

The ordination of women

I'm speaking in favor of the authentic biblical message of Creation.

Some of us would like to affirm that the hierarchy in the relationship between man and woman existed before the fall of Adam and Eve. My understanding of the Scripture is that this is false. The fact that God said after the fall to Eve: "Your husband will rule over you," confirms that God described the rule of the husband over his wife as one of the consequences of sin. Obviously, God's speech is mentioning a new reality, which didn't exist before.

In addition, the Seventh-day Adventist Church chose, after instructions given by God through E.G. White, to have as reference for its health message the statements of God at the time of creation and before the fall. We know that the concept of health at the time of creation is the best message. If we choose to promote the consequences of sin, we would have nothing to say about health as the SDA Church.

It is also good to mention a quotation of E.G. White from the book of Education: "Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator – individuality, power to think and to do... It is the work of true education to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought." E.G. White, Education. p. 17. It is evident that those who are in God's image, including women have the capacity, the power to think by themselves, and this is the foundation of our philosophy of education.

Some Christians use the text of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11 in order to show that man is head of woman, therefore superior to her. However, the word 'superiority' is not part of the vocabulary of God's kingdom. Paul says that man is the image of God, but refuses to say that woman is the image of man, which would be inconsistent with the book of Genesis. Rather, he introduces a new word which highlights the nobility of the woman: "she is the glory of man". Furthermore, the illustration of the relationship of God the Father and God the Son strengthens the idea that the headship from God's perspective is not related to power, privileges, or control, but to the fulfillment of the common mission. Thus, God the Father is head of Jesus, and at the same time Jesus has all authority (cf. Matthew 28: 18 – 20). Headship is more about love (1 John 4: 10), readiness for sacrifice (Ephesians 5: 25 – 28), service and capacity to uplift others (Matthew 3: 17; Philippians 2: 5 – 8).

So, if you want your wife to act according to your rule, it's fine, but please don't mention the text of creation, because those who are created in God's image, they have power to think by themselves. If you want to promote the consequences of sin, it's OK, but I doubt that my church, attached to the message of creation would be satisfied with something less than the ideal given by God the Creator.