

Dear David, (sent via email)

Regarding the article you published in the Baptist Press in which Dorothy Patterson agreed with the billboard "Real men provide. Real women appreciate it." Of course we knew that Dr. Patterson would agree with this and of course we knew that Dr. Haddad would not. This billboard is the reason I want to bring the following to your attention.

This is going to seem radical to you but please hear my voice. I am pleading for reconciliation between men and women for the oppression that began at Café de Monde in 1967, culminating with the Danvers Statement and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, and this billboard proclaiming "Real Men" and "Real Women."

You are not going to believe this until you see it in writing. The writing is in Baptists' own documents. Baptists teach that women are consorting with the devil when they do not submit to their husbands. For over 300 years, thousands of women died when they were accused of being witches (consorting with the devil), and today, thousands of women suffer by that same accusation by Christian leaders, under the guise of complementarianism.

I will be blunt. The Danvers Statement, CBMW, and the BF&M 2000 are modern day tools equivalent to those used by the religious men during the Inquisition in which women were accused of being witches, heretics, and were burned at the stake.

Southern Baptist pastors teach that weakness and susceptibility of women allows the devil to influence them. A pastor of a Southern Baptist church in Texas, confirms this: "The many roles of the woman, including wife and mother, can be very taxing. This is why Satan focuses his attack on the family and more importantly on the wife and mother. He knows that by destroying the family unit, he destroys part of God's plan for man." (Robert Crowder, The Pearl of the Epistles-Ephesians, Part 1, God's Design for Marriage.)

Women consorting with the devil was a strong belief in the Middle Ages, and is still a factor according to the pastor, and the statement by the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood. If a woman becomes too strong, usurping the authority of the husband, she is guilty of inviting the devil into the home. Baptists and the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood believe that when wives submit themselves to their husbands, this enables families to withstand the devil's temptations and the onslaughts of the world.

Heavily influenced by, and comprised of Southern Baptist leaders, the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood equates women to witches (listens to the devil) on their website (Missions and Vision #2).

"If families do not structure their homes properly, in disobedience to the teachings of Ephesians 5, 1 Peter 3, and Colossians 3, (submissive wives) then they will not have the proper foundation from which to withstand the temptations of the devil and the various onslaughts of the world. This hinders the sanctification of married couples and also introduces confusion about basic parenting issues such as raising masculine sons and feminine daughters." (CBMW.org)

Shockingly, this is the same language found in the Malleus Maleficarum (The Witch Hunter's Bible). Wikipedia quotes Michael Bailey (Battling Demons, 2003, University Press):

"The text argues that women are more susceptible to demonic temptations through the manifold weaknesses of their gender. It was believed that they were weaker in faith and more carnal than men. Michael Bailey claims that most of the women accused as witches had strong personalities and were known to defy convention by overstepping the lines of proper female decorum." (Such as 'feminine daughters' from CBMW referenced above.)

Wayne Grudem said this regarding women's submissive role: *"I still believe it will happen. Jesus Christ is building and purifying his church that he might present it to himself without spot or wrinkle. But on this issue Christ's purification process is taking much longer than I expected."* Grudem is specifically calling for the purification of the church by eliminating women leaders. Burning at the stake is illegal, but destroying women is still the goal, just as it was during the Inquisition. Claiming that it is Jesus' desire. I wondered how those priests who burned women could sleep at night. I wonder how we can sleep at night with the same desire.

Some thought they were right, some knew they were wrong, but all thought it was for the good of the Roman Catholic Church.

A billboard that defines men and women as being "Real men" and "Real women" is reprehensible on so many levels, and is not Christian on any level.

I know that you believe that women are to be submissive to males, to their husbands of course, but also to all men in leadership. You could never have obtained the position you have if you did not. However, it will take men such as yourself to open your heart to the fact that many cherished beliefs may not honor Christ. I have presented reasons for you to reexamine those beliefs in light of God's word, in light of prayers for a breakthrough, and in light of how we can be a Great Commission people.

Shirley Taylor

www.bwebaptistwomenforequality.wordpress.com

"Raising the Hood: A Christian Look at Manhood and Womanhood"

"Dethroning Male Headship: Second Edition"

"Women Equal – No Buts: Powered by the same Source"

www.amazon.com/author/taylorshirley