

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT (FM) (WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT)

There are three topics that can generate a lot of heat and sometimes not much light. They are the following:-

1. The Catholic Church is a cult!
2. Divorce & Remarriage
3. Wives Submit to your husbands

We will consider the Feminist Movement, because out of this comes a lot of heat when the third point from those above comes in for discussion.

It can be said that the FM started out as a result of a legitimate complaint ie that women were not being treated properly in society. This is still true in different cultures today. A side comment is that it is only in societies where Christianity has its proper place that women are truly 'liberated'! Unfortunately there has been a great over correction in our society as the FM has gained impetus.

The FM is against God. A noted feminist Mary Daly said " As the women's revolution begins to have its effect upon the fabric of society, transforming it from patriarchy into something that never existed before.... it will become the greatest single potential challenge to Christianity to rid itself of its oppressive tendencies or go out of business." Daly refers to male leadership as " oppressive tendencies".

Brief history of FM

Began July 19, 1848 at a women's conference at Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York (about 300 there).

Elizabeth Stanton wrote the " Declaration on Women's Rights" - signed by 68 women and 32 men.

In 1852 Stanton joined with Susan B Anthony and they worked together for nearly 50 years.

The FM is against the Bible because it teaches different roles for men and women.

Stanton and other women wrote "The Woman's Bible" to neutralise the Bible (God's Word) - it is not a translation but rather a commentary on texts referring to women.

The following are some quotes from the Women's Bible:-

"The Bible always has been, and is at present, one of the greatest obstacles in the way of the emancipation and the advancement of the sex.... This book has been of more injury to (woman) than has ever been written in the history of the world" E. M. The Woman's Bible, II:201,203

" No institution in modern civilisation is so tyrannical and so unjust to woman as in the Christian Church." Josephine Henry,
The Woman's Bible II:201

" But when women learn the higher duty of self-development, they will not so readily expend all their forces in serving others.....'Self-development is a higher duty than self-sacrifice,' should be woman's motto hence forward"
Elizabeth Stanton, The Woman's Bible, II:131

The final statement in the Woman's Bible :- " The real difficulty in woman's case is that the whole foundation of the Christian religion rests on her temptation and man's fall, hence the necessity of a Redeemer and a plan of salvation. As the chief cause of this dire calamity, woman's degradation and subordination were made a necessity. If, however, we accept the Darwinian theory, that the race has been a gradual growth from the lower to a higher form of life, and that the story of the fall is a myth, we can exonerate the snake, emancipate the woman, and reconstruct a more rational religion for the nineteenth century, and thus escape all the perplexities of the Jewish mythology as of no more importance than those of the Greek, Persian and Egyptian." Elizabeth Stanton, The Woman's Bible , II:214

In the 1960's there the "Second Wave" of Feminism began and continues on into the 21st century.

The two most influential leaders of this new movement are Betty Friedman (she has been called the "Mother Superior to Women's Lib") and Gloria Steinem.

Gloria Steinem said in Saturday Review of Education - "By the year 2000 we will, I hope, raise our children to believe in human potential not God."

OBJECTIVE of the movement - to destroy male leadership in the home, the church, and the government.

COMMENTS.

The Apostle Paul is called a chauvinist because of the teachings concerning women in his letters; that being the case then God is also because He inspired Paul to write those letters!

There are those who say that Paul was only dealing with a problem in his day; it was a cultural problem!

NOTE; The Bible is to interpret the culture (it is independent of any culture)
NOT vice versa!

The FM ignores the fact that there are differences between men and women. They loudly proclaim 'EQUALITY!' It reminds of a book which I read many years ago when going to school called Animal Farm, written by George Orwell. The farm was run by the animals and in particular the pigs who had this motto or slogan, " We are all equal but some are more equal than others!"

The Bible teaches both equality AND a distinction in roles between men and women

1. equality in salvation - Gal 3:28
2. distinction in roles - ICor 11:1-3; Eph 5:22-24

We read in the book of Genesis what happens when the roles are reversed - Adam followed Eve's lead - and we are still "enjoying " the results today!!

NOTE:

Many in the FM admit to promoting witchcraft and also goddess worship. Merlin Stone wrote in "When God was a woman" as her search for the goddess this way; 'In the beginning, people prayed to the Creatress of Life, the Mistress of heaven. At the very dawn of religion, God was a woman. Do you remember? ...For years, something has magnetically lured me into exploring the legends, the temple sites, the statues, and the ancient rituals of the female deities, drawing me back in time to an age when the Goddess was omnipotent, and women acted as Her clergy, controlling the form and rites of religion.'

May our Lord help us to have a true biblical balance of equality and difference between men and women and their respective roles.