

Bible Questions and Answers

(By Robert C. Veil, Jr.)

Question: What has the Bible and Christianity done for women?

Answer: Christianity has elevated and benefitted women wherever it has gone. Women fare much better, are more honored and respected, in lands where the principles of Christianity and the Bible have been freely taught and practiced. In fact, one of the ominous signs of a nation turning away from belief in the Bible as God's word is oppression and cruelty toward its people, including women.

Unlike the religious creeds of man-made religions, the Bible portrays women in a noble, admirable light. The Bible is filled with examples of noble womanhood. Some of these include Eve, the mother of all living; Abigail, the beautiful, intelligent & wise wife; Esther, the queen who saved her people; Ruth, the loyal friend; Lydia, an example of hospitality, and the first Christian of Europe; The widow, whose lowly mite was the greatest contribution of them all; and Mary Magdalene, who was loyal to our Savior to the end. These and many more are the pictures of women painted on the pages of the Bible.

These beautiful stories of women have inspired and motivated women through the centuries. They have held women up as worthy and imitable. They have encouraged them, and lifted them up to greater heights of love and service. They have also stirred within honest and thoughtful men a deep respect and appreciation for women of all ages.

The Bible portrays women not as slaves, or objects of lust, or inferior beings, but as a helper and companion to man, appropriate by his side throughout life. She was created as a "helpmate" (suitable helper), not from man's head or foot, but from his side. She was created to complete and fulfill man, because it was "not good" that man should be alone, (Gen. 2:18-25).

God gives his views on women in Prov. 31:10-31, where Solomon, by inspiration of God, describes the "worthy woman" in God's sight. The next time you hear that the Bible devalues women, read those verses carefully! The Bible says that a worthy woman is: rare, valuable, trustworthy, profitable, beneficial, vigilant, efficient, hard-working, well-organized, supervisory, wise, strong, perceptive, capable, compassionate, brave, well-endowed, supportive, optimistic, kind, hard-working, revered and praiseworthy!

These descriptions of womanhood are carried through into the New Testament as well. In a beautiful passage, Paul commands, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself a glorious *church*, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish," (Eph. 5:25-27).

If you are a woman, the gospel calls you to a life of dignity, value and appreciation. Christianity shows men and women alike the beautiful place they have in God's creation, and nations which honor and respect that arrangement are greatly blessed.

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