

Latest LCA vote on Women's Ordination

Last week the LCA held their triennial synod, where again a vote was held on women's ordination. This is the fourth time a vote has been held. According to LCA rules, there must be a 2/3rd majority to change doctrine (The Scriptures knows nothing of a 2/3rds vote on doctrine!! Surely where God has clearly spoken, His will must be followed 100%). Anyhow, for WO to be passed, there needed to be 270 votes in the affirmative of those voting members at synod. The final result was 240 votes for WO, 166 against. Although the 2/3rd majority was not reached, nevertheless the LCA is a church divided with the majority of member congregations in favour of WO.

This debate will not go away. There will be no doubt that in three years' time, another vote will be taken. In the meantime, what will happen? Pro WO will continue to push their agenda, while those against will try to "fix" their church. There is also the possibility that some will leave, but that will not happen any time soon. The problem now for that church is **fellowship**. Despite four attempts in conventions to decide whether women may be pastors in the LCA, **both sides of the doctrinal debate continue to commune together**. If the pastors on the confessional side of this debate cannot refuse communion to those who persistently advocate this false doctrinal practice and cannot refuse to commune with them, **then the doctrine of church fellowship becomes the issue**, and, indeed, the wider doctrine of the church itself. **True fellowship rightly rests on agreement in the right proclamation of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments**. In all the debates in the LCA from both sides, the issue of fellowship hardly rates a mention.

Lots of comments have been made on numerous online discussion groups commenting on the LCA's vote. For the pro WO, comments have ranged from distress and disappointment to almost anger. On the other side, anti WO members, while happy with the result, have called for calm, and have asked their fellow members to show compassion, love, and patience toward the supporters of WO. While this is commendable, something that is lacking in the discussion is the fact that there is much at stake ignoring the clear readings of 1 Corinthians 14:33-38 and 1 Timothy 2:8-14. St. Paul wrote that it is **a command of the Lord** (Christ) that women should be silent in the churches. In the context of 1 Corinthians 14, the kind of speaking in view is the speaking of one individual while the rest listen. When there is a commandment of the Lord (1 Cor. 14:37), to act contrary to it is disobedience. Any church that accepts women to the ministry is being disobedient to the Lord. A woman who receives and accepts such a disobediently issued call is being disobedient. Those who are persistently disobedient should fear the Lord's wrath. St. Paul adds a point that is often overlooked. **The Lord does not recognise a person who does not recognise this command of His** (1 Cor. 14:38).

The argument for women pastors in our time comes entirely from the current culture we find ourselves living in, and Scripture has nothing to support it. Therefore, we are conscience-bound to uphold this command of the Lord.

The church is God's new family on earth. Adam's race did not qualify as God's sons and thus in Jesus a new family, the church, has been established. In the church, God's original intentions are again revived. The church is therefore bound to the proper relationship between the man and woman established by God and that it be reflected in everything the church does. The ordaining of women as pastors is not only a deliberate breaking of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments but is also a direct contradiction of God's plan in creation. It is acting directly against God.