



BIBLICAL POSITION POINT PAPER

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY	4
HOMOSEXUALITY	5
MUSIC IN THE CHURCH	6
‘FUND RAISING’ IN THE CHURCH	6

INTRODUCTION

This position paper has been prepared to address the common issues of debate occurring in our churches today. As a servant of the Most High GOD (*El Elyon*), my charge is to

*.....preach the gospel to the poor;heal the brokenhearted,preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, **Luke 4:18***

*.....preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. **1 Cor. 1:17***

*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. **2 Tim. 4:2***

When The WORD of GOD lacks specific clarity in addressing a certain position, we know that any position determined must be proved by the following criteria:

- the position must be **consistent** (*in agreement or harmony; in accord*) with The WORD of GOD
- the position must **complement** (*that which completes or brings to perfection*) The WORD of GOD
- the position must **conform** (*to bring into harmony or agreement; adapt*) to The WORD of GOD
- the position must **not confuse** (*mix up; jumble together; put into disorder*) The WORD of GOD
- the position must **not compromise** (*to settle or adjust by concessions on both sides; weaken or give up*) the Word of GOD
- the position must **not conflict** (*be antagonistic, incompatible or contradictory*) to The WORD of GOD

For example, there are no passages in Scripture that expressly prohibit smoking, yet we are reminded by the Holy Spirit through His Servant Paul

*¹⁹What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **1 Cor. 6:19***

Nevertheless, whenever there is uncertainty regarding GOD's position on any issue of life, we have these Divine Promises

*⁸I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. **Psalms 32:8***

*³¹Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. **John 8:31-32***

*²⁶But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. **John 14:26***

Therefore, I formally state that **I have NO position at all, save that which is found in the WORD OF GOD.**

WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY

Although the subject of a woman's place in the ministry is a never-ending topic of discussion among churches and denominations, **the Word of GOD remains the authoritative source**. For the record, *this preacher submits wholly to the Authority of GOD, and respects established earthly authority regardless of race, gender, or creed*. I also, however, recognize my privilege to select the leadership that I desire to submit to. In other words, when entering any 'house', I am commanded to submit to the rules and authority of said 'house'. However, if I choose not to enter a 'house', or elect to exit a 'house', my recognition of said leadership is deemed at best a courtesy, but never a mandate.

Because the House of GOD is governed by the Head of the Church, (*who is Jesus Christ, the 'Word of GOD made flesh'*), it is therefore incumbent to all who follow the Word of GOD to insure that the leadership in place has submitted to, and is in harmony with, the guidelines as stated in the Word of GOD.

There are those who interpret the following verse as an endorsement of women in positions of spiritual leadership

²⁸*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28*

However, remember that since any private interpretation must not conflict, compromise, or confuse the Logos (*or sum total of the utterances*) of the Word of GOD, the consideration of women in positions of leadership would create conflict and confusion, especially when considering these following passages.

¹⁶*Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man (Heb - 'ish) over the congregation,* ¹⁷*Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd. Numbers 27:16-17*

¹²*As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths. Isaiah 3:12*

³*But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.* ⁴*Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.* ⁵*But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.* ⁶*For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.* ⁷*For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.* ⁸*For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.* ⁹*Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.* ¹⁰*For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. 1 Cor. 11:3-10*

¹¹*Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.* ¹²*But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.* ¹³*For Adam was first formed, then Eve.* ¹⁴*And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. 1 Tim. 2:11-14*

^{3:1}*This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.* ²*A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;* ³*Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;* ⁴*One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;* ⁵*(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)* ⁶*Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.* ⁷*Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. 1 Tim. 3:1-7*

Moreover, we find in Scripture that there are NO references to the term ‘Woman of GOD’ (*HEB-elohim ishyah or GRK-gunos theos*). We do find six (6) references to women who were recorded as having ‘prophesized’ (*Miriam, Deborah, Huldah, Noadiah, Anna, and the daughters of Philip*). Yet, prophecy in itself carries no Divine or earthly authority. For instance, in the case of Miriam, when she took it upon herself to become a ‘spokesperson’ for GOD, she was struck with leprosy. And in the case of Deborah, although her role in ‘judging Israel’ carried great influence, the ‘authority’ to command the army was still Barak’s (*Judges 4*). Finally, in the one case in Scripture where a woman ruled (*Athaliah*), Scripture records the tragic result of her ‘leadership’ (*2 Kings 11*).

Finally, for advocates of this belief who say that Scripture is ‘out of date’, or ‘not in step’ with the times, this also creates conflict and confusion, for this same Word says

*"Heaven and earth shall pass away: **but my words shall not pass away.**" (Mark 13:31)*

*"Every word of God is **pure**, he is a **shield** unto them that put their trust in him." (Proverbs 30:5)*

*"Sanctify them thy truth: thy word is **truth.**" (John 17:17)*

*For I am the Lord, **I change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. (Malachi 3:6)*

*Jesus Christ (the Word made flesh), **the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.** (Hebrews 13:8)*

As a result, if a proclaimer is not in total harmony with that which they proclaim, is not that proclamation ‘anathema’, and promotes contradiction, confusion, and hypocrisy?

HOMOSEXUALITY

Scripture is without ambiguity as to GOD’s position on homosexuality. **Homosexuality is an abomination to GOD.** No attempt will be made to further discuss or validate this position, save the reminder of GOD’s judgement on Noah’s Sin (*Genesis 9:21-22*), Sodom and Gomorrah (*Genesis 19*) and following verses

²²***Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. Leviticus 18:22***

¹³***If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. Leviticus 20:13***

²⁰*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. ²⁴Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷**And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. Romans 1:24-27***

⁹*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, **nor abusers of themselves with mankind,** ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **1 Cor. 6:9-10***

⁸*But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; ⁹Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane,*

*for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,¹⁰For whoremongers, **for them that defile themselves with mankind**, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;¹¹According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust. **1 Tim. 1:8-11***

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

As it pertains to the style and type of music appropriate for the church, the position of this preacher is that *any music that glorifies the LORD is welcome in the LORD's House*. **The issue is not style or type of music, but intent**. As there are different types of praise (*HEB transliteration - shabach, yadah, halal, tehillah, and zamar*), the LORD provides opportunities for different styles of musical expression (*hymns, anthems, gospels, contemporary, etc.*).

Remember the Words of our LORD, who reminds us

*man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. **1 Samuel 16:7***

As to personal preference, this preacher enjoys the depth and substance of hymns, gospels and anthems, but has endorsed (*and will endorse*) the development of alternative musical expressions, **so long as it glorifies GOD**.

*⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps: ⁸Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling his word: ⁹Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars: ¹⁰Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl: ¹¹Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth: ¹²Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: ¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven. **Psalms 148:7-13***

*^{149:1}Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. ²Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. ³Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. ⁴For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. ⁵Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. ⁶Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; **Psalms 149:1-6***

*³Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. ⁴Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. ⁵Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. ⁶Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. **Psalms 150:3-6***

'FUND RAISING' IN THE CHURCH

Another topic which generates differing (*and sometimes divisive*) views is the concept of 'fund raising' (*or 'selling'*) in the church. In the New Testament, the following account is recorded

*¹³And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, ¹⁴And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: ¹⁵And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; ¹⁶And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. **John 2:13-16***

However, what must be understood is that Jesus' fury was NOT a result of what was occurring in the church. Again, the issue is not the act, but the intent. The 'selling' was not the 'cause', but the 'effect' of a deeper 'cause', and that being greed and self-interest.

*for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. **1 Samuel 16:7***

As a preacher, I have taken active participation in numerous initiatives and endeavors to raise monetary funds. These funds, however, were used to further 1) community outreach efforts, 2) overseas missions; 3) youth initiatives; 4) college students; 5) scouting programs; 6) family/member tragedies; and 7) elderly care, just to name a few. Therefore it is the position of this preacher that any initiative that solicits or generates funds must go to promote the vision of the church through missions (*as determined by the LORD*), and not to further any self-serving person, group, or other entity.