

# A CASE FOR CULTURE

## Culturally Speaking.....

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misc. writing

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### WHEN IT COMES TO KEEPING CULTURE OUT OF THE SCRIPTURES...

#### I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PURIST OF SORTS, NOT EVEN CONSIDERING THE CULTURE OR TIMES THE SCRIPTURE WAS WRITTEN

Recently, however, I have begun to contemplate culture in the Bible, and if it is relevant to our understanding or applying of the Scriptures. If culture changes, does that change anything...scripturally.

Now, I know very well the slippery slope I may be on, so I am determined to tread very carefully. A little background, this subject was precipitated by a decision in my Church to appoint Elders/Deacons & a group called, "A Multitude of Counselors." The prevailing teaching was that the leadership of the Church-scripturally speaking was to be handled by men.....only. Well, of course, my being a woman already in leadership as a worship leader, well, this subject of 'male only' leadership (from God's perspective?) was intriguing to me to say the least

#### IT GOT ME THINKING

Is there a case for culture here? Would it be wrong for me to consider the culture toward women in that day 2000 years ago? A culture in which women were not even second class citizens, let alone leaders. A culture that treated women as just above cattle, and used women for the sole purpose of reproducing male offspring? Anyway, in my reasonings I thought about the head coverings in 2 Cor. 11, I thought about the instructions in 2 Tim. for a woman to be silent in the Church, and if she desired to know anything to ask her husband at home, etc. Then it hit me...

#### WHAT ABOUT THE SLAVES?

We don't have slaves today, but the Bible sure does speak of them as something that was relevant in the day of Christ. Slaves are a case for culture because the culture has changed in this area. Still, in the Word of God, God addresses it in several places, and not once condemns it. Please don't get me wrong, I am not advocating slavery in any way shape or form, I'm only using it as an example of how a subject that was clearly culturally accepted 2000 years ago, IS NOT CULTURALLY ACCEPTED TODAY! Especially in the US, legal slavery is 100% NOT acceptable! Well, may I submit to you that neither is oppression of any kind, including, but not limited to, the mistreatment of women.

You may be thinking that I'm off my rocker, I mean, how can I possibly compare the way women were treated to the way slaves were treated in Bible times? Well, I'm glad you brought that up:) Remember the head coverings, and the silence, and such I mentioned before? Well, I'm saying that women were treated as possessions, as much lower class of citizens...maybe even lower than slaves. All I know is that the women & slaves had this in common: they were not educated. Without the ability to read and understand for ourselves, we are destined to be ruled over.

In Roman times (which is the culture of Jesus day and most of the New Testament) only the free men were educated. Jews from other places were

certainly educated and they ruled the people under Roman headship.

Have you ever seen the commercials about "a mind is a terrible thing to waste...?" What was that about? It was about educating black people so they could rise to a professional level in society. Ever hear this: "knowledge is power!" I think I heard that in between the Saturday morning cartoons when I was a kid. Education is very important in being able to function at the level of leadership in any society. If you want to rule a group of people, keep them from learning how to read, keep them from reading, and writing, and you will keep them from the ability to communicate on the highest level, they will forever be relegated to menial labor.

I've noticed something about myself. In the Church, the more I am disrespected, insulted, and challenged because I'm a woman, the more my confidence in the Lord grows...I can't explain it, but through this trial I'm actually being healed and strengthened in my calling as a woman in ministry!

I'll tell you what, our God is so awesome, and so wise, and so patient. It makes me want to serve Him all the more....thank You Lord for allowing me to be born (as a woman) in the United States of America where I am free to pursue You and the knowledge of Your Word. As a woman, what a gift, what a blessing I have been given...culturally speaking, I do believe there is a case for culture here.....

**Gal. 3:28** *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Peace In! Big D