

Street Evangelist for Women's Equality

Speaking up for women wherever I am



August 31, 2017

Andy Olsen
Christianity Today
465 Gundersen Drive
Carol Stream, IL 60188

Dear Andy,

I looked at the cover of the current issue of CT Magazine for several days as it lay on my desk. I live in the middle of Hurricane Harvey with flooding all around me, roads being closed, people being evacuated, houses being flooded, and lives being lost. In the midst of this, I couldn't get this picture of the noose off my mind. I can think of two things at once, and I believe that CT can, also. So let's talk about this.

Racism is real. Our history is real. We have made terrible mistakes toward those of color and we continue to do so. I am not sure it will ever be different in my lifetime. But that doesn't excuse it nor does it mean that we should not try to make amends for it.

Not all blacks suffered the noose, so the picture is representative of the slavery and not of actual murder of all blacks. I call myself the street evangelist for women's equality, and as I looked at the noose, my thoughts kept going to the fact that women have been tied to certain scriptures of the Bible, much like the noose around our necks. We have been hurt, we have been denied, we have been denigrated, lessened, flattered, condemned, and abused by the pastors who profess to love us, and by those who have accepted what they have been led to believe.

Christianity Today was one of the major factors in complementarian acceptance with its actions on January 13, 1989. That acceptance has gotten out of hand. It has condemned women to submission, and it has hindered the spread of the gospel by all Christians. It has demeaned the very Christ we serve. When women are told that they must submit to another gender – of all races and religions – because they were designed by God to do so, that means that God shares his headship with human males.

Andy, you may be able to help bring about racial reconciliation with your article. Whether that happens or not, you *can* help bring about gender reconciliation using the same methods Christianity Today uses to promote complementarianism.

We can think about two things at the same time. It is time we think about Christian women's equality and begin the process towards full reconciliation of the family of God, where brothers and sisters share equality.

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