
Question Time — What is the Plan for Priesthood?

--- By Elder Gerry Bird

Why does the Restoration movement reject the concept of women in the priesthood?

*I know of no reason why, by their nature, women should not be in the priesthood. I **do** believe the example of Jesus Christ is to be followed as precisely as possible. Despite ordaining at least twelve apostles and “other Seventy,” he did not ordain women. Out of 82 people, at least some would have been women if that were his intention.*

Some believe we think men have some superiority needed for priesthood. I have found no evidence that **any** Restorationists believe this.

Many believe that conditions were so sexist in Christ’s day that he couldn’t call women to the priesthood since they wouldn’t be accepted, and that since we have evolved as a society, the ordination of women should now be acceptable.

The lot of women in Christ’s day was much different, but to say that he chose to modify his message to fit the day shows a lack of understanding of his life and mission. For example, Jesus:

- preached forgiveness in a day of “an eye for an eye.”
- taught in the byways and homes in a day where it was only acceptable to express religious beliefs in the temple and synagogue.
- associated with women of low station, scandalizing the religious leaders.
- compared favorably the gift of the widow’s mite to the rich gifts of the wealthy, in contrast to the norms of the society.

- taught that he was the son of God --- blasphemy to the religious leaders of his time. The nature of his birth was a scandal if the whole story wasn’t known.

Although these are but a few of the ways he was in opposition to the religious leaders, it is enough to reject the argument that Jesus modified his message for the time and place.

The consideration of any *change* to the priesthood shows a lack of understanding of the *nature* of priesthood. At creation, the earth was perfect and man was without sin; he walked and talked with God as with another person. When sin came into the world, things changed. In the beginning, God established the plan of salvation, with the coming of Jesus Christ in the meridian of time to pay the infinite price for us. This included establishing the priesthood to provide a way for God’s power to be applied for the perfection of the saints.

With sin coming to the earth, God chose to give us a separation from him for our own protection. We know that no imperfect person or thing can come into God’s presence without being consumed.

Priesthood authority was established to allow for ministry from the throne of God, as directly as possible, when people are prepared. It is no coincidence that when Jesus began his ministry here on the Earth he immediately began ordaining priesthood.



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Question Time (cont.)

Administration for the sick is a prime example of the many benefits available through priesthood authority on Earth. The miraculous healing power of Jesus Christ is made accessible to those who need it.

The opportunity to sit under preaching and teaching ministry is another example. The scriptures indicate that the priesthood is here to help lead us to Jesus Christ and on to perfection.

We have the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Without priesthood authority we partake of grape juice and bread; with priesthood authority, we receive forgiveness and renewal of our covenant of baptism.

The priesthood offices have specific parts in the home lives of the saints. The Priests should be in the homes teaching worship, encouraging prayer, teaching the children about God's love for them and encouraging all to pray and study the scriptures. The Deacons should be teaching the financial law, encouraging the children to understand it and helping with any questions. The Teachers need to always be looking for opportunities to bring further unity within the

church and between the saints and their neighbors.

In closing, please consider a calling that is only for women. In my opinion it is the most important single calling any person could ever receive. The importance of the **mother** is of infinite value to the church, to society and to the well being of the next generation. Any priesthood call, even in its greatest expression, pales in comparison. The good mother shapes the lives of each child in profound ways, and can bring all of her children up so that they readily respond to ministry and take their place as part of the kingdom. A bad mother can so taint her children that all the ministry and good teaching of the church cannot reach them.

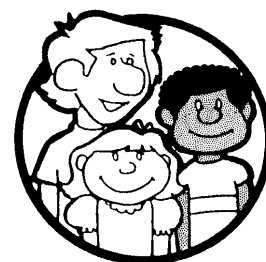
It is said that we are always within one generation of total societal breakdown, and that the greatest influence for keeping society intact and the church vibrant are the mothers. This calling can never be fulfilled as well by any man.

Sunday School News

--- by Synthia DeBarthe, Church School Director

The Sunday School Department is now completely staffed! Each classroom is set up with teaching materials, furniture and bulletin boards appropriate for each age group. EVERYONE is invited to please take the time to come downstairs and visit the classrooms...have a look at the wonderful learning environment provided each Sunday. We are excited and know you will be, too!

2-3 years old	Debbie Norman	God's Love for Us
4-5 years old	Melissa & Emily Scott	Old Testament
1-3 grade	Vi Hallier	New Testament
4-6 grade	Gerry & Stephanie Bird	Book of Mormon
7-9 grade	Joseph & Lori Smith	Principals of the Gospel
10-12 grade	Mel Doubledee	Studies for Today's Living



All classrooms are ready for the children each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. Being on time to class will help give each child a full opportunity to learn about and grow in the gospel.