

GENDER INCLUSIVENESS AND CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLIES

The subject of gender roles in society gets emblazoned across media space in our day – often for good reason. For example pop entertainer Beyonce Knowles-Carter casts a spotlight on economic inequality in her *Shriver Report* essay *Gender Equality is a Myth!* She writes that, “We have to teach our boys the rules of equality and respect, so that as they grow up, gender equality becomes a natural way of life. And we have to teach our girls that they can reach as high as humanly possible.” (see www.shriverreport.org).

Beyonce is on firm ground to urge that businesses address economic inequity. Her call for respect between boys and girls and men and women encourages society in the right direction. Abuse of women (and men) in marriages, families, and in the workplace has represented nothing less than spiritual and moral darkness. Humanity – both male and female – is made in the Creator’s image (Gen. 1:26). The Lord teaches us to show love by our care for one another, by our submitting ourselves to the best interests of others (Eph. 5:21). The challenge, however, comes in understanding apostolic teaching about the leadership of families and churches in comparison to how society thinks about rights.

(Continued on page 2)

BITS & BYTES FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

And Jesus said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Lk 10.2

Dear brother, dear fellow software engineer

Do you sometimes ask yourself what more you could do for the Kingdom of God? A practical task where you could use your God given software talents? Does this sound like something right up your alley?

If so, I am excited to let you know your personal evangelism effort can expand into the Bits and Bytes world.

The Oklahoma Christian University is starting a new initiative regarding a church growth project that basically involves a software application at it’s core.

We are seeking **Java Engineers** as well as **Web Developers** that want to substantially influence the way a church operates its day to day business - from an administrative point of view. Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

Gender Inclusiveness and Christian..	1
Bits & Bytes for the Kingdom of God	1
For the joy of the Lord - Castleman	4
What If? - Brown	4
Impossible for Evolution	5
Area Wide Activities	7



GENDER INCLUSIVENESS - P. 2

During the past three years, a significant number of lectures at Christian universities associated with churches of Christ and Independent Christian Churches have urged what is commonly called a “gender-inclusive” view of the New Testament. Advocates can mean different things by the phrase. However, in many and perhaps most instances, religious leaders suggest by the phrase that women can and should lead congregational assemblies in worship. In some cases leaders are also urging that women lead churches as shepherds/pastors.

Much of the “gender-inclusive” perspective in our day flows out of two messages in the New Testament. First, various church and university leaders urge that we notice closely Jesus’ words to Mary and Martha (Lk. 10:38-42). They note well that Jesus does not rebuke Mary for wanting to sit at his feet and learn. Indeed, he encourages her action. And in doing so he points the way for women to be students of the Word then and now.

One feminist scholar, Turid Seim, has highlighted the importance of Jesus’ words even as she has forcibly noticed a “double message” in the Gospel According to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Turid Seim notes that the writings affirm that women are to be students of Scripture and are to share the Word with others. However, she also highlights in her careful study that the two documents also reveal public boundaries of such work (see Turid Seim, *The Double Message*).

Second, gender-inclusive advocates point to 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 and the suggestion that the Apostle Paul had no issue with prophecy by the prophetesses in congregational assemblies. Therefore we should see his “limiting words” in 1 Timothy 2:11-12 as only situational – confined to

the church who is receiving his letter. Both conclusions miss the overarching words of Paul in 1 Timothy 2:13-14. He grounds his teaching about limitations regarding gender roles in the Creator forming Adam first and then Eve. The apostle to the Gentiles speaks of the very beginning of humanity as he lays the foundation for what he writes. Paul does not dismiss the work of women in spreading the Gospel.

Indeed, in multiple places in his letters he mentions women were his coworkers. They too were missionaries. The issue is not “if” women should be spreading the Word, but “where” they should be doing so.

So, what should we make of 1 Corinthians 11:2-16? Is the apostle announcing that appropriately dressed prophetesses can indeed preach in the assembly? He is not. He makes that clear in 1 Corinthians 14:33b-36. Instead, we need to recognize the setting for what he writes to the prophetesses. Ancient Asian religious society was not as “bound” to a Sunday morning assembly as we in North America have become. Asians worshipped in many places beyond a given sanctuary.

(Continued on page 3)

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT G4. INK.



04-04-2007
EVERYTHING IN TODAY'S SERMON IS BASED ON RECENT POSTS IN MY BLOG, WHICH I'M GOING TO GO AHEAD AND ASSUME THAT YOU HAVE READ

GENDER INCUSIVENESS - P. 3

Further, many religious settings were “for women only” and took place throughout a city. So, the prophetesses would have had a broad arena in which to spread the Word of Christ. Indeed, they would have been able to go into some religious gatherings associated with the Asian cults where the apostles and prophets of Christ would not have been welcomed or allowed to speak. Paul makes clear how the prophetesses should be dressed as they spread the Word and teach others throughout the city. It is in 1 Corinthians 11:17 that he turns his attention specifically to the Christian assemblies in Corinth and then specifically to the conduct of the prophetesses in 1 Corinthians 14:33b-36.

It is easy in our equal rights society to line up with Beyonce’s words. She is correct that we need to honor both men and women in all places. We also need to see in apostolic teaching the clear message that the Lord intended men to lead families and churches in love. We also need to see that both men and women have the responsibility to spread the Word of the Lord to others. Similar to the ancient world, much of that work needs to happen beyond our worship assemblies. Let’s encourage one another in that task.

Bruce Morton, Faulkner University
BMorton@faulkner.edu

Related books by Bruce Morton
Deceiving Winds (21st Century Christian, 2009)
Renewed (21st Century Christian, 2014)

BITS & BYTES FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Continued from page 1

Besides spiritual guidance, taking on responsibilities and all kind of shepherding tasks, church leaders are faced with yet another big challenge: administrative work.

At the OC Church Growth Think Tank we believe a software application can help with facilitating admin tasks by automation.

This is where we would like your drive and expertise. The goal is to build an open source church growth application for autonomous churches of Christ. The application would track church attendance/contribution, offer a member directory and compute all kinds of statistics which help leaders to stay on top of their game.

By no means do we nor the software intend to function as a governing body but rather we want to offer a tool that pairs the challenges congregations face with modern world achievements.

It is my personal concern to let you know that this software will be freely distributed and can be customized. Further, it won't tamper with the autonomy of any congregation.

Should you have any questions please contact the lead architect Ben Steinhauer at bsteinhauer@thearray.org.

I am looking forward to hearing from you soon. Let us combine forces to impact church growth!





CASTLEMAN COMMENT

FOR THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR

When Ezra read the book of the Law to the people after their return from Babylonian captivity, they wept while they listened to the sacred words. Nehemiah, the governor, comforted them with the above words from Nehemiah 8:10. Read the entire chapter to better understand the context.

How can the joy of the Lord be our strength?

1. Our sins have been forgiven in Christ. Joy comes from knowing our forgiveness of sins. We gratefully accept the forgiveness because of the promise of the word.

2. The joy of the Lord is our strength because He is always with us. Hebrews 13:5 includes the phrase, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you".

3. He is our God is another reason the joy of the Lord is our strength. He is our personal "I AM". He is the God of Moses, Abraham, Jesus Christ and most wonderfully, He is our God. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Amen, Amen!

Kirk Castleman

We are happy to announce that the 2015 Schedule of Daily Bible Readings and Questions is ready to print. Our printer tells us that it will be about \$15/copy. Please publicize this to your family and "circle of friends" through your internet contacts. This is non-profit and we want it to be to the Glory of God! We just want folks to read their Bible every day! We will be glad to mail/ship copies to you, so please help us. Each copy will average about \$5/copy, which includes postage and mail envelope. Kirk and Linda Castleman 7419 Bairnsdale Lane, Houston 77070
kirk.castleman1942@gmail.com 830-900-9771 Any extra funds will be used to print copies to give away for evangelism. Love and blessings to all, Kirk and Linda

WHAT IF....

ELIZABETH BROWN

What if God really intended for us to work six days a week? What if he really meant that we should teach our children to work six days a week? What if it was really a gracious gesture that he absolutely insists that we only work six days a week and must rest one day? Possibly he knew that idleness would be our greatest threat.

The Thessalonians had a problem with idleness. Paul set an example of not eating anyone's food without paying for it. He worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that he would not be a burden on anyone. And from that perspective he gave them this rule, "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat." (2 Thes. 3:8) We are not to associate with people who are idle. "Warn those who are idle and disruptive..."(Thes. 5:14)

We know what it means to be idle. We don't want to be that lazy, useless, unprofitable servant. Work is a purposeful activity that produces goods or services. Whether paid or volunteer it is usually helpful, constructive or productive in some way.

"Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody." (1 Thes. 4:11, 12) As women, we give special attention to our homes.

God's people worked six days a week for many centuries but the new covenant does not bind that rule on us. However, our covenant condemns idleness and encourages work! We are to be profitable servants of the Lord.

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana, TX

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #48: 98.6°

We take our 98.6° F. temperature pretty much for granted. It is another relatively complex process.

We can presume that our starting mammal already knew how to burn food (it is alive), but presumably only burned enough food to have energy. That makes it basically a cold blooded animal or a reptile.

Now, the mammal must decide to burn more energy to generate more heat to warm its body. This would be a step which evolution might do, however, if it simply starts burning available energy to generate body heat, after a big meal it would kill itself due to high body heat. Do we now presume our mammal is on a good diet so he doesn't overeat for the next few million years so he gets a chance to be creative.

The first thing you must do is to figure out how to **measure temperature**. Our air conditioners measure temperature all the time, but early mammals had to invent a way to measure what the temperature was. Inventing a way to measure temperature when it had no idea as to what to do with the invention was unreasonable. It has to involve a sensing means, nerves to communicate the electrical pulse information to our control center (brain), and "software" in your brain to interpret the pulses to know that there is a temperature.

Then it is not sufficient to know you are warm or cold, you must know exactly what temperature you are, i.e. **know 98.6° F**. We have no idea how the brain does this,.

Then, if your temperature is below 98.6° F, your control center must **instruct the various cells of your body to burn more ener-**

gy to generate heat, up to 98.6° F, when it must tell them to stop.

Whenever you get too hot, it is not sufficient to simply stop burning as much energy. That doesn't cool you off. Your control system must **instruct your sweat glands to generate a cooling fluid**.

There are parts of this that no scientists today knows how they happen. They will be doing good to figure out how it happens someday, but in the meantime they will assure you that a zero I.Q. animal created this process. Their magic elixir is a one in a billion chance mutation that just happened.

Clearly this shows the wisdom of an intelligent designer.

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.



**2 WRONGS DON'T MAKE A RIGHT,
BUT 2 WRIGHTS MADE AN AIR-
PLANE**

An inspirational 10 Day Tour of Judea, Samaria, and Galilee

May 19-29, 2015



The vision of Jesus' story is one of movement from his ministry in Galilee to Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

Following the footsteps of Jesus with Evertt and Ilene Huffard is an opportunity you do not want to miss!



Dr. Evertt W. Huffard
Dr. Ilene Huffard

For more information ihuffard@harding.edu or 901-573-9661

DO
YOU
BELIEVE
THE
BIBLE?

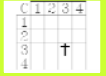
The Bible teaches that all members are
saints (Romans 1:7)

If your religious group teaches something else,
you might like to visit your local Church of Christ.

The Churches of Christ attempt to speak where
the Bible speaks and remain silent where the
Bible is silent. (Rev. 22:18-19)

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

AN E-MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION



HOUSTON AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

2nd Tues. Houston Preacher's Luncheon, confirm with Dale Foster at dalefoster@gmail.com for address.

4/5-9/15 71st Annual Churches of Christ National Lectureship

4/25-30/15 47th Annual Florida Lectureship

9/28-10-/1 42nd Southeastern Lectureship

5/20/15 Houston Foster's Home For Children Golf Tournament—Blackhorse

YAHOO GROUP

HoustonCofC is a Yahoo group hosted by Steve Sandifer [steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net] for the purpose of communicating Houston area news among the brethren. It is open to any member of the church at no cost.

The Christian Array E-Magazine

This e-magazine is sent to members of the church on a monthly basis as an attempt to promote scriptural teachings, area wide activities and church growth. If you do not want to receive this e-magazine, send an e-mail to bbaugh@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, send their e-mail addresses to bbaugh@thearray.org. All past copies of the newsletter can be found on the website "thearray.org".

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A goal of this newsletter is to develop a mailing list of as many members of the church as possible and to communicate church related information to as many members as possible. In that light, we would appreciate it if you would:

1. forward the church member e-mail addresses which you have,
2. send the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have, and
3. give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

The Christian Array is dedicated to support the sustained scriptural growth of the churches of Christ. It is published by BCE Publications, a 501(c)(3) organization with Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E. as editor. BCE is solely responsible for the content. Any announcements, requests for publication, or comments should be e-mailed to bbaugh@thearray.org.