

bWe Baptist Women for Equality

Advocating for Women Pastors and Women Deacons

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Jackboot of the Southern Baptist Convention

Jackboot:

1. A person who uses bullying tactics, especially to force compliance.
2. The spirit sustaining and motivating a militaristic, highly aggressive, or totalitarian regime or system.

They've done it again. The SBC affiliated seminary in Fort Worth has taken women further down the path from humanhood when they adopted The Danvers Statement of Biblical Manhood and Biblical Womanhood of 1987. What were we women doing this time that they had to stomp the Jackboots on our throats?

The jackboots came down on women with the Baptist Faith and Message 1998 when the SBC inserted the Family Section to the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. The Family Section told women in no uncertain terms that the men were in control of the family and the wife was to graciously submit to his leadership and raise his kids to be pleasing to God.

The jackboots came down on women again with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 because they had forgotten in 1998 to tell us that we couldn't preach and that certain offices in the church were to be held by men only.

The jackboots came down again when Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary adopted The Danvers Statement of Biblical Manhood and Biblical Womanhood on October 21, 2009.

What has happened? They're afraid, that's what has happened. The Southern Baptist Convention is fully aware of the Equality for Women movement that is sweeping the country.

What do women want?

- Women want to be recognized as being created by God with the possibility of a full spiritual relationship with God, in all ways as men are.
- Women want to be recognized in the church as human beings capable of hearing the call of God in their lives, and responding according to that call.
- Women want to be recognized in the family as equal partners in the household.

Women need to be treated as adults with all the privileges and responsibilities of adulthood.

Read the full story at www.bwebaptist.com



**What
JACKBOOT
will they
use next?**

The radicalization of the SBC

We are in danger of losing the Southern Baptist Convention to radicalism. Fundamentalism taken to the extreme is radicalism. We see this danger in other religions and there are no boundaries when a religion becomes radical. They begin by demanding restricted roles for women in families, and their churches, and giving men the headship or lordship over the total of women's lives.

In the book Quiverfull, the author, Kathryn Joyce, indicts the SBC in their support of this dangerous lifestyle.

Read what others are saying. On his blog, Grace and Truth to You, Wade Burleson says, "For four years I have been writing that the Southern Baptist Convention is sliding into a brand of independent, Landmark, fundamentalist Baptist theology that will destroy the fabric of missions and evangelism cooperation."

A professor at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky told a congregation at a Biblical Manhood and Womanhood conference in North Texas that women were frequently abused because they rebelled against their husbands' authority and wanted to have their own way rather than submit. When I first read this in the Baptist Standard, I wrote this seminary professor and told him that every man in that congregation should have stood up and shouted "No man is free to abuse my daughter!" It was a congregation full of exalted male headship leaders and not a MAN among them.

On the website of the Southwestern Theological Seminary under Beliefs you will find where their hearts are. This is the order in which they list their beliefs:

- Baptist Faith and Message 2000
- The Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood
- Man's need for salvation.

**First, get the
women under
control, then
we can worry
about saving
Man**



Clear when they say so

The Danvers Statement of Biblical Manhood and Biblical Womanhood

Rationale: No. 9 "the consequent threat to Biblical authority as the clarity of Scripture is jeopardized and the accessibility of its meaning to ordinary people is withdrawn into the restricted realm of technical ingenuity; "

What mumbo-jumbo! All they are saying is that they want you 1) to read "husband of one wife" to mean only a man is qualified because a wife can't be a husband, even though Paul was talking about multiples wives at a time; 2) read "he" to disqualify women and to hide the fact that those scriptures set out a strict moral standard instead of gender; 3) see "authority" as having today's meaning 4) see "submit to their own husbands" to emphasize 'submit' instead of telling the men that their wives don't have to submit to another man.

**Close the Christian School of Theology at all the seminaries because by their terms,
there is no need to learn about culture and other meanings of words.**

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According to them, women need not apply

The Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Biblical Womanhood

Affirmations; No. 8 "In both men and women a heartfelt sense of call to ministry should never be used to set aside Biblical criteria for particular ministries (1 Tim 2:11-15, 3:1-13; Tit 1:5-9). Rather, Biblical teaching should remain the authority for testing our subjective discernment of God's will."

Paul is telling the early Christians that when they look for someone to appoint, they should choose someone who lives a life beyond reproach, someone whose household and family were obedient to God. Again, we find that the man must not have multiple wives as was the custom among many of that day, and of our day now.

The Danvers Statement tells women that even though she knows in her heart that God is calling her to ministry, she must read those scriptures and find in them that she cannot answer that call because she is a woman and women need not apply.

Willfully they ignore the real meaning of those scriptures,
and deny the clarity of those passages.

Oxymoron—feminist egalitarianism

The Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Biblical Womanhood

Rationale: 1,2,3,4

1. "The widespread uncertainty and confusion in our culture regarding the complementary differences between masculinity and femininity;
2. the tragic effects of this confusion in unraveling the fabric of marriage woven by God out of the beautiful and diverse strands of manhood and womanhood;
3. the increasing promotion given to feminist egalitarianism with accompanying distortions or neglect of the glad harmony portrayed in Scripture between the loving, humble leadership of redeemed husbands and the intelligent, willing support of that leadership by redeemed wives;
4. the widespread ambivalence regarding the values of motherhood, vocational homemaking, and the many ministries historically performed by women;"

There is no such thing as "feminist egalitarianism."

Equal is equal and is neither feminine nor masculine.



**These
Scriptures are
about morality,
not about
gender**

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Power play to show who is boss

An old man of 84 came into my office one day with a real problem. A younger man, 70 years old, kept teasing him and making demeaning remarks to him. It became clear in the course of the conversation that the younger man was trying to define his manhood and was doing this by making the older man less of a man. He was stepping upon the old man's back to make himself appear more manly.

Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth decided it was important to put women down yet again. For Male Headship to work, it is imperative that they have someone beneath them. Just as the younger man in the story above had to step on the old man's back to make himself taller, they step on women's backs to put themselves between a woman and God.

They do this even though Jesus never indicated that a man was closer to the Heavenly Father than women, and gave no indication that women could not preach or lead; some now choose to keep women in that role forever.

The Jackboots made their mark again on women's throats.

Some men will use this to further their god-like complex and mistreat women.

**Many men will
see this as a
power play by
the men in
power**

Resources for further reading

Woman Submit! Christians and Domestic Violence by Jocelyn Anderson
<http://www.jocelynanderson.blogspot.com/>

Quiverfull—Inside The Christian Patriarchy Movement by Kathryn Joyce (2009)

Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) Center for Effective Leadership/Women in Ministry.
<http://www.bgct.org/texasbaptists/page.aspx?pid=6064>

Christians for Biblical Equality www.cbeinternational.org

Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) www.bwim.info.org

"Your Sons and Daughters Will Prophecy: Discerning God's Desire for Our Church." This is a 4-week curriculum designed to help churches become more open to calling a woman as a senior pastor. The sessions assist congregations in dealing with the issues openly and honestly and drawing personal conclusions based on study, prayer and honest discussion. Available from Smith and Helwys Publishers.

"The Danvers Statement of Biblical Manhood and Biblical Womanhood of 1987" This document outlines 10 deep concerns for the church and family and gives only one solution to all 10 of them. Men lead your women, women submit joyfully. According to this statement, the curse will be removed, and all mankind will be restored. WOW!



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Which is the greatest commandment of them all depends upon who you ask

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:36-40)

"Southern Baptists, which is the greatest commandment of the law?" Southern Baptists Seminary Presidents reply: "'Women, submit to your husbands. They are the 'Lord' in your home.' And the second is like it: 'Do not preach, serve the Lord's Supper, or take on leadership roles.' All society hangs on your following these two commandments." (The Danvers Statement of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood—1987)

*Equality for women
is not theirs to give,
but ours to claim!*

What is so bad about The Danvers Statement?

At first reading it looks good. The redeemed husband provides godly leadership to his joyfully submitting redeemed wife. What can possibly be wrong with that?

The problem is that many men will begin to think they are redeemed, just because they are a man. Power does this to a person. This is what your daughters will be taught by these seminary-trained youth directors, and pastors. The authors forgot to take into consideration human nature. Even redeemed human nature.

Women suffer because this document takes away their personhood, their adulthood, and their specific relationship to God, by making their husbands their superior. Leaders are always superiors. Women do not need a leader.

The really bad thing about this statement is that it keeps the church from acknowledging full redemption to over one-half of its congregation. Read "Open Letter to Baptists—The Cold Heart of the Church" www.bwebaptist.com

No scripture reference in the entire Danvers Statement comes from Jesus' words.



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Open Letter to the SBC Seminary Presidents

The Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Biblical Womanhood frustrates me because I know that our Baptist leaders are more intelligent than that. I know they have more sense, but they insist on being stuck in this mindset. They are like the N.O.W. (National Organization for Women) which has abortion as its one subject and focus. The Baptist leaders' one focus is women's submission, giving male headship over all.

They are smarter than that. I am embarrassed for them and their narrow-mindedness.

So let's talk about Adam and Eve.

God created Adam with a full male body. Even a handsome full male body cannot reproduce by itself. So God created a woman. Together this man and woman could populate the earth. She was equal to Adam. In all ways. She had a soul, a mind, and physical attributes just like he had. By necessity, some of these physical attributes were different. It was not a case of a superior male human being and a lesser female human being making children – where the male child took after the male father and the female child took after the female mother.

In addition to the physical body, this woman had a spiritual self that was equal to the man. She made a decision, she acted upon that decision, and the man did also. The scripture says that “then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked.” (Gen. 3:7) This was a spiritual awakening in both Adam and Eve.

After the much-touted FALL, they were both sent from the garden. He to farm and she to give birth with pain. NOW – look at this! All you literalists need to hide your head in shame because you have overlooked the greatest thing of them all. Adam was to till the soil – but this country of ours would not have been settled unless the women worked in the fields and produced food for their family, right alongside the men. Eve was not given that job by God. But women have labored alongside men since time began in providing the food and shelter, as well as spiritual leadership for the family. Your greatest concern should be *where would families be today without the leadership provided by the women in their families.*

Are the seminary presidents farmers? Of course they aren't, because every word in Genesis is not meant to be taken literally, and for all time.

Go back and read “God created Adam with a full male body” and you will see why women have always been inferior to men. It is because from Adam until 1928, nobody had seen a human ovum. They could see what the man contributed, but if you had told them a woman produced an egg like a chicken from which we all come, it would have shocked them. So the woman was just the womb, and not the all important contributor to creating a child, and she has paid for this ever since.

We know better today, and so do all of you elevated seminary presidents.

Shirley Taylor
bWe Baptist Women for Equality
www.bwebaptist.com

You call it “feminization of the churches” and you believe it will cause the men to stop coming to church. That is just a phony excuse. Men are running the churches now, so if men have dropped out of the church, it is not because of the women.

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Shirley Taylor is a life-long Baptist. She was a ministry assistant in the Church Starting Center of Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) and worked in the Field Office in Conroe, Texas for over 14 years. Shirley and her husband Don have been married 48 years and have two sons. Since she experienced a change of heart regarding women in leadership roles in 2000, Shirley is committed to promoting women in leadership positions in the Southern Baptist churches. Shirley seeks to write to the Christians sitting in the pews and welcomes discussion from pastors, and other leaders. She believes that equality for women is vitally needed in our churches, and that the church body will be blessed when women are accepted equally.



Mission/Vision

We value women and their response to God's calling in their lives and will put up no barriers to women serving God in the same capacity as men.



There are many Christian men and women who truly believe that women are to remain silent in the church, and that she is not to have leadership roles. I don't agree with them but I accept their conviction.

Also, I want to commend the many wonderful men who would never allow their Male Headship conviction to go to their heads.

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How you can help

If you would like to be a part of **bWe Baptist Women for Equality**—advocating for **Women Deacons and Women Pastors**, an endeavor to bring Southern Baptists into the 21st Century, please contact me by email. **bWe Baptist Women for Equality** is not an organization. It is a concept. Only you can bring about the change in your church. It starts with the church By-laws where it is interpreted that women are scripturally unqualified to be deacons. Each Southern Baptist church writes its own By-laws and makes its own decisions. I ask you to join me in helping our sisters, and daughters, and granddaughters find the freedom Jesus has promised them and for them to be able to serve a cup of juice and piece of bread in their Baptist church. Change is never easy. But it will be right. Women, we must speak up!

**Please forward “Jackboot of the Southern Baptist Convention”
to all your Baptist friends and neighbors**



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Discussion and comments are welcome.

Shirley Taylor, editor and publisher
Don Taylor, assistant

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