life-giver and life-edifier.

In other words: someone with good values; who can discern; who can propagate and transmit these values

- A woman who misses her calling in the kingdom is the opposite – she takes life and she sows confusion and bewilderment
- In truth, she means nothing to God, because she misses her calling.

Now we understand what the Lord expects of, and intends for the woman He makes.

2.2. We now analyse the second part of the theme. The words: This age (era).

“Age” / “era “ means period.

- By “this age” is meant the period in which we live
- This age is known as the *postmodern* or *neomodern* age.

It means that we live in a time in which people view themselves as having developed so far, that all submissiveness is abandoned – even submissiveness, subservience and subordination to God.

One thinks of pronouncements by people like Sakkie Spannenberg and Christina Landman the last number of years, where they clearly state that we have grown out from under the God presented to us in the Bible. Every value in the Bible is interpreted (as apposed to expounded) and made to fit in with the laws and societal rules of the modern-profane world.

The pronouncement that we are “developed” (/ “evolved”) people who create our own God and therefore also our own values, is grounded upon that sentiment.

- The postmodern age erases all acknowledged values
- All principles are questioned and denigrated

The heathen thought pattern is so deeply embedded in postmodernism that its adherents are no longer able to profess and confess the truth.

- According to them it is only pride (vanity and arrogance) that professes and confesses truth
- Postmodernism denies that the Lord guides the church to the truth

The postmodernist / neomodernist says: “Anything goes...” – each one’s understanding of truths is correct and acceptable.

- In their view there are many truths. Each one’s truth is as true and acceptable as any other person’s!
Except of course if one appeals to the certainty of God’s revelation. Then one is “obviously” wrong – as a matter of fact, that would be totally unacceptable.
- The truth eludes everyone – they think. Which is why the search for truth is continuous – they teach that people will remain ever searching.
- Everything is questionable and uncertain, science excluded.

*Think of the most recent pronouncement following the publication of a book by a “leading” Afrikaans theologian, Willie Esterhuizen: **God will have to become less and science more, because God is changeable while science is certain and steadfast.***

My comment on this:

- The only things in science that are steadfast are natural forces such as light, gravitation, magnetic forces, electricity etc. which were all created by God without the aid of science.
- At any rate; the scientists do not know exactly what these forces are. They investigate the

characteristics thereof, formulate their findings and thoughts in terms of natural law, and try to explain it in terms of human metaphor (figuratively).

- But if science is so steadfast, why then are scientific theories forever being adapted and / or rejected as new scientific facts are discovered? *It is even possible that some of the so-called scientific "facts" are rejected once it is found that it was based on faulty data.*

In order to support this type of postmodernism, marriage, which is an ordinance of God, is replaced with contemporary sins.

- Homosexuality replaces God's creational institutions
- Gay and lesbian marriages are suddenly as acceptable as the marriage of a man to a woman
- Young women choose to be artificially (or otherwise!) inseminated so as to have children, yet they do not wish to do so within matrimony
- Those who oppose these values on Scriptural grounds are despised as contemptible keepers of the "establishment".

2.3. Honour God

Let us first look at the meaning of the word **honour**:

The Oxford Dictionary says the following of **honour**:

- High respect; great esteem: *his portrait hangs in the place of honour*
- The quality of knowing and doing what is morally right: *I must as a matter of honour avoid any taint of dishonesty*
- Something regarded as a rare opportunity and bringing pride and pleasure; a privilege: *Mrs Young had the honour of being received by the Queen*
- A thing conferred as a distinction, especially an official award for bravery or achievement: *the highest military honours*
- Regard with great respect: *Joyce has now learned to honour her father's memory*
- Pay public respect to: *talented writers were honoured at a special ceremony*

My feeling says that the word honour in the theme you have chosen refers to something a bit different than to that which the dictionary describes. It is the type of honour written in for example Revelation 7:12:

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." (English Standard Version)

Here the word honour quite simply means: *worship!*

Secondly we look at the meaning of the word **God**:

This is easier, because we need no profane writings to find a definition for what we understand by the word *God*. Our confession has an acute and plain formulation of the meaning and content of this word in the Belgic Confession of Faith, Article 1:

- **We all believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that there is a single and simple spiritual being, whom we call God -- eternal, incomprehensible, invisible, unchangeable, infinite, almighty; completely wise, just, and good, and the overflowing source of all good.** 3 Cor 3:17; Joh 4:24; Jes 40:14

In summary: The theme requires of us to speak of how the particular creature created by God as woman, must worship the almighty and eternal God with her total being.

2.4. Confusing values

The theme does not require of us to speak about worship in general terms. The theme requires that we must indicate the women's calling to faith in God – in times when values have become bewildering.

We are confronted by values, which seem to contradict each other. As a matter fact it is even worse than that:

All contradictory values have become equally acceptable – all values, except true values

The absoluteness of God's right and truth is erased, and replaced with an attitude of "anything goes ..." - but then "anything goes..." on the condition that one must contemptuously reject and deny the values established and confirmed by God.

The things we see happening now, have a marked parallel with something, which happened at the very beginning of the human history!

- Eve went beyond the boundaries of her calling
- Her will to subject herself to God made way, which caused her judgment to become warped.

The consequences of the catastrophic Fall and God's curse over the entire earth.

- Noticeably the Lord does not link His curse to Eve having overstepped the limits of the boundaries, but He links it to Adam's inability to rightly exercise his headship over Eve.
- According to God Adam fell in sin.

²¹ **For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.** ²² **For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.** (1 Corinthians 15:21,22. New King James Version)

Question: When revealing it to us, why does the Lord portray the force that stirs up the decay of the

end times as female? It is obvious that men are the other participants in this sin! Yet the Lord represents the devilish forces of the antichrist as a female without morals!

Revelation 17:1: ¹ **Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,**

Revelation 17:15: ¹⁵ **Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.**

Revelation 17:16: ¹⁶ **And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.**

Revelation 19:2: ² **For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants *shed* by her.”**

In postmodern times, we are back in a situation, which closely resembles the situation in paradise. Our age is driven by amongst others (forced) female emancipation coupled with political correctness. In the Grade 11 textbook for the subject Life Orientation (p 38 onwards) school children are bombarded with, what the text book calls, the post-feminist world and the necessary change in gender rolls that must now take place.

Notice the practical changes taking place – and which to my mind have catastrophic consequences.

- Men increasingly move to the background – as did Adam in paradise.
- With that, stereotypical values lapse and new and bewildering ideas come to the fore and are received as acceptable – things which do not rhyme with certainty and stability.
- The school textbook (p.40) teaches our children that the increased frequency of heart attacks, breast cancer and infertility amongst woman, can be ascribed to the high levels of anger amongst successful woman!
- Moral decay: on the one hand the vast majority of people partake in it, and on the other hand we are warned against it.
- In this bewildering age the Bible is even used to prove that things, which we always knew to be sin (example homosexuality), are no longer sin – naturally all manner of alternative hermeneutic rules are then employed.
- Sexual relations which have on Scriptural grounds, always been viewed as evidence of a lack of faith or as perverse, is increasingly being viewed as lawful. And with that, human sexuality is increasingly being portrayed in a pornographic light.
- The existence of hell and the devil is questioned.
- Corruption is becoming commonplace.

This postmodern confusion results in people denying that they were created in God’s image, and then eventually they loose that quality within themselves – evolution explains that man is a highly

developed kind of animal.

- In this way humans are degraded to the level of (developed) animal, emptied of God's image and glory.
- Obviously the person who experiences herself as a product of evolution, cannot share in the salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ – simply because it is not for animals that the Lord Jesus came to die on the cross.
- Jesus died for humans in whom His image had become degenerated.

The more humans view themselves as a type of animal – and that is the content of the school curriculum – the easier it is for them to become bestial in their life style. Scriptural principles and ethics are replaced by animal instincts, which are held up to us as “natural”.

To my mind it is the woman who, by virtue of her creation, is equipped by God, to lead the church out of this confusion. That is after all what the content of her calling (as helper) is! Which is why the Lord portrays the redeemed universal Christian church as female: as His Bride.

The woman produces life! The Lord gives and takes life – but He generates life in the woman's body! That is what He entrusts her with. Except for Adam, no man can glory in that!

Each member of the church is born of a woman.

Therefore it is precisely she who must clear up the general uncertainty and confusion regarding the complimentary (supplementary) nature of the differences between feminine and masculine prevalent in our postmodern age.

It is precisely from gay marriages that birth does not follow, as by its nature it cannot produce life. Life is brought into being in the marriage, which God weaves from the beautiful and various strands of maleness and femaleness. In this the woman has the lead role.

My wife's German grandmother raised her daughters and granddaughters with the following lesson: “A worthy woman would never run her husband's crown into the ground. She must be strong enough to pick up his crown and place it back on his head, each time he allows it to fall off!” She was the wife of a Moravian missionary who fought with him to convert heathens and teach them the things, which have value before God.

That lesson is far removed from the bewildering feminist levelling (egalitarianism) that is being encouraged. In that confused view, the joyous harmony between the humble and loving leadership of the redeemed husband and the wise and willing support for that leadership of the redeemed wife, presented in Scripture, is misrepresented and neglected.

It is actually only the woman who can clear up the wide spread confusion of values concerning

motherhood, the calling of housewife, and numerous other forms of service performed by woman in the past. By transmitting certain values to the next generation, the faithful woman who still holds to true values, can erase that confusion amongst at least a portion of the population, and thereby display what it means to be Bride of the Lord Jesus. Whereas a man encounters great difficulty when trying to teach his daughters femininity.

Who is better equipped to reform the inclination of some who wish to conform the church to the world, than the faithful woman? Men and their viewpoints are run down as chauvinistic at the outset. His input – however honourable it may be – is quickly called into question – whereas there may still be a willingness to listen to and consider the position taken up by a knowledgeable woman.

In our time we need woman who are enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit to lift up our faith and our dying culture so that it can once again mirror the coming kingdom of God.

Are woman able to meet this challenge? Do you who are present today have a strong enough bond with the Lord and knowledge of His Word, to heed this call?

A typically male remark would be: Do woman even know what it is all about?

The Bible contains many examples of woman who acted quickly amidst one or another crisis in order to find a solution and put the matter in order. Think of the time when Zipporah saved Moses' life when he found himself in a huge crisis!

Our impression of Moses is that he is this godly man of note, who would probably not easily have done something wrong! Yet he was the same man who pushed aside his children's incorporation into the covenant! Then the Lord wanted to kill him that night at the inn! Zipporah realised what was going on and there and then she decided to jump in and circumcise Gershom with a stone!

It must have been a bloody battle, because no one will convince me that the teenage boy would have allowed himself to be circumcised willy-nilly! Which is why in her anger she accuses Moses that he is her bloody husband! It is because of her deed that the Lord spared her husband's life!

Listen to the Bible's description of the affair:

²⁴And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. ²⁵Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me (Exodus 4:24-25 NKJV)

There are more examples of woman who acted rather roughly in a crisis situation in order to save the day. Think of Jael who gave Sisera his comeuppance!

21 Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went down into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. (Judges 4:21 NKJV)

26 She stretched her hand to the tent peg, Her right hand to the workmen's hammer; She pounded Sisera, she pierced his head, She split and struck through his temple. (Judges 5:26 NKJV)

Another example is of an unknown woman who decided to drop a millstone from the city's wall onto Abimelech's head

52 So Abimelech came as far as the tower and fought against it; and he drew near the door of the tower to burn it with fire. 53 But a certain woman dropped an upper millstone on Abimelech's head and crushed his skull. (Judges 9:52-53 NKJV)

I am not convinced that this woman was the soft girly helpless type. I think she must have been a Spartan or Amazon! But she could think and act and save her people!

There are numerous other examples of women of action who took the reins into their own hands during times when confusion reigned:

- Think of Deborah who acted as judge because the men of that time were too weak to be of any consequence – and the only man who was then prepared to take up the sword, would do so only if he could hide behind Deborah's skirt! (Judges 4:4 & 8)
- Think of Lydia who sold purple cloth. She was a *professional* (working) woman – of whom many are here present today. (Acts 16:4)

May the Lord lead you all with His Holy Spirit to be obedient to Him in all the spheres of your life. May He decorate your conduct and the leadership that goes out from you, with good works (1 Tim 2:10), with a gentle and quiet spirit (1 Pet 3:4). May your conduct in life be marked by chastity and the fear of the Lord.

Thank you for the opportunity to be with you all.

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(The translation was done by Hein and Tracy Sattlegger. The scrutinising of both Afrikaans and English was done by Geert van Jaarsveld. I heartily appreciate their work. MJdP)