

PARABLES

Bringing Hidden Things to Light



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 1.19.2

This edition of the Parables Bookshelf Newsletter continues the book *No Apologies—A Biblical Teaching on Godly Womanhood*.

The Bible reveals that the Jezebel spirit is always contrary to godly manhood. The Jezebel spirit would cause men to focus on fleshly things, rather than the spiritual. The Jezebel spirit would also rob men of their manhood, making them subservient to women.

The Jezebel spirit is very active in the world today. Consequently, there are very few men who walk in righteousness and with godly authority as Yahweh intended them to.

NO APOLOGIES

A Biblical Teaching
on Godly Womanhood



Joseph Herrin

Food for Thought

To submit to anyone less than Christ is difficult in a marriage. Yet it is Christ who commands women to be submissive to their sinful, fallible husbands. In this sense Christ is the silent partner of the marriage. It is hard for a wife to submit when she disagrees with her husband. But when she knows her submission is an act of obedience to Christ and honors Christ, it is much less difficult.

R. C. Sproul

Scripture Memory

I Corinthians 11:3

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

Parables Newsletter

- Series 1.19.2
- *No Apologies*
- Chapters 3-4

No Apologies

Jezebel and Sensuality

It is fitting that a teaching on godly womanhood provide some instruction on the topic of a woman's dress and external appearance. The Bible has a significant amount to say on the subject. Some years ago I was led to meditate upon the following questions:

Seeing that Christ's disciples are described as "aliens and strangers" in this world, should not their outward appearance provide testimony that they are part of the Kingdom of God, and have been translated out of the kingdom of this world

It is not the will of Yahweh that men make themselves appear effeminate...

which lies in the power of the evil one? Knowing that Christ testified repeatedly that He never did anything

of His own initiative, but that He always did the will of the Father, I wanted to know whether Yahweh has a specific desire for the appearance of His children.

Would walking by the Spirit lead a man, or woman, to dress differently, and to appear differently than those in the world around them? The world does not seek the mind of Christ in matters of dress and appearance, but the saints of God ought to do so. Is it not likely that those led by the Spirit of Christ, and those led by their souls under the influence of this fallen world system, would arrive at very recognizable differences?

At the time, I was primarily consider-

ing these things as they related to the man. Christians are not encouraged to ponder such things today. Most make their daily life decisions independently of the Holy Spirit. They dress as their parents taught them to do, or as their peers have influenced them to do. They are influenced by current fashion, advertising, and the media, but rarely consider whether God has an opinion in the matter. As I contemplated these things I became convinced that God did have a specific will regarding my outward dress and appearance.

In the Old Testament we find the following instructions in the Law.

Deuteronomy 22:5

A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to Yahweh your God.

The spirit behind this command seems to be that it is God's will that gender distinctions should be maintained between the dress of men and women. It is not the will of Yahweh that men make themselves appear effeminate, nor that women make themselves appear masculine. I considered my clothing, and felt confident that I was conforming to the spirit of God's commandment. No one had ever accused me of dressing like a woman, but what about other aspects of my appearance?

The Bible also has somewhat to say about a man's hair.

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I Corinthians 11:14-15

Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her?

Oftentimes today one sees depictions of Christ that portray him as having long hair and a short beard. This is actually a reversal from the truth. Paul was speaking just a short time after Yahshua's earthly ministry. Writing by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Paul declares that it is a dishonorable thing for a man to have long hair. The Scriptures also reveal that Christ had a substantial beard, for at His arrest the Roman soldiers were pulling it out by the handfuls.

Isaiah 50:6

I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard...

One cannot easily pluck out a man's beard unless it has some length to it. The trendy five o'clock shadow beards of today are not typical of those worn by the Jews in the time of Christ. I gave considerable thought to this matter, and eventually wrote an article titled *The Significance of the Beard*. Following is an excerpt:

The Hebrew word for beard is zaqan (zaw-kawn'). We are told in *Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* that zaqan comes from the related word zaqen (zaw-kane'), which is a primitive root

meaning *to be old*. The correlation to this second word for age is so clear that *Strong's Dictionary* defines the Hebrew word zaqan as "the beard (as indicating age)."

To the Hebrew mind the beard was a symbol of maturity. This was not a cultural viewpoint, rather it was an understanding of God's design in placing a beard on mature males. A boy cannot grow a beard. A boy is one who is not mature. When a young male passes through the time in his life defined as puberty some distinct outward signs accompany this advancement to maturity. The voice takes on a deeper timber, it becomes more commanding. Another obvious sign is the growth of body hair and, for a male who is modestly arrayed, the only part of this growth that is seen is that which is on the face.

To the Hebrew mind the beard was a symbol of maturity.

Webster's 1933 Dictionary defines puberty in this way: "the age of maturity; manhood, adult; the time a plant comes into flower." Is not the beard of a man a sign of the flowering of his manhood? Even as the flower is the beauty and adornment of many plants, so is the beard the beauty and adornment of a man as he crosses the line of puberty and comes into the age of maturity.

God gave the beard to man for beauty and glory. Older men whose beards had turned grey were to be accorded special honor because the grey beard was a sign of advanced maturity. We find this understanding in the following verse.

No Apologies

Leviticus 19:32

Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.

(KJV)

The phrases “Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head” and “and honour the face of the old man” are parallel expressions denoting the same truth. The hoary, or grey head, directly corresponds to the phrase “the face of the old man.” The hoary head certainly could include the grey hair found on top of the head, but it most specifically refers to the grey hair of the face which is the beard...

To those who would say that the beard is just an external matter and it holds no real value, I would ask “Why do you want to throw away that which God has ordained to cover the face of man?” Yahshua had a beard and we know that He only did what

Christ did not wear a beard because it was a social standard of the time.

He saw the Father doing. Christ did not wear a beard because it was a social standard of the time. The only standard

Yahshua conformed to was the standard of His Father. He did not see the Father cutting off the beard, so he did not cut off the beard... Furthermore, Yahshua said that He came to fulfill the Law and the Law has these commands concerning the beard:

Leviticus 19:27

“You shall not shave around the

sides of your head, nor shall you disfigure the edges of your beard.”

Leviticus 21:1, 5

Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them... ‘They shall not make any baldness on their heads, nor shave off the sides of their beards.’”

What is referred to in the preceding verses is the practice of Egypt where men wore a long goatee from the chin, but they shaved off the beard from the sides of the face. I concluded, that it was not Yahweh’s will that I wear a goatee. (I am a sheep, not a goatee.)

Nelson’s Bible Dictionary has this to say about the beard.

In biblical times most adult males of Israel wore full beards... The Law of Moses required Israelite men not to “disfigure the edges” of their beards (Lev. 19:27), a common practice of Israel’s pagan neighbors.

To shave or pull out part of the beard was a sign of grief (Jer. 48:37-38), and to cut off someone’s beard was to insult him (2 Sam. 10:4-5). Isaiah 7:20 pictures God’s judgment on Israel as a shaving of the nation’s beard, an intentional disgrace.

(from Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

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In Isaiah God symbolically spoke of shaving off Israel's beard as a sign of their disgrace.

Isaiah 7:20

In that day Yahweh will use a razor hired from beyond the River - the king of Assyria - to shave your head and the hair of your legs, and to take off your beards also.

To have the beard shaved off was a sign of great disgrace. This is shown in the story of King David's ambassadors who were disgraced by the Ammonites by having their robes cut in two at the waist and having half of their beards cut off. David was so enraged that he declared war on the Ammonites and destroyed them. So deep was the shame of David's ambassadors that David told them to not return to Jerusalem until their beards were grown back, but to stay in Jericho.

II Samuel 10:5

When they told it to David, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly humiliated. And the king said, "Stay at Jericho until your beards grow, and then return."

Is it not a great delusion that has led men today to so carelessly cast off that which God designed to... distinguish men from boys and from women?

[End Excerpt]

As I thought on these things, I considered that the man who cuts off the beard is altering his appearance to be like the woman. God created the adult woman to have a smooth, hairless face, while He caused hair to grow on the face of the adult male. I wanted to be a thoughtful Christian, giving heed to all of my ways. The decision to wear a beard, or to shave it off, should not be made according to the counsel of the world, a world which lies in the power of the evil one. I wanted my decision to be based upon the Spirit and the word.

My point is this, if we are being led of the Spirit, rather than being led by our souls and the counsel and patterns of a fallen world, we will think, act, and LOOK differently than many in the world. It has been nearly thirty years since I last did not wear a beard. Does it not reveal a blind spot in man's thoughts that many would not think of wearing women's clothing, but they shave the beard off without any consideration at all? Whether consciously, or not, they are altering their appearance to be like that of the woman. Where does the motive, or inspiration, come from that leads men to do this? I have talked to many men and none have told me that God directed them to cut off the beard, or that they read in the Scriptures that removing the beard is the will of God.

*we will think, act, and
LOOK differently than
many in the world.*

Is it not possible, that the same Jezebel spirit that seeks to elevate women, and to emasculate men, is the driving force behind this trend? Consider how much more distinct men and women would be in ap-

No Apologies

pearance today if men did not daily remove the beards God causes to grow on their faces. Is not something altered in the psyche of men and women when men go about smooth faced, and they do so deliberately by daily removing the beard by shaving? Many hidden spiritual truths are revealed through outward testimonies in this world.

Over the years, the most common reason I have heard men give for not wearing a beard is that their wife does not like them

There is a spirit in this world that ever seeks to confuse the genders...

to have a beard. Sisters in Christ, if this is your influence toward your husband, let me suggest to you that there is a lot more behind your attitude

than the fact that you find beards to be scratchy, or think your husband to be unattractive in one. There is a spirit in this world that ever seeks to confuse the genders, and to diminish the authority of the man. There is a spirit that pressures men and women to conform to the ways of Satan's kingdom, rather than the kingdom of God.

As a son of God, I want to conform to that image He has chosen for me. If all the world is doing one thing, but God is directing me to do something different, then I will appear like the alien and stranger that I truly am. I encourage my sisters in the Lord to seek out the mind of Christ to know what His will is for them regarding their dress and appearance. Is it not reasonable to conclude that the woman who is led by the Spirit of God will in many ways think, act, and LOOK differently from the women of this world? It is a privilege given to the body of Christ to be able to model before

the world that which is pleasing to God.

Following are two passages from the New Testament in which Christ makes known His will regarding the dress and appearance of women in the church.

I Peter 3:3-5

Your adornment must not be external - braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands...

I Timothy 2:9-10

Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

As I observe girls and women, young and old, in the church today, I see that the majority are giving much attention to external beauty and appearance, and very little thought to that beauty that God commends. The apostles are expressing the mind of Christ. In the eyes of Christ a woman's beauty arises from within, from "the hidden person of the heart." The woman who aspires to godliness will be

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beautifully arrayed as she clothes herself with a gentle and quiet spirit, with reverence and honor toward her husband, and with good works.

Many girls and women today are like the Pharisees whom Christ condemned. They are giving great attention to external appearances, but inwardly they are full of sin and corruption.

Matthew 23:27-28

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like white-washed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

Luke 11:39-41

“Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also?”

Yahweh searches the inner parts. He knows the thoughts of men and women. He judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). What are the thoughts and intentions that drive Christian women's fashion and appearance choices today? Are they not the same thoughts and intentions that motivate women in the world?

Let me phrase this question another way. What spirit is “inspiring” women in their decisions relating to dress and ap-

pearance? The word “inspire” literally means “to put spirit into.” In the world, the spirit driving the women's fashion and beauty industries is the same spirit observed in Jezebel thousands of years ago.

II Kings 9:30

Then Jehu went to Jezreel. When Jezebel heard about it, she painted her eyes, arranged her hair and looked out of a window.

Jezebel was not a godly woman. Inwardly, her life had no beauty. The beauty of Jezebel was strictly external. She adorned her flesh, coiffed her hair, and painted her eyes. She put on expensive clothing, gold and jewels. Jezebel knew only one kind of adornment, that of the outward, physical body. Tragically, many women in the church find inspiration in the same spirit that inspired Jezebel. This was true in the days of Peter and Paul. If it were not, they would have had no need to give the instructions they gave. In essence, they said, “Don't let your adornment be like Jezebel's. Let your beauty be that of your spiritual life.”

The beauty of Jezebel was strictly external.

In the previous chapter we noted how rampant the spirit of Jezebel is by observing its relationship to Christmas and Easter, the worship rites of Baal and Asherah. Consider now how rampant this spirit is as its influence is seen in the attire and appearance of women in society and in

No Apologies

the church.

Fashion magazines are among the most popular genre of periodicals sold today. Millions of women scour the pages of fashion magazines to get “inspired.” They want to find some new way to make themselves appear attractive, seductive, successful, or powerful. In America entire industries have arisen that

What motivates you in your choice of dress and appearance?

are devoted to beauty care products, clothing fashions and accessories, hair care, jewelry, fingernail

and toenail painting, achieving the perfect tan, body fragrances, etc.. In the present generation there has also arisen a tremendous commerce in body piercing, tattoos, and cosmetic surgical procedures such as breast augmentation, liposuction, Botox injections, face lifts, tummy tucks, and the list goes on and on. Every year in America, tens of billions of dollars are spent as women seek to make themselves outwardly beautiful, desirable, or impressive.

What spirit is behind this massive societal tsunami? It is not the Holy Spirit. Stand outside most churches on a Sunday as the congregation leaves the building and observe the sensual dress of the young girls and the adult women. Their plunging necklines, short dresses, tight pants, high heels, hosiery, hairdos, cosmetics, painted fingernails and toenails, perfume, ankle bracelets, earrings and other jewelry are all on display. Yet no one notices Jezebel’s presence. No one protests the emphasis placed upon that which is physical, sensual, and provocative.

A discerning appraisal of the practice of the majority of Christian women reveals

that the beauty they seek to project is external, rather than internal. Purity, innocence, gentleness, humility, honor, and holiness are not the image most girls and women are seeking to convey. They want to appear desirable, or powerful, or sophisticated. Their dress, bodily array, and conduct are designed to elicit a response of admiration; to stir up sexual desire in others; to promote an air of worldly success and glamour.

Sisters in Christ, I ask you to consider what motivates you in your choice of dress and appearance? Have you searched the Scriptures, and prayed to the Father, to understand what His will is for you? Or did you make your choices independently of God? Is your appearance in conformity with this world, or do you walk as an alien and stranger in this land?

I have a lovely daughter who recently celebrated her 24th birthday. When Kristin was fourteen she experienced a spiritual awakening in this area of her life. She began to consider what Yahweh’s will was for her in the realm of dress and appearance. Formerly, Kristin had always been what some would describe as a tomboy. Her favorite fashions were camouflage shirts and pants, cowboy boots, and other fashions that are associated with masculinity.

When Kristin was fourteen, she became convicted as she studied the Scriptures that she needed to begin wearing a covering over her long blonde hair. Soon after this she also began wearing long skirts and dresses. Kristin has continued this practice to this day. She is very modest in her appearance, and she is careful not to provoke lustful thoughts in men by dressing sensually.

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Kristin has on occasions asked me for counsel concerning clothing. One thing that is popular among young women today are t-shirts that have some image or message written right across the breast area. I have advised my daughter to be aware of the subtlety of Satan in such fashions. Even if the message or image is innocent, it draws the eyes to the breasts of a woman. Men don't need much encouragement in this area. A young girl, or woman is doing her brothers in Christ a disservice if she is by her dress and appearance causing them to have thoughts of a sexual nature stirred up inside them.

Kristin has many Mennonite friends, and they too dress modestly, and eschew jewelry, and elaborate hairdos. I cannot remember seeing any of them with their nails polished, or cosmetics on their faces, yet they glow with a different type of beauty. They have the beauty of purity and innocence.

There are a few denominations and groups like the Mennonites and Charity Churches that have chosen to array themselves in a manner that is altogether distinct from the sensual fashions of this world. Some refer to themselves as "plain people." Such a description is offensive to the woman who wants to appear worldly in order to have the admiration and respect of the world. To be "plain" is to be humble. Jezebel is not humble, but the woman whom God favors is.

I have had a fair amount of interaction with some of the women and young girls in these churches. One thing that has impressed me is that the beauty of the inner life is much more readily evident in these ones than in women from churches that

dress according to the fashions of the world. I see a greater honor in the homes. The children are respectful and courteous. The women submit themselves to their husbands, and they are renowned for their good works.

Although there are exceptions, I have noted a contrast among those Christian women who dress in worldly fashions. The women are much more likely to be outspoken, to seek equality with their husbands. Rather than being keepers at home, they are often career women, and many are addicted to shopping and entertainment instead of being devoted to good works.

In effect, the women who focus on adorning the outside of the cup are more selfishly minded. Those women who have adopted plain attire while pursuing an inner beauty are more likely to exhibit a selfless attitude, focused on serving others.

The apostle Peter, while contrasting the carnal and the spiritual woman, declared that the beauty of the spiritual woman is "imperishable." No matter how

They have the beauty of purity and innocence.

much success a woman has in making herself outwardly attractive and desirable, she will soon find her beauty fading. The glow and vitality of a youthful body soon loses its luster. In contrast, the woman who has beauty of spirit finds that her attractiveness never grows old.

Surely my words and counsel on these things will strike many as alien. If so, then perhaps I have conveyed some of the difference between the kingdom of God and the

No Apologies

kingdom of this world. Few ministers will speak forth these things today. Jezebel is renowned for slaying prophets and righteous men. Those she cannot destroy, she will drive into hiding.

I Kings 18:13

“Has it not been told to my master what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of Yahweh, that I hid a hundred prophets of Yahweh by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water?”

This brazen spirit cows the most courageous spiritual men, leaving them no spirit to fight.

I Kings 19:2-4

Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O Yahweh, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."

As many pastors and teachers today are cowed into fearful submission to this

unclean spirit, the effect is observed throughout the church. The purity and innocence of the virgin bride of Christ has been lost. Christ is soon to return. It is time for His bride to make herself ready.



Jezebel and Masculinity

The most commonly recognized attribute of Jezebel today is her spirit of usurpation. To usurp means “to take a position of power or authority illegally or by force.” In the Old Testament we read of Jezebel taking the authority of her husband, the king of Israel, to herself, and ruling in his place. In one of many sordid events recorded about the reign of Ahab and Jezebel, we find Jezebel engaging in lies, deception, perversion of justice, and murder, to wrest a vineyard from the hands of an Israelite that her husband might have it.

In the Biblical account, we find Jezebel chiding Ahab for not using his authority to gain what he desires. She then tells Ahab that she will deliver to him what he wants. She proceeds to do so by acting in his stead. Jezebel takes upon herself the authority of her husband, stepping into the role of ruler of her household, and sovereign of Israel.

I Kings 21:7-8

Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you now reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I

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will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent letters to the elders and to the nobles who were living with Naboth in his city.

Thinking her husband was a bit of a Milquetoast, having no spine, Jezebel stepped in to do that which he would not. Such actions never strengthen a man. They have quite the opposite effect. A man learns to be compliant, while allowing his wife to manifest strength and project authority in his place. The Jezebel spirit unmans men, while taking to itself those masculine characteristics and roles that Yahweh gave to the male.

A revelatory detail emerges from an account at the end of Jezebel's life. I have quoted this passage previously, but I want to draw your attention to the highlighted words at the end of this section of Scripture.

II Kings 9:30-32

And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and adorned her head, and looked out at a window. And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? Who? ***And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs.***

Jezebel was surrounded by ***eunuchs***, men who had been sexually emasculated.

These were men who could no longer function as men. A eunuch is a castrated male. One of the visible signs that a man has been physically emasculated relates back to the previous chapter. Due to an absence of the male hormone testosterone, the eunuch is unable to grow facial hair. Eunuchs were often recognized by their smooth faces. In a society where men wore full beards, the eunuch was easily recognized by the absence of a beard.

Consider the passage above. When Jehu called up to the tower where Jezebel was, we are told "there looked out to him two or three eunuchs." How was it known these were eunuchs, since only their faces would have been seen from the window? It was evident that the men did not have beards, therefore they were identified readily as emasculated males, or eunuchs.

Woman was created to be man's helper, to be subordinate to the man. In the third chapter of Genesis God declares to the woman, "Your desire shall be toward your husband, and he shall rule over you." This is a declaration of Yahweh's governmental order. Paul states in I Corinthians chapter eleven, "Christ is the head of man, and man is the head of woman." Jezebel is in rebellion against this order. She does not want man to rule over her. She wants to rule over men. This is what Jezebel did. By acting in her husband's stead, writing letters in his name, and using his seal (the symbol of authority), commanding his elders and nobles, and by surrounding herself with emasculated males, she turned men

Jezebel was surrounded by eunuchs...

No Apologies

into effeminate drones, compliant to her wishes, willing to serve her.

The woman who acts in this manner, seeking to command men, desiring them to fulfill her will and desires, will find that her actions bear many grievous results. Although Jezebel was successful in turning emasculated men into compliant servants, these men held no love in their hearts for her. When Jehu asked who was on his side, it was these emasculated men who showed their faces. They required no persuading to cast Jezebel down to her death. A deep resentment of what she had done to them made them eager to see her fall. It took a

His mother's domineering actions opened him up to a spirit of homosexuality.

man who was not cowed by Jezebel, to embolden them to act, but act they did. They cast Jezebel down from the exalted position she had taken unto her-

self. Her body was dashed on the ground and trampled by horses.

A very revelatory experience was shared with me recently, and I believe God made it known to me at this time to give me insight into this subject that I have been led of the Spirit to write about. Many years ago, a sister in Christ married a man whom she had been dating for a couple of years. After they were wed, this man manifested no desire to be sexually intimate with her, though he did father one child with her. This man was ruled by his mother, and his mother hated the young woman he was married to. The mother sought to control everything he did, and told her son how to run his marriage.

This man was very compliant to his

mother. He always did what she said, even to leaving his wife for periods of time, and taking their child with them, when his mother told him to do so. This man had no enmity toward his wife. He never acted as if he were personally angry with her. He was simply fulfilling the demands of his controlling mother.

One day, the young woman was told by a spiritual mentor about spirits that influence others to act certain ways. The mentor suggested that perhaps her husband's lack of desire toward her was due to the influence of an unclean spirit. Afterwards, this young woman began to pray for her husband. By the leading of the Holy Spirit she prayed "I rebuke you, you spirit of homosexuality." This woman's husband was in another room, and she was praying quietly so that her husband would not hear her. As she spoke these words, her husband burst through the door, picked her up, slammed her against the wall and said, "Why are you rebuking me? Why are you rebuking me?"

This man was cowed into letting his mother rule his life, and one unanticipated result was a lack of desire in this man's heart to be intimate with women. The offense caused by his mother's domineering actions opened him up to a spirit of homosexuality. Many women today who act to coerce, or control their husbands, find that their husbands have little desire to be sexually intimate with them. This result is unexpected for many women. They do not realize that in failing to show honor and respect to their husband, refusing to submit to their husband's headship, they are quenching the man's desire to be intimate with them.

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Many men begin to look elsewhere for the honor and respect that their wives do not provide. One of the reasons so many male bosses have affairs with their secretaries and the female employees under their authority, is that these employees are in the habit of showing deference and honor to them. They submit where the man's wife does not. The submissive woman appears very attractive to the man. A deep longing in the man's heart is fulfilled as her receives honor from a woman. A desire for further intimacy with the submissive woman at work, coupled with an absence of desire to be intimate with his wife, often leads to marital unfaithfulness.

When these things occur, most men and women fail to identify the forces that set things in motion. Wives do not realize they are quenching their husband's desire to be intimate with them when they are resisting his leadership. Consider, for a moment, the spiritual parable in these things. The Jezebel spirit which seeks to rule over men, emasculates them. A physical eunuch loses desire for sexual intimacy with a woman. So too does the male whose wife manifests the spirit of Jezebel lose desire to be intimate with her, both physically and at deeper levels of the soul and spirit. The woman might be successful in getting her husband to bend to her will, but he will not love her for having done so.

Women, if you want your husbands to desire intimacy with you, then don't emasculate them by resisting their headship and authority. A man need not consciously reason, "My wife does not honor me as a man and the leader of my home, so I am going to hold myself aloof from her." Without giving it any conscious thought, or realizing

why it is occurring, the man will find his desire to be intimate with a shrewish wife to have diminished, or to have fled altogether.

In many marriages, the woman sensing that her husband's desire is waning will seek to stimulate his desire through sexual enticement. The wife may begin wearing sexually alluring clothes, things purchased from Victoria's Secret, or some other venue that encourages women to dress themselves as sexual temptresses. Women are often successful in stirring up sexual desire in their husbands through such means, but this should not be misconstrued as the man desiring to be intimate with his wife. Many men will have sexual relations with their wives even as they are envisioning in their minds some other woman whom they imagine to be submissive and manifesting honor to them.

Women, if you want your husbands to desire intimacy with you, then don't emasculate them ...

The Scriptures reveal that the needs of a man differ from those of a woman. Women need men to love them, but men need women to honor them.

Ephesians 5:33

Each individual among you is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she honors her husband.

There is an observable relationship between a woman who seeks to usurp authority over men, and the woman dressing

No Apologies

provocatively. Jezebel exhibited both of these traits. They go hand in glove. Man has an inner need to be honored by the woman. He will find a natural repulsion in his soul to the woman who seeks to rule him. The soul of man interprets the resistance of the woman to his leadership as dishonor. Consequently, the woman has to overcome this resistance by enticing the man to desire her through an even stronger sexual desire. The woman begins to dress, speak, and act in a manner that incites the man to lust after her. The woman may succeed in stirring up sexual desire in the man, but she has not caused him to love her. The attraction is shallow, and superficial.

Man will find a natural repulsion in his soul to the woman who seeks to rule him.

The man is not attracted to the beauty of the woman's inner life. She has become a physical body to fulfill his sexual desire.

She has not become his soul-mate.

As one looks at society today, it is evident that this is the pattern being played out almost universally. Women have become adept at enticing men through external dress and adornment. Adultery and fornication is rampant. Yet there is a corresponding decrease of true intimacy and commitment among sexual partners. Many are falling into a pattern of sexual engagement that is devoid of any spiritual intimacy, or commitment to one another. The person may not know, or even like the person with whom they are being sexually active. It seems a small thing to leave one partner behind, and go find another. This is the fruit of the Jezebel spirit.

I would mention another realm in

which this emasculating Jezebel spirit displays herself. This spirit is observed in false religious practices. In the Roman Catholic Church we see the elevation of the woman over the man. Catholics are taught to pray to Mary. Mary is depicted as the queen of heaven. Images of the Madonna with the infant Jesus in her arms reveal the hierarchy of the woman holding a higher office than the man.

Roman Catholic dogma leads those under its influence to view Christ as distant, or angry with mankind. The saints are exhorted to pray to Mary, hoping that she will persuade her Son to answer their prayers. The mother becomes the channel through which the male figure of Christ can be manipulated, controlled, or influenced. Prayers to God the Father are absent among the Catholic Church, yet it is the Father to whom the Scriptures instruct the body of Christ to pray. When Christ's disciples asked Him to teach them to pray, He gave them the following pattern.

Matthew 6:9-13

“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’”

Yahshua told His disciples that after He ascended they would ask Him nothing.

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They would pray directly to the Father. They would not even ask the Son of God to petition the Father for them. It is the Father who is the ruler of heaven and earth. It is He to whom Christians are to pray.

John 16:23-27

"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, **whatever you ask the Father** in My name **He will give you**. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full... In that day you will ask in My name, and **I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you**, because you have loved Me...

This is the teaching of Christ. The church is to pray directly to the Father. Mankind, coming in the name of the Son, will be received by the Father. The Father will give the body of Christ that which they request. There is no need to pray to the Son as an intermediary who will relay requests to the Father. Yahshua said "I do not say to you that I shall pray to the Father for you, for the Father Himself loves you." Those who are in Christ have been given direct access to the throne of God.

Matthew 7:11

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father** who is in heaven give what is good to those who **ask Him!**"

There is no admonition, or pattern anywhere in the Scriptures, where the saints are instructed to pray to Mary. In the Roman Catholic Church we find a religion where the Jezebel spirit reigns even in the heavens. Mary is elevated to the role of God the Father. She becomes the one to whom all men and women make supplication. Prayers to God the Father are replaced with prayers to Mary, which is an act of usurpation.

It should be no surprise that the emasculating effects the Jezebel spirit has upon men are on prominent display in the Roman Catholic Church. This false religion insists that her priests remain celibate. They are forbidden to marry, or procreate. Without physically castrating the men, the Roman Catholic Church has forced them to live as eunuchs. Thus we see that a religion that elevates the woman to a position Yahweh did not assign to her will unman men. The repression these men experience in turn leads many to open themselves up to homosexual spirits. In the recent spate of scandals that have been exposed among the Roman Catholic Church, the prevailing transgression (which was very widespread) was male priests having sexual relations with boys. The Spirit of Jezebel drives men away from the natural desire to be intimate with the woman.

The Spirit of Jezebel drives men away from the natural desire to be intimate with the

The depiction of Mystery Babylon, the Great Harlot of the book of Revelation, provides an apt description of the Roman

No Apologies

Catholic Church. She is pictured as a woman who rules, and who slays the people of Yahweh. This is what Jezebel did.

Revelation 17:3-6

So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Yahshua.

The Roman Catholic Church is all about appearances. Observe the glorious manner in which the Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, and other church functionaries adorn themselves. They are clothed in purple and scarlet, and many precious things. Yet inwardly, they are full of uncleanness. The abominations and the filthiness of her fornication cannot remain hidden. The transgressions of the Roman Catholic Church continue to be exposed in these days as scandal after scandal comes to light revealing a historical pattern of cruel, vile, and immoral behavior. This is what follows when the Jezebel spirit rules over men.

Sisters in Christ, please meditate on

these things. It is very important that you understand the consequences of taking to yourself the leadership role God has given to man. Do not let the spirit of Jezebel inspire and direct your actions. Humble yourself. Accept that position of service Yahweh has appointed to you. Yahweh gives grace to the humble, but He resists the proud. The judgment of the Great Harlot is as severe as the judgment of Jezebel millennia ago. The Harlot is described as sitting on a scarlet beast. Yet, it will be this beast that is the instrument of her judgment.

Revelation 17:16-17

And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

What kind of beast do people ride upon? The most common animal used for transportation is the horse. Does not the life of Jezebel provide a great parallel to the harlot of Revelation in that Jezebel was trampled by horses?

II Kings 9:33

So they threw her down, and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her under foot.

Yet, there is a connection to another type of beast in the deaths of Jezebel and the Great Harlot. These beasts are dogs. John writes that the beast will make the harlot “desolate and naked, and eat her

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flesh.” After Jezebel was cast down and trampled by horses, the dogs came and consumed her flesh. Certainly Yahweh seeks to convey something through these details. Both dogs and horses are considered unclean animals by God for they do not meet the dual criteria of chewing the cud and having a split hoof. Yet man has trained both of these unclean animals and made them his servants.

So too has the Jezebel spirit sought to take that which is unclean and cause it to submit to her service. The Jezebel spirit seeks to make the flesh the instrument for fulfilling all desires. The flesh, however, is not to be trusted. It can be wielded to some effect, but never truly tamed. It is inherently unclean. It will rise up at the end and destroy the one who looks to the flesh to accomplish their purposes.

This is a note of caution for all women who seek to use the flesh to get what they desire. Sisters in Christ, do not resort to fleshly methods to get your way in your marriage, or any other realm of life. Though you may have success for a season, in the end the beast nature will bite you. Do not usurp authority that belongs to another. Humble yourself that God might exalt you in due time. Those who exalt themselves will be cast down by the power of God.

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PARABLES PRECEPT— Famous Hymns: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,

Or thorns compose so rich a
crown?

Were the whole realm of nature
mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Written by Isaac Watts, 1707