

### **Email letter to pastor who quoted Timothy Keller far too often.**

I am not as wise as Nathan when he told King David the story of the pet lamb. But I am going to tell a similar story. This leads to Timothy Keller.

My father's mother was seven years old when Sherman came through Atlanta, Georgia, running their horses through the house, and killing her mother who had an infant baby in her arms, leaving several children without a mother, and their father without his wife. My great-grandfather on my mother's side fought for the Confederacy at Lookout Mountain in Tennessee.

I am a child of the Confederacy and if I chose to, I would have every right to have Confederate flags on my car, on my hat and on my house. But if I did, what people would see would be the red flag of slavery waving at them. They would not know that I am honoring the family that lost its mother, or of the father who risked his life in the Civil War.

Today, waving the Confederate flag would indicate to blacks and to my friends and church family, that I support the South's view of slavery in 1861. It would be unkind to blacks because of what it means to them. It would paint me as a radical black-hating Christian. But the fact is just the opposite - I hate the very idea of slavery and firmly believe that it was best that the Union won.

Flagwaving indicates a sympathy for, and alliance with. When you wave the flag for Timothy Keller as you have continuously since the beginning of the year, it makes me wonder if you stand for what he teaches. Now, I know that you don't. But other men and women hearing so much attributed to Timothy Keller, will believe that whatever Timothy Keller says must be true because their pastor holds him in such high regard. Because of that, similar to how it is today with the Confederate flag, the promotion of a pastor who believes and teaches that women are second class in the kingdom of God, causes me great distress.

Timothy Keller believes and teaches in the bondage of women in that they are to be submissive to their husbands and cannot pastor a church. He is a fundamental Presbyterian and they hold those beliefs. His books and his writings tell us that. Surely there are pastors and theologians who have worthy quotes and who also believe in the dignity and equality of women that could be quoted.

#### **I, too, can quote Timothy Keller:**

*The Meaning of Marriage* by Timothy Keller, "Sex leads us to words of adoration—It literally evokes shouts of joy and praise. Through the Bible, we know why this is true. John 17 tells us that from all eternity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have been adoring and glorifying each other, living in high devotion to each other, pouring love and joy into one another's hearts continually (cf. John 1:18; 17:5,

21,24-25). Sex between a man and a woman points to the love between the Father and the Son (1 Corinthians 11:3). It is a reflection of the joyous self-giving and pleasure of love within the very life of the triune God. Sex is glorious not only because it reflects the joy of the Trinity but also because it points to the eternal delight of soul that we will have in heaven, in our loving relationships with God and one another.”

Keller gives a strange sexual translation to 1 Corinthians 11:3, “Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God,” by saying that this scripture means that sex between a man and a woman points to the love between the Father and the Son. Nothing about sex in that scripture that I see, unless you prefer the definition of “head” in a sexual way.

Keller attempts to back up his sexual meaning by referencing the Book of John, but these scriptures do not validate what he claims they do.

To sum up Keller’s paragraph quoted above, Keller is saying that when husbands and wives have sex, particularly when they climax, (when else would there be “shouts of joy?”) they are emulating how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit rejoice in each other. That is a stretch of anybody’s imagination.

Pastor, you have every right to quote Timothy Keller. It is your church, your sermon, your congregation. Just as I have every right to wave the Confederate flag. But I choose not to because of those it hurts.