

A Response to the North American Division Request

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- **My Assigned Topic:
“Why Am I Not in Favor
of the North American
Division’s Request”**



**I Strongly Support
the Involvement of
Women
in God's Work**

- **Women have unique gifts needed to finish the work**

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- **They can reach people men can never reach**



**I Deeply Sympathize with
the North American
Division**



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***What is the dilemma
the church is facing?***

- **Women ordained as elders can perform all the duties of ordained ministers**

- **Women ordained as elders can perform all the duties of ordained ministers**
- **Yet, they cannot be ordained as ministers**




How to Solve This Dilemma and Preserve Church Unity

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***2 options cited by the
NAD president
(Adventist Rev., Feb '95)***

- **1. To reverse the decision to begin ordaining women as elders**

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- **2. To request for each division the freedom to decide to ordain women as ministers**



**The NAD Request
Conflicts
with Three of Our
Bible Doctrines**



- **1. Doctrine of the church**

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- **2. Doctrine of the Holy Scriptures**

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- **2. Doctrine of the Holy Scriptures**
- **3. Doctrine of unity in the body of Christ**



What Are the Implications of the Request?

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*It presents a major
change in the
structure of church
leadership*

- **It rejects the generally held SDA view that the Bible teaches clear differences in function between men and women within the church**

- **It assumes that the Bible allows women to occupy spiritual headship roles**

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 - **GC president**



The Test for New Doctrine or Practice

- **“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”
(Isaiah 8:20, NKJV)**

- **“The Bible must be our standard for every doctrine and practice.... It is the word of ... God that is to decide all controversies”
(E. White, 1888, pp. 44, 45)**



God's Word Must Be Our Focus



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We are a Bible church

- **Does the Bible speak to the question of the right of women to occupy positions of full ecclesiastical authority?**

- **SDA pioneers supported reforms such as antislavery, temperance**

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- **However, Ellen White rejected the women's rights movement**

- **“Those who feel called out to join the movement in favor of woman’s rights ... might as well sever all connection with the third angel’s message.**

- **“The spirit which attends the one cannot be in harmony with the other.**

- **“The Scriptures are plain upon the relations and rights of men and women.”**

(E. White, *Testimonies*, I, p. 421)



I. The Request Conflicts with the Doctrine of the Church



What Does Scripture Teach on Relations of Men and Women?


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*It teaches true equality
of nature and worth
before God*

- **1. In nature men and women are created in “the image of God” (Gen 1:27)**

- **2. In worth Jesus reveals that before God we are all exceedingly precious. God “shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34) because we are all “one in Christ Jesus.”**

- **Therefore “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female”
(Gal 3: 28, NKJV)**



**Are men and women
the same
in every sense?**

- **The Bible teaches that they have the same value and standing before God but that they are different in their functional roles**

- **1 Timothy and Titus clearly present this teaching which speaks directly to our situation**



The Message of 1 Timothy



The Message of 1 Timothy

*A timeless message
for the church*

- **“To teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables...which cause disputes rather than godly edification”
(1 Tim 1: 3, 4, NKJV)**

- **“that...you may know how one ought to behave in the...church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth”
(1 Tim 3:14, 15, RSV)**



Principles of Authority in the Church

- **In certain places women interpreted the freedom of the Gospel as freedom to exercise the spiritual headship role in the church**


- **“I do not permit a woman ... to have authority over a man”
(1 Tim 2:12, NKJV)**



God's Plan for Spiritual Headship

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***1. Christ's creation
order before the Fall***



**Paul based his first
theological reason on
Christ's creation order**

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- **“Adam was formed first, then Eve”
(1Tim 2:13, NKJV)**



2. Christ's order after the Fall



**His 2nd reason is based
on the order of sin**


His 2nd reason is based on the order of sin

- **“Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor” (1 Tim 2:14)**



3. Christ's order after the cross

- **“The head of every man is Christ, the head of a woman is her husband, and the head of Christ is God” (1 Cor 11:3, RSV)**



The Qualifications for an Elder or Overseer (1 Tim 3:1-7)?

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(1 Tim 3:1-7)?**

***Requirements for
spiritual headship***

- **An elder must be blameless**

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- **He must be the “husband of one wife”
(1 Tim 3:2, NKJV)**

- Here the word “husband” in Greek is “aner” which is always a man, not a woman

- Here the word “husband” in Greek is “aner” which is always a man, not a woman
- To appoint a woman as elder is not Biblical

- **He must be “one who rules his house well, having his children in submission with all reverence” (1 Tim 3: 4)**

- **“For if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?”**

(1 Tim 3: 5, NKJV)

- **This is not as a cultural custom, but as a divinely ordained principle—
“as to the Lord”
(Eph 5:22, NKJV)**



The Line of Authority in the Doctrine on the Church


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- “The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word, and from the Scriptures, which are the written Word”

(Fundamental Belief 11)

- **Jesus as head of the church delegates His authority to leaders of the church in harmony with the Bible**

- **In harmony with His order of creation Jesus has assigned the position of elder, or overseer, to men, not to women**



II. The Request Violates the Doctrine of the Holy Scriptures

- **“The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will” and “the test of experience”**

(Fundamental Belief 1)



Was Paul Culturally Biased?

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*The question really is,
Can we fully trust the
Bible writers?*

- **God is the author of the Bible. Therefore the Bible is “the infallible authority ... as a rule of faith and practice”**
(Great Controversy, p. 249)

- **It is not affected**
“by human prejudice
or human pride”
(Patriarchs and
Prophets, p. 596)



**How should we
interpret the Bible?**

- **“The Word of God is infallible; accept it as it reads”**

(Ellen White in *Review and Herald*, Feb. 11, 1896, p. 81)




Danger of Modifying God's Instructions

- **“The very beginning of the great apostasy was in seeking to supplement the authority of God by that of the church.**

- **“Rome began by enjoining what God had not forbidden, and she ended by forbidding what He had explicitly enjoined”**
(Great Controversy, pp.289-290)

- **“True faith consists in doing just what God has enjoined, not manufacturing things He has not enjoined”**
(That I May Know Him, p. 226)



**SDAs Need
Submission to
the Word of God,
Not Reinterpretation**

- **The Remnant church is a movement at the end of time that still is to reveal the characteristics of the NT church, even in the authority structure of church leadership**



III. The Request Destroys the Doctrine of Unity in the Body of Christ

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***“Through the revelation of
Jesus Christ in the Scriptures
we share the same faith and
hope, and reach out in the one
witness to all”***

(Fundamental Belief 13)



Results of Approving the Request

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*It allows the use of two
conflicting methods of
Biblical interpretation
for SDAs*

- **One method follows the New Testament, the Protestant Reformers and the Advent pioneers, including Ellen White**

- **This approach favors the plain meaning of the Bible and its regulations for church leadership**

- **The other method follows the approach adopted by the fallen churches of Babylon since 1844**

- **This new approach to the Bible is influenced by the trends of today's culture. Male spiritual headship is not politically correct.**



***The effect of conflicting
methods of Bible
interpretation***

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methods of Bible
interpretation***

- **It establishes two
conflicting theologies
of church leadership**

- **Ordination will not have worldwide validity any longer**

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- **Some fields will not recognize the leadership from other fields**

