



The Good News

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Fired for Being Female

By Michael McCleary

On August 23rd, 2007 a segment aired called “Fired for Being Female” on MSNBC. The anchor, Contessa Brewer, showed the text from I Tim. 2:12, and continued by saying that a First Baptist church in upstate NY had taken a “rather literal approach” to the passage and had fired Mrs. Mary Lambert, who had taught there for 54 years. The anchor interviewed the preacher of the church, Timothy LaBouf, asking why this was done. The preacher defended his, and the church’s, stand on the Scripture, saying that they were trying to revitalize their efforts to be more like the New Testament Church. When they had looked at their practices, they realized that they did not have Scriptural authority to allow Mrs. Lambert to teach. The preacher emphasized that Mrs. Lambert did not receive any payment for this service; therefore, the church could not “fire” her. Neither was she simply teaching children or other women, but was teaching men and women in adult classes, which, according to the passage in I Timothy, was not something that a woman had authority to do. He also emphasized that this decision was not chauvinistic in nature but was a “matter of Scripture”.

A “matter of Scripture” ... that is a phrase that we hear very seldom outside of the church of Christ. Even amongst so-called “religious” circles, doing things according to Scripture is something that simply isn’t done anymore. Even Mrs. Lambert was recorded as having said that the First Baptist church has woman preachers “nowadays” as if the course of society dictates what should and should not be followed in Scripture. The only Scriptural rebuttal in the segment was taken out of context.

It has become routine among “religious” circles to simply disregard Scripture that is not popular with mainstream society. Who are we to say that God’s Word is out-of-date? Who are we to criticize it when it does not abide by what society thinks is proper or correct? Does God care in the slightest what society thinks? No, and He never will! If society has ever held any kind of influence on God, why did He destroy the world in a flood, where only eight individuals were spared, and only then by obeying His words? (Heb. 11:7; I Pet. 3:20) It is ludicrous to say that the Bible is out-dated just because society disagrees with God’s views.

The media tried in every way possible to condemn the decision that this church made, attempting to paint the decision as intolerant, and sexist, attempting to gain sympathy for the woman that was “fired”. Mr. LaBouf defended his case very well and according to Scripture, holding to the Word. Hopefully, this church will continue to question its authority for other practices that it follows, realizing other changes are needed to be a true New Testament church.

Let’s be aware of how much Satan has blinded people into thinking of God’s word as old and not applicable, having even the power of the media to spread the blasphemy. Let us fight against this influence and stand up for truth in the face of a society that is, itself, intolerant of views that do not fall in line with its own. Let’s understand that this society will also be destroyed, like the one before, except not with water, but with fire. Let us be of that small group that is not destroyed when that Great Day comes because we “moved with fear” because we respected, and followed, the authority of God.