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Apostolic Doctrine

THE KINGDOM ORDER OF MALE AND FEMALE

It is often said that among all the endless topics of discussion in the world, the two most emotionally charged of all are religion and politics. If you're looking for an argument the saying goes, raise these topics and you'll surely find one! Over the years, I've certainly found this to be an everyday reality, and then some. But I must say that in my experience, as an emotionally charged issue, absolutely nothing compares to the order of male and female.

No other subject even comes close when it comes to creating tension and bringing raw emotions to the surface. And as we all know, this is especially true among so-called "African Americans." And of course, given the history of our sojourn in America, this is to be expected. After all, like Satan in the Garden of Eden, the slave master's primary objective was, and is, to usurp the authority of the *man* of GOD.

Now the modus operandi of choice is always to "climb up the wall" as it were, by entering in through the woman, rather than through the divine gatekeeper that GOD ordained. And unfortunately, the ill effects of this wicked distortion of our families, and the excruciating mental, physical, and emotional degradation heaped upon our people still reverberates into our modern-day experiences.

Therefore, we as faithful shepherds who have been charged with the responsibility of feeding the flock of Yisrael in Christ are duty-bound to weigh in on this issue in full effect. To be sure, within the modern context, but from a Hebraic cultural frame of reference. And of course, this servant is no exception. And so with great sobriety, and at the risk of being seen as arrogant, anti-female, or

worse, I must put forth what is needful on this urgent matter facing the Kingdom. Even so, Amen.

CONTEXT

To begin with, we must recognize one of the most basic principles of exegesis: “A verse taken out of context becomes a pretext.” And another basic truth of interpretation is that no sound doctrine can be established on the strength of one witness! One man, one verse, one chapter, one apostle, one prophet, one priest, one prince, one moreh, one zaqan, or one anyone or anything, is simply insufficient to establish a word of divine truth. And like with all unsettled matters among us, these basic principles concerning the Kingdom order of male and female have been grossly violated.

ALL ONE IN CHRIST

Almost without exception, across all Messianic-Christian factions and denominations, the clarion call for the removal of gender distinction is: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Yah’shua the Messiah.” (Gal. 3:28). But is this verse really a doctrine saying the ancient order of male and female has been removed in Christ? The truth is, what is present in the text says just the opposite.

Notice that the same apostle who wrote “there is neither male nor female” *also* wrote, “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.” (1 Cor. 11:3). Was the apostle double minded or inconsistent? Obviously not. And despite those who reject the apostle Paul as the instigator of a lawless movement, the answer, in my judgment, is clear: Paul was absolutely consistent!

In truth, this prevailing wind of doctrine tossing our people ‘to and fro’ is not a Bible-based truth at all. So then the real question becomes, if the apostle wasn’t teaching a removal of gender distinction, then just what exactly was he teaching? In what way is there no distinction between male and female? To begin with, in keeping with the basic principles of study, the verse in question must be understood *in proper context*. And the truth is, Paul’s epistle to the Galatians as a whole is not concerning Kingdom order at all, but the process of divine redemption.

Now, let us look at a few verses in Galatians chapter 3 to establish what is actually being taught:

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness should have been by [the letter of] the Law. 22

But the scripture has concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Yah'shua the Messiah might be given to them that believe.

26 For you are all the children of God by faith in Yah'shua the Messiah. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Yah'shua. 29 And if you be Christ's, then are you Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Clearly, the apostle Paul was teaching that the new 'naturalized' Gentile converts at Galatia were not justified by the blood of bulls and goats, any more than the natural Hebrew branches of Yisrael. His point was that the whole Commonwealth can now receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that now empowers all Yisrael to fulfill the law, and to be lawless no more; and thus, to no longer be under the *curse* of the law.

Behold, saints, this passage of scripture has nothing to do with Kingdom order. It simply outlines the truth that all of us, whether we be of the circumcision or of the heathen, whether we be slaves or freemen, or whether we be male or female, we have all become one in Christ!

Now before the New Covenant [and after], women of course, were not circumcised. Their outward token of blood was found in their virginity – the shedding of blood in the consummation of marriage. But in Christ, we enter into the set-apart dimension not by the blood of animal sacrifices, nor by the blood of circumcision, nor by the tokens of virginity, but by the untainted blood of the Lamb of GOD. SÉLAH.

As it is written, "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin." And in this sense, there is no distinction between male and female in Christ. Both male and female are justified in the same way – by faith in the blood of Yah'shua. And as a matter of foundational truth, this revelation of redemption in Christ is certainly not incompatible with the apostle Paul's revelation by the Spirit on the Kingdom order of male and female.

THE NEW DAY RATIONALE

Ironically, perhaps the most common misnomer among us comes not from the scriptures themselves, but from the vanity of this world. This lying spirit teaches that drawing a distinction between male and female is archaic – a relic of an unenlightened past, which will soon be assigned its proper place on the dung heap of history. But let us look, O Yisrael, at a Torah-based reference

found in the New Covenant for drawing this distinction:

“But I do not allow a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.” (2 Tim. 2:12-14). In this untoward generation – particularly here in the midst of ‘Egypt,’ – there are even those who proclaim that Yah’shua is LORD, and yet respond to this passage as if it were uttered by Satan himself!

Notice that Paul himself, the esteemed elder and apostle, who as Rahbi Sha’ul sat at the feet of the legendary Rahbi Gamaliel, taught as a foundational principle that the man was the original creation of Elohim. And beyond that, he points out that while it was Adam who willfully sinned, the woman was deceived and believed the lie of Satan.

The truth of the matter is, the order of male and female is not some throwback to a bygone era, but an unchangeable divine ordinance throughout the generations of Yisrael. And until we depart from these earthly tabernacles (our physical bodies), the order of male and female remains constant and in full effect among the saints.

Behold, beloved children, for mankind to receive the revelation of the Kingdom order of GOD and man, there must be woman, created as the weaker vessel, so that both male and female may come to innerstand the need for mankind to submit to the Higher One, in whose image and likeness they were both created. So, the emotionally driven argument that this crucial order is held by ego-driven male chauvinists who long to return to an age when women were abused with impunity is simply untrue. This faulty reasoning, saints, even when under the surface attack of a novice, simply collapses of its own weight.

YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY

Many who seek to justify the removal of the order of male and female point to the prophecy of Yoel-Joel, quoted by the apostle Peter on Shavu’ot-Pentecost – “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...” (Acts 2:17; Joel 2:28). Again, many of us have mistaken this prophecy to mean that the order of male and female has been removed in Christ.

Now to be sure, we as the holy nation would be incomplete without the inspired speaking of our anointed sisters! No doubt about it. But clearly, the fact that such a woman was referred to in

GOD's covenants as a *prophetess* (Hebrew: 'nebia') and not a prophet (Hebrew: 'nabi') indicates the clear distinction drawn by our Father between male and female. Without question, prophesying – speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – is a divine gift of Abba YAH to the Kingdom at large. However, there is nothing in this gifting that changes the basic order set in the garden of Eden. And when that order was violated, it resulted in the fall of both male and female. SÉLAH.

DEBORAH

Of course, many among us point to the ancient daughter Deborah as an example of women ruling over men. And this, in spite of the end-time prophecy of YeshaYahu-Isaiah which reveals, "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths." (Isa. 3:12).

As the great prophetess who judged in pre-Davidic Yisrael, the truth is, it was not Deborah herself, but the great warrior Barak who commanded the armies of Yisrael to victory. To be sure, the prophetess Deborah rightfully prophesied the outcome, which was a vital contribution to saving the nation. But it was Barak himself who set the battle plan, and led his warriors to victory.

Now according to the actual text, Deborah was in no wise violating the order set by our GOD from the beginning! As it is written, "And Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!' So she said, 'I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, *for YAHUWAH will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.*' Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kadesh." (Judges 4:8-9). SÉLAH.

Beloved children, know and understand that we are in an hour much like the historical period of the Judges, with every man doing that which is right in his own eyes. And our own 'age of the judges' is quickly drawing to a close in like manner. And this time around, our 'judges phase' will again give way to the rule of kings. Not according to the tabernacle of Moses, but the tabernacle of Dawid, and the greater order of Melchizedek. (Amos 9:11-12). Even so, Amen.

MARY AT THE GARDEN TOMB

Now in some Christian quarters, it is believed and taught that Miriam-Mary who was first to encounter the risen Christ was the first apostle, since she was the first to spread the news of His resurrection. It has even been suggested that while the twelve hand-picked apostles of Christ were hiding in fear for their lives, the women boldly proclaimed the Gospel. But the truth is, with all

due respect to the female disciples of Yah'shua, (and much respect is due), they were not somehow more courageous than the men, and thus "greater" than His twelve apostles. The women were simply not under a threat of death like the men.

For example, in anointing Yah'shua's body in burial, or even in delivering his message to the brethren that He had risen, they had nothing to fear in the way of capital punishment by crucifixion. In fact, Miriam didn't visit the tomb to greet the risen Christ. Instead, she went with every intention of anointing His body in death. And when she did see Him, just like the brethren He greeted later on that day, she failed to recognize Him, and even mistook Him for the gardener. Is this not a clear indication that she too, did not believe in His prophecies of the resurrection any more than the twelve?

Again, such non-scriptural conclusions are inevitably drawn by those among us whose emotional pain leads them to interpret scripture in reaction to their life experiences, rather than interpreting their life experiences based on the scriptures. And the tendency to do this is certainly understandable; especially given the inordinate amount of abuse our sisters have been forced to endure. And in too many instances, by so-called "brothers." But with that being said, this unfortunate mishandling of the Word of YAH must no longer be an acceptable method among the leadership for establishing sound doctrine in the Kingdom.

THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH

Again, one of the great prophecies of YeshaYahu-Isaiah is an amazing end-time vision of the daughters of Zion. It portends a time of great confusion, rebellion, and disobedience, saying: "As for my people, children are their oppressors and women rule over them. O my people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths." (Is. 3:12).

This verse in Isaiah clearly reveals that the rule of women is not a "back-up plan of GOD" for whenever men abdicate their priestly responsibilities. For example, when Adam originally sinned, it was after Khavah-Eve had already been deceived. And yet when GOD re-approached them, He called on the man first. Hear O Yisrael, and innerstand: Almighty YAH did not violate His own established order, even in Adam's fall. And neither should we. SÉLAH.

Now notice, beloved children, that Satan – the lawless one – went to the woman *first*. But again, GOD remained faithful to His own order of male and female, and still honored the man as the head of the woman, regardless of the man having fallen short as a husband to the woman, as well as a

son to his heavenly Father. The foundational order of male and female was not changed even in Adam's failure. And so it is in every generation, including our own.

YeshaYahu goes on to prophesy, "Moreover, YAHUWAH says, because the daughters of Zion are very proud, they walk along with their noses in the air. They tease men with their eyes. They walk with quick, short steps. Little chains jingle on their ankles. So I will put sores on the heads of the daughters of Zion. And YAHUWAH will uncover their secret parts."

"At that time YAHUWAH will take away the beautiful things they wear. He will take away their decorations, headbands and moon shaped necklaces. He will take away their earrings, bracelets and veils. He will remove their headdresses, ankle chains and belts. He will take away their perfume bottles and charms. He will remove the rings they wear on their fingers and in their noses. He will take away their fine robes and their capes and coats. He will take away their purses and mirrors. And he will take away their linen clothes, turbans and shawls..." (Isa. 4:16-23).

Shall we then gloss over this very critical word for this hour because it hits us where we live? No. For just like the afflicted need comforting, the comfortable need afflicting...

Yah'shua's Davidic brother Prince Ya'aqob-James put it this way: "Lament and mourn and weep, Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of God, and he will lift you up." (James 4:9-10) The third chapter of Isaiah ends with these words: "Your men shall fall by the sword, and your mighty in the war. Her city shall lament and mourn, and she being desolate shall sit in the ground." (Is. 3:26). And so it is becoming in our communities across America, and now is...

ADDRESSING THE MEN OF YISRAEL

Finally, beloved, there are those among us who question with all sincerity why we often address our epistles, doctrines, and decrees to the brethren. Are not our precious women, they say, worthy of being acknowledged in your open writings to the Kingdom? And of course, we certainly believe this to be a legitimate concern.

Now it is written that the ancient children of Yisrael came out of Egypt under Moses some six hundred thousand strong. And as you may know, this number does not include women and children. And in the New Covenant, it is written that Yah'shua miraculously fed a multitude of five thousand. And again, with the recorded number not reflecting the women and children who were present, and obviously included in the event...

Rather than distribute the loaves and fishes to each person, the Master instructed His disciples to seat the people in groups, and distribute the food to the men assigned over each group. My people, let iron sharpen iron and deep call unto deep. Are these, the very fathers of the Covenants of Yisrael, misogynous, or chauvinistic? Obviously not. In truth, rather than devaluing the most precious gift of GOD to man, these mighty leaders of our people honored their mothers, wives, sisters and daughters in the highest!

Now let the beloved daughters of Abba YAH understand that these great men refused to dishonor the divine headship of the husbands and fathers of Yisrael by nourishing their women directly, and faithfully obeyed, just as do the righteous daughters of Zion themselves, the divine principles of headship and submission and the Kingdom order of male and female ordained by the Most High. And in like manner, as those who have been charged with the sober responsibility to love and cherish our women even as our own flesh, we as the faithful Elders of today must do no less!

Hear, O Daughters of Zion: We, the mighty men of the Kingdom, love, honor and cherish you as an indispensable and irreplaceable gift of Abba YAH! O HalleluYAH!

ISAIAH'S BENEDICTION

Now in spite of his scathing indictment of Yisrael in general, and the daughters of Zion in particular, the prophet Yeshayahu-Isaiah by inspiration of the Holy Spirit leaves us all with this marvelous assurance concerning the coming Kingdom age: "In that day shall the branch of YAHUWAH be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Yisrael. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remains in Jerusalem, shall be called holy; even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When YAHUWAH shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning."

"And YAHUWAH will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defense. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the day time from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain." (Is. 4:2-6).

O Abba YAH, let it be unto us in all matters, just as You have decreed and declared from the

beginning. YAH Khai v'HalleluYAH!

IT'S KINGDOM TIME.

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