

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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May 9, 2021

### **“Our Roles Are Not Shameful”**

By Jarrod M. Jacobs

God created man and woman (Gen. 2:7, 18-25; Matt. 19:4). He also made them to fulfill specific roles on this earth. In Genesis 2:18-25, God states that man and woman have certain roles and responsibilities. These roles have transcended the years and the confines of countries and are with us this day. For example, God says the husband has the role of headship or leadership in the family (Eph. 5:23-24). At the same time, neither the husband's nor the wife's father is the head of that home. These two must “leave” parents and “cleave” to one another (Matt. 19:4-6), just as their parents and grandparents did before them.

What was stated as fact beginning in Genesis 2 has not changed. These roles must be fulfilled on earth today by men and women who are married. Within the roles of male and female, we find God assigning to the man such responsibilities as public teaching (I Tim. 2:12), being an elder or a deacon in a local congregation (I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9), and other roles of leadership in a congregation (I Tim. 2:12). The woman is not permitted to usurp authority over the man in her position or work (I Tim. 2:12).

Even more basic than these roles within families and within the Lord's church, we find the male's role as protector and provider and the female's role as nurturer and caregiver to be God-given as well. This is seen as we study Ephesians 5:22-33; Titus 2:3-5; Proverbs 31; and many other passages. In truth, what seems “innate” to us has, in fact, been explained by God in the Bible.

More can be said about this. These roles are fundamental to our relationships on earth. Yet, I am sorry to say that we live in a world where people try to “deprogram” us from our roles. At times, the attempt is made because some have an agenda to produce a society that is “tolerant” of homosexual sins, bisexual sins, and the like.

After all, if the God-given roles of males and females are, in fact, not “God-given” but based upon men's thoughts and experiences, then males and females can act outside of these roles and not feel ashamed in so doing.

Attempts at destroying the God-given roles of men and women are not new. It is a tool of Satan that he uses to dethrone God. As proof that this war has been waged for a while, I am reminded of a newspaper article written almost ten years ago!

In the *Messenger-Inquirer* on Sunday, July 3, 2011. On page E4, A.P. writer Jennifer Soffel wrote about a preschool in Stockholm, Sweden, that made a name for itself by not using “gender terms” when speaking to the preschoolers. They hired “gender pedagogues” to train the staff to avoid using gender terms such as “he,” “she,” “boy,” “girl,” and the like in front of the little children. (Remember, this is ten years ago! These preschoolers in the article are now in Jr. High!)

They trained children to use the word “hen” (a word not extant in proper Swedish language but used in the homosexual community of Sweden) when referring to males and females instead of “han” or “hon” (him or her in the Swedish language). In fact, the toys and books used in this preschool were specifically chosen to not “confuse” children into thinking about boys' and girls' toys or books which “reinforce stereotypes.”



How ridiculous! One person interviewed in the article said that such an approach actually emasculates the males. I believe this is the case. It is not so much that these people wish for “neutrality” of genders, but an elimination of the male role from society.

Remember, this article was written ten years ago! How much more “progress” has been made since that time? One can also observe how folks are working hard in our country to try to reverse and eliminate the roles of men and women. This is wrong! God gave men and women certain responsibilities and roles within the church, the home, and society. When these are respected, good can come from it. When these are ignored, we have chaos.

For example, how many heads in a family can we have? Can we have 1? 2? More? Would some suggest that none should be the head? Allowing man to answer these questions results in chaos because man might respond in a multitude of ways.

In contrast, the Bible says headship is the man’s role (Eph. 5:23). He must step up and take responsibility. He must not leave it for others to do! At the same time, the wife must be in submission, taking her role just as the church submits to Christ (Eph. 5:24). This does not mean one gender is better or worse than the other. This means we have different roles to fulfill in life. This is God’s orderly manner (I Cor. 14:33).

When thinking about roles, consider the role Christ fulfills. The Bible declares that just as the man is the head of the woman, so also God is the head of Christ (I Cor. 11:3). Does such a statement make Christ inferior?

Does this mean Christ is not deity, or He is “lesser” in some way? By no means! It speaks to a role or work He has done. It is the same way between man and woman.

Our job, however, is not to deny this, hide this, eliminate it, etc., but to embrace our God--given roles. Truly, God’s ways are best, and His ways are for our good.

Teaching little children that they ought not to say “him,” “her,” etc., is to *deny the obvious! Those who are taught there are no genders or no gender roles are growing up confused and frustrated people.*

Let us go back to the Bible and let us respect the Lord’s plan for the home and roles He has given men and women! Just as His ways are best in salvation, in worship, and spiritual matters, so are they the best with earthly relationships!

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## “PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND TARES”

By Tommy Thornhill

Jesus often taught truths by the use of parables which was using a known truth to illustrate an unknown, but more important truth. Some have defined a parable as “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.” His parable of the wheat and tares found in **Matt.13** is a good example. In **vs:24-30** He tells the parable. In **vs 36-43** He explains the meaning of the parable. Please take time to read these verses,

While there are several good lessons to be learned from this parable, I want to briefly mention three points.

1. The world is the field into which the word of God is sown. In the world both good and evil exist together. So, wherever and whenever the word of God is planted in this world evil will be present, because the world is ruled by the evil one, Satan AKA the devil **Eph.2:1-3**. So when you try to teach someone the word of God you will have to deal with the problem of sin (evil) in the person, for all are sinners **Rom.3:23**.

2. When teaching people you cannot always know their inward character. All you can see is the outward appearance. In His parable Jesus pointed that wheat and tares are similar in appearance. So don’t prejudge whether a person will receive the word by the way they are dressed or talk or act. How a person appears outwardly may not be what they are inside. Their heart may be ready to hear the word.

3. The parable also teaches that as long as we who are “God’s people” live in this world we have to live together with “the devil’s people.” But we don’t have to live like them. God knows the difference by the harvest that is being borne. On the day of judgment God will send His angels and they will separate the wheat from the tares. The tares will be gathered and cast into the furnace of fire (hell -t.t.) where there will be “*wailing and gnashing of teeth.*” But the righteous will “*shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of the Father.*”

Are you among the wheat?

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Steve Switcher, Roy Robinson, Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad). Special prayers for all the Harris family to recover from the Covid.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Harris Sr.  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "They Heard Him Gladly"

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

Fred Johnson  
1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)  
Page 20, Question #13

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Russell Briggs  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Paul Busby

**Song Leader:** Adam Harris  
**Lord's Supper:** Fred Johnson  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "The Story Of Two Mothers"  
**Closing Prayer:** Lee Busby

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**May 12th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Busby  
The Book of Proverbs (Mike Willis)  
Page 22, Question #1  
**Invitation:** Paul Johnson  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Closing Prayer:** Nathan Meade



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## ***“They Heard Him Gladly”***

Lesson Text: **Mark 12:35-37.**

This Was Due To The Fact That Jesus:

**1. Treated Them Respectfully.**

**Matthew 7:12; 1 Kings 12:14-16; 2 Timothy 2:23-26.**

**2. Spoke Plainly And Simply.**

**Matthew 15:1-13; Matthew 19:1-10; Luke 11:45; 2 Corinthians 11:3.**

**3. Showed No Respect Of Persons.**

**Matthew 22:15-16; Deut. 1:16-17; Deut. 16:19; James 2:1-9; 1 Peter 1:17.**

**4. Appealed To Their Deeper Needs.**

**Matthew 11:28-30; Luke 12:13-15; Matthew 6:25-33; John 6:26-27.**

**5. Spoke As One Having Authority.**

**Matthew 7:28-29; John 7:32—45-46; Matthew 28:18.**

**6. Practiced What He Spoke To Others.**

**Acts 1:1; Matthew 5:43-44—Luke 23:34; 1 Peter 2:20-23.**

# **“The Story Of Two Mothers”**

## **I. The Story of Eunice.**

### **A. Acts 16:1-5.**

- She is mentioned, but not named (**2 Timothy 1:5**).
- She is a godly, Jewish woman and a convert to Christ by Paul.
- A wife of a Greek husband— why Timothy was uncircumcised?
- The mother of Timothy.

### **B. 2 Timothy 1:1-5.**

### **C. 2 Timothy 3:14-15 (16-17).**

- The Old Testament Scriptures Developed faith in God in Timothy!
  1. The Creation Genesis (1-2) and Fall (3).
  2. Noah and the Flood Genesis 6-7.
  3. Faithful Abraham and the promises God made to him.
  4. Isaac, Jacob, and the 12 patriarchs.
  5. Moses and the Egyptian Exodus.
  6. Joshua and the wall of Jericho.
  7. David and Goliath.
  8. Solomon and his wisdom.
  9. The Divided Kingdom— Judah and Israel.
  10. Daniel and his three friends in Babylon.
- They Prepared his heart to be a man of God and to preach the gospel .
- They still prepare our young people today!
- That’s the kind of mother Eunice was! A woman of deep faith in God!

## **II. The Story Of Herodias.**

### **A. Matthew 14:3-12.**

- Left her husband Phillip to be with Herod (half brother to Phillip).
- A woman full of hate and vindictive anger toward John the Baptist.
- She was willing to use trickery and manipulation to get what she wanted.
- She even involved her own daughter, Salome, in the scheme to kill John.
- She taught her daughter some wicked lessons:
  1. That lawful Marriage is not sacred and unfaithfulness is not a big deal!
  2. That Hatred, Grudges, and Vindictiveness is how you treat your enemies.
  3. That Manipulation, Conspiracies, and Guile is the way to get your way.
  4. That men can be manipulated by lasciviousness, immodesty, & seduction.
  5. That there is no sacredness in innocent life— John was innocent.

## **III. The Two Different Outcomes In The Children.**

### **A. Eunice’s Boy: Timothy was a trusted man of Integrity Faithfulness.**

– **Acts 17:13-14; 19:21-22; Philippians 2:19-20.**

– A preacher of the gospel- **2 Timothy 4:1-5.**

– Prepared for the Judgment Day- **1 Timothy 4:13-16.**

### **B. Herodias’ Girl: Salome lived in palaces and was taught the ways of the world.**

- Her lack of training in the Scriptures led her in the path of the unrighteous.
- She took delight in helping her Mother kill and innocent man.
- Thus, she was unprepared for the Judgment Day.