

F. LaGard Smith answers the question: Why can't women be preachers?

Discussion and study guides / questions / topics for your consideration.

Perhaps also, it would be helpful to ask a contextual question. For purposes of this context, when and where is "preaching" occurring?

1. F. LaGard says that the scripture says women cannot be preachers. It is no more difficult than that.
 - a. That seems fairly straightforward. Do you agree or disagree?
 - b. Is there scripture that informs us that women cannot preach?
 - c. LaGard says that for anyone to say it is ok for a woman to preach that, somehow, you need to get around, under, through, across, over explicit (biblical) passages.
 - d. LaGard references 1 Timothy 2.11ff. Does this support the above discussion?
 - e. What about 1 Corinthians 14.34-35?
2. According to LaGard, is there a relationship between culture, inspiration and this topic?
 - a. What is culture?
 - b. What is inspiration?
 - i. 2 Timothy 3.16-17; 2 Peter 1.20-21; 1 Corinthians 2.10ff; Hebrews 1.1-2; Acts 22.14-15
 - c. Are there potential issues when taking "the path" of the cultural argument?
3. As a part of answering this question, how far back into time does F. LaGard suggest we look?
 - a. Does the creation of God help us? Genesis 1,2 and 3.
 - b. What is the effect of the creation's relationships upon culture and, perhaps, this current topic?
4. Even in the face of scripture, LaGard says that the creation can sometimes get lost in the discussion (really of any biblical topic) because we get lost in the details.
 - a. What do you think he means?

- b. Do you agree?
- 5. LaGard suggests that there is an overarching principle at play, which God displays from the beginning to the end of the scripture.
 - a. It is the scriptural, God-based, need for male spiritual leadership. In the home and in the congregation. Ephesians 5.22-33; 6.4.
 - b. In the beginning, God created male and female. Genesis 1, 2.
 - c. LaGard says that at the heart of this topic, this is it. Differences in gender; sex; roles.
 - d. How does this compare to the contemporary sociological discussions of gender; gender assignment / choice.
- 6. Within LaGard's answer, he asks these questions:
 - a. What is God getting at when He asks the male figures to have leadership roles vis-à-vis female figures?
 - b. Why does God ask women to submit to their husband? Ephesians 5.22ff.
 - i. How does LaGard explain the biblical notion of submission?
 - c. Why ask that church leaders be the husband of one wife, as opposed to the wife of one husband? 1 Timothy 3.1ff; Titus 1.5ff.
- 7. In conjunction with these questions, LaGard posits the following: throughout the Bible period, Old and New Testaments, there has to be something behind the male spiritual leadership. Always in the leadership role – the male priest, the male prophet, (can we add the male apostle?) – the one who is speaking on behalf of God – is always male.
 - a. What do you think?
 - b. Do you think there is something, some larger principle behind this?
- 8. What do you think is LaGard's essential anchor point in this discussion?
 - a. ...if we're going to be obedient to the revealed will of God...

- b. ...on issues like that this where there are clear and plain scripture, these passages would not have a woman take this role...
 - c. ...if this is a positional topic, how does one get around scriptures that are clear...
 - d. Are there others?
- 9. Does this mean there is / are differences in equality, since we are all one in Christ?
Galatians 3.26-28.
- 10. If it is true (and we believe that it is) that God does not call Christian women to fill the role of a public preacher, does that diminish a woman of God in anyway? Consider the following:
 - a. Proverbs 31
 - b. Books of Ruth and Esther
 - c. Matt 27.55-56;
 - d. Romans 16
- 11. Perhaps another way of answering this question is a different question: What is God's role for men and what is God's role for women.
 - a. So instead of asking something like 'can I do this...' maybe its best to ask 'does God tell me what He wants me to do'.